



**San Diego City College Academic Senate
Statement on Shared Governance
October 1st, 2017**

Shared governance, sometimes referred to as participatory governance, is the method in which campus constituent groups makes recommendations and participate in campus decision-making processes. As outlined in the statutory framework below, faculty have a specific role to play within the decision-making process as it pertains to academic and professional matters.

History and Legislative Framework

In 1988, the California State Legislature and the Governor approved AB 1725, which established Ed Code policies 70901, 70901.5, 70902. These additional policies directed the California Community College Board of Governors to develop regulations to ensure that faculty, staff, and students had the right to participate effectively in district and college governance.

Ed Code 70902 (b)(7)

- Establish procedures that are consistent with minimum standards established by the board of governors to ensure faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to express their opinions at the campus level, to ensure that these opinions are given every reasonable consideration, to ensure the right to participate effectively in district and college governance, and to ensure the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards.

In 1991, the California Community College Board of Governors adopted Title 5 regulations of the California Administrative Code in order to implement AB 1725. These regulations are located in Sections 53200 to 53204. In academic and professional matters, college academic senates are assigned primary responsibility for making recommendations for policy. These areas are outlined as follows:

California Title 5 Administrative Code, Sections 53200 to 53204

- 53200. Definitions (c) “Academic and professional matters” means the following policy development and implementation matters:
 - (1) curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
 - (2) degree and certificate requirements;
 - (3) grading policies;

- (4) educational program development;
- (5) standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;
- (6) district and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles;
- (7) faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports;
- (8) policies for faculty professional development activities;
- (9) processes for program review;
- (10) processes for institutional planning and budget development; and
- (11) other academic and professional matters as are mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate.

Furthermore, the Title 5 regulations specify two forms of decision-making on the academic and professional matters, “relying primarily on” and “reach mutual agreement”

- (d) “Consult collegially” means that the district governing board shall develop policies on academic and professional matters through either or both of the following methods, according to its own discretion:
 - (1) relying primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate; or
 - (2) agreeing that the district governing board, or such representatives as it may designate, and the representatives of the of the academic senate shall have the obligation to reach mutual agreement by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the governing board effectuating such recommendations.

The designations for these two decision-making processes are specified in San Diego Community College Board Policy:

San Diego Community College District Administrative Procedure 2510

- (2) Responsibilities
 - a) The Board of Trustees shall consult collegially with representatives of the Academic Senates.
 - b) The Academic Senates shall retain the right to meet with and appear before the Board of Trustees with respect to the views, recommendations or proposals of the Academic Senates.
 - c) The Board of Trustees shall respond to recommendations of the Academic Senates through either of the following:
 - 1) The Board of Trustees shall elect to rely primarily on the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates for the following policy development:
 - a) Degree and certificate requirements;
 - b) Grading policies;
 - c) Educational program development;
 - d) Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;
 - e) District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles; *
 - f) Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including institutional self-evaluations and annual reports; and
 - g) Processes for institutional planning and budget development. *

* Refers to number, make up and nature of committees in the governance structure and the role faculty plays in these. In instances where the Board of Trustees elects to rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates and recommendations are not accepted, the Board of Trustees shall communicate the reason in writing to the President of each Academic Senate within 30 days of the decision.

2) Mutual agreement with the Academic Senates

The Board of Trustees shall attempt to reach mutual agreement with the Academic Senates for the following policy development:

- a) Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites, placing courses within disciplines and assessment of student learning;
- b) Policies for faculty professional development activities;
- c) Processes for program review; and
- d) Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board of Trustees and the Academic Senates.

In cases where there is no existing policy, or in cases where the exposure to legal liability or substantial fiscal hardship requires existing policy to be changed, the governing board of Trustees may act, after a good faith effort to reach agreement, only for compelling legal, fiscal, or organizational reasons. In such instances, in the spirit of collegiality, all parties shall continue to participate in the resolution process. In the event mutual agreement cannot be reached, the Board of Trustees shall communicate the reasons in writing to the President of each Academic Senate within 30 days of the decision.