

Sacramento City College Academic Senate
Resolution 2021-02: Resolution against Centralization without Consultation
Approved unanimously on May 4, 2021

Whereas, *AB 1725, Education Code, Title 5, and LRCCD Board Policies and Regulations* establish, recognize, and codify the purview of the Academic Senate, including faculty purview in processes for institutional planning, accreditation, curriculum, student success, college governance structures, and other 10+1 areas, and which were reviewed by the Board and the Chancellor in the recent Collegiality in Action session and,

Whereas, *LRCCD BOT Regulation R-3412* recognizes the District Equity and Student Success Committee (DESSC) with the purpose “to provide recommendations to the District Academic Senate and advise the Board of Trustees or its representatives on matters related to District-wide issues of *equity* in our education system, including initiatives and legislation, *and those of student support services and technologies designed to onboard students and move them through to completion*” [emphasis added] and,

Whereas, *the SCC Guide to Participatory Decision-making at Sacramento City College* (aka “*The Governance Guide*”) codifies SCC participatory governance processes across all constituency groups including students, faculty, classified staff, and managers “in the process of making decisions that *directly and indirectly* affect them” [emphasis added] and, whereas District decision-making which bypasses established processes or which proceeds without consultation weakens or violates local college autonomy, college participatory governance practices, and the rights and/or responsibilities of the Academic Senate and,

Whereas, LRCCD has centralized or proposed centralization of an extensive list of services across our District since 2020, including but not limited to: Foundation and Philanthropy Offices, Public Information Offices and Officers (PIOs), College Websites and Webmasters, College Nurses, Call Centers, Online Catalog, Degree Planner, Los Rios Colleges Online, Online Course Development Coordinators (OCDs), Tutoring Services, Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Outreach, Research, and Information Technology (IT), and which touch areas of purview for the Academic Senate and the District Equity and Student Success Committee and,

Whereas, substantial organizational restructuring or revisioning during an accreditation cycle and a global pandemic, before the effects of a prolonged college shutdown on our most disproportionately impacted students have been sufficiently assessed, may be a disservice to many of our students and to the communities we serve, and may impact our unique outreach and in-reach efforts, especially as we move to recapture students and re-engage our communities, and whereas centralizing services, including shifting direct reports in key student services areas from the College to the District may depersonalize many of our students’ interactions with our college at a most critical time, and

Whereas, centralization of services, particularly outside of established governance and consultative processes, results in the loss of local college autonomy and loss of local decision-making, and may have negative impacts on our upcoming accreditation and,

Whereas, shortcomings in collegial consultation have been formally documented since at least 2018 as an area of ongoing concern, and whereas attempts to address this, including a formal resolution on collegial consultation from SCC’s Academic Senate, approval of a White Paper on Collegial Consultation,

a district IBA session with the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Senate presidents, an information session for the Board of Trustees about the 10+1, and the recent Collegiality in Action session, have failed to yield substantive improvements;

Resolved, the SCC Academic Senate respectfully urges the LRCCD Board of Trustees to restore previously centralized services to local college, and thereby community, control, and,

Resolved, the SCC Academic Senate respectfully urges the LRCCD Board of Trustees to reject all future centralization actions until the following conditions have been met:

1. Authentic and robust consultation with the Academic Senate, including local college senates, District Academic Senate, DESSC, and other subcommittees as applicable has been completed.
2. Authentic and robust participatory governance engagement per local college governance policies and practices has been completed.
3. Our colleges return, in a post-pandemic environment, to on-ground, in-person operations so that we may accurately assess the impacts to our most vulnerable student populations before changes are implemented.

Resolved, that the SCC Academic Senate respectfully urges the Board of Trustees to honor the role and purview of the Academic Senate and local participatory governance processes by affirming its intent and commitment in writing.