



Board Policy
Chapter 2 – Board of Trustees

BP 2511 PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE: ACADEMIC SENATE

The Board of Trustees recognizes and endorses the rights and responsibilities assigned to faculty by Assembly Bill 1725 (1988) and in order that the faculty may have formal and effective procedures for participating in the formation and implementation of District policies on academic and professional matters, an Academic Senate is hereby established at Santa Monica College.

The Board recognizes the Academic Senate (The Senate) as the body which represents the faculty in collegial governance relating to academic and professional matters. The Academic Senate President or designee shall be accorded an opportunity on the Board's regular agenda to address the Board regarding its concerns. The Board of Trustees shall consider and respond to such views and recommendations.

Formation, Procedures, Membership

The Board of Trustees of the Santa Monica Community College District hereby authorizes the faculty of the college to:

1. Fix and amend by vote of the faculty the composition, structure, and procedures of the Academic Senate.
2. Provide for the selection, in accordance with accepted democratic election procedures, of the members of the Academic Senate.
3. Provide for the membership of part-time faculty members in the Academic Senate.

Powers

The Board shall rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate in the areas listed below. Rely primarily means that the recommendations of the Academic Senate will normally be accepted and only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons will the recommendations not be accepted.

1. Grading Policies
2. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports
3. The assessment of faculty professional development needs

If a Senate recommendation in the above areas is not accepted, the Board or its designee shall promptly communicate its reasons in writing to the Senate.

The process for mutual agreement shall be used for all other academic and professional matters and shall occur primarily through the Academic Senate's joint committee process. Mutual agreement means that the policy and implementation recommendations shall be prepared by an Academic Senate joint committee and/or the joint Educational Policies Committee of the Academic Senate and ratified by the Academic Senate and the Superintendent/President.

1. The Board of Trustees designates and directs the Superintendent/President or designee to meet and confer with representatives of the Academic Senate with respect to recommendations made or proposed to be made by the Senate.
2. The list of academic and professional matters which are to be resolved by mutual agreement, includes but is not limited to:
 - A. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines.
 - B. Degree and certificate requirements.
 - 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. Policies for faculty professional development activities.
 - G. Processes for program review.
 - H. Processes for institutional planning and budget development.
 - I. Policies for academic personnel matters.
 - J. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the Board of Trustees and the Academic Senate.
3. The Educational Policies Committee consists of Senate Executive Committee members and senior staff.
4. The structure and composition of the Academic Senate joint committees will be based on the tradition of joint committees at the college. Each Academic Senate joint committee shall be constructed as follows:
 - A. Faculty members shall be appointed by the Academic Senate.
 - B. Administrators shall be appointed by the Superintendent/President.
 - C. The committee chair shall be a faculty member appointed by the Academic Senate President after consultation with the Superintendent/President or designee.
 - D. The committee secretary shall be an administrator appointed by the Superintendent/President or designee after consultation with the Academic Senate President.

- E. All Academic Senate joint committees shall be comprised in such a manner so that the ratio of the faculty appointees to administrative appointees is approximately 2:1.
 - F. The Academic Senate and the Superintendent/President shall mutually agree on the addition of any classified staff and students to the designated joint committees.
5. If, within one month, during the Fall and Spring semesters when the Academic Senate is in session, either party fails to ratify the policy development and implementation recommendation, the Academic Senate President and the Superintendent/President shall decide, within ten working days from the date, which of the following options shall be used to resolve the impasse.
- A. Send the recommendations back to the committee of origin and direct them to develop a new recommendation.
 - B. The Academic Senate and the Superintendent/President shall both delegate their ratification authority to the committee of origin and the committee's final recommendation shall become the recommendation on the issue.
 - C. The Academic Senate President and the Superintendent/President shall resolve the issue independent of the committee of origin.
6. The Senate reserves the right, after consultation with the administration, to present its concerns and recommendations directly to the Board and the Board shall respond to the Senate.
7. District standing committees (e.g., District Planning and Advisory Council and its planning subcommittees, matriculation advisory committee, staff diversity advisory committee) shall be structured to include appropriate representation of the Academic Senate, administrators, and classified staff when matters being considered are within their purview. Student representation shall be included on such groups whenever appropriate and possible.
8. The appointment of faculty members to serve on college or District committees, task forces, or other groups dealing with academic and professional matters shall be made by the Senate, after consultation with the Superintendent/President or designee.

Duties Assigned by Administration and the Board of Trustees

The Academic Senate may assume such responsibilities and perform such functions as may be requested of it by the administration or by the Board of Trustees.

Scope of Regulations

Nothing in this Board policy shall be construed to impinge upon the due process rights of faculty, nor to detract from any negotiated agreements between collective bargaining representatives and the Board of Trustees.

It is the intent of the Board of Trustees to respect agreements between the Academic Senate and the Faculty Association as to how they will consult, collaborate, share, or delegate among themselves the responsibilities that are or may be delegated to the Academic Senate pursuant to these recognitions.

Also see BP/AR 2410 Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, BP/AR 2510 Participation in Local Decision-Making, BP/AR 2610 Presentation of Initial Collective Bargaining Proposals, BP/AR 3250 Institutional Planning, and BP 7140 Collective Bargaining.

References:

Education Code Sections 66700, 70901, and 70902;
Title 5 Sections 53200 et seq.

Adopted: May 1, 2000

Revised: July 9, 2007; June 6, 2017

(Replaces former SMC BP 2210)