

Academic Senate Orientation August 20, 2014

Role of the Academic Senate

1. Represent the faculty of Sacramento City College
2. Make recommendations to the Administration of Sacramento City College and to the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees with respect to academic and professional matters including, but not limited to the following:
 - i. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines
 - ii. Degree and certificate requirements
 - iii. Grading Policies
 - iv. Education Program Development
 - v. Standards or Policies regarding student preparation and success
 - vi. District and College Governance Structures, as related to faculty roles
 - vii. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports
 - viii. Policies for faculty professional development activities
 - ix. Processes for program review
 - x. Processes for institutional planning and budget development
AND
 - xi. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the Governing Board and the Academic Senate

The above is commonly referred to as the “10 + 1”, or the “Holy 11”. The “10 + 1” comes from language in Title 5 that is a result of AB 1725 that was passed by the legislature in 1988. AB 1725 uncoupled community colleges from the K-12 system, and gave community colleges the status of institutions of higher education.

Education Code: These laws are the result of legislation and can be modified only by subsequent legislation. www.ca.leginfo.gov

Title 5: These are policies and regulations of the Board of Governors that are interpretations and strategies for implementation of Education Code. In addition, the Board of Governors enacts “Standing Rules” that instructs the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) on how to carry out its functions. Title 5 is published as part of the California Code of Regulations. <http://ccr.oal.ca.gov>

In areas covered by the “10 + 1”, the District Governing Board, or its designees, is to “Rely primarily upon” the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate or reach “mutual agreement” with the Academic Senate by written resolution, regulation, or policy. From LRCCD Policy P3412:

- . 2.5 In instances where the Board of Trustees elects to rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the District

Academic Senate, the recommendations of the District Academic Senate shall normally be accepted, and only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons shall the recommendations not be accepted. If a recommendation is not accepted, the Board of Trustees, or designee, upon written request of the District Academic Senate, shall promptly communicate its reasons in writing to the District Academic Senate.

- . 2.6 In instances where the Board of Trustees elects to provide for mutual agreement with the District Academic Senate, and agreement has not been reached, existing policy shall remain in effect unless continuing with such policy exposes the District or its Colleges to legal liability or causes substantial fiscal hardship. 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 Board of Trustees may act, after a good faith effort to reach agreement, but only for compelling legal, fiscal, or organizational reasons.
- . 2.7 On the following District-level academic and professional matters, the Board of Trustees agrees to “rely primarily” on the District Academic Senate:
 - . 2.7.1 Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
 - . 2.7.2 Degree and certificate requirements;
 - . 2.7.3 Grading policies;
 - . 2.7.4 Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;
 - . 2.7.5 Faculty roles and involvement in the accreditation process, including Self Study Reports and annual reports;
 - . 2.7.6 Policies for faculty professional development activities; and
 - . 2.7.7 Processes for program review.
- . 2.8 On the following District-level academic and professional matters, the Board of Trustees agrees to “reach mutual agreement.”
 - . 2.8.1 Educational program development;
 - . 2.8.2 District/College(s) governance structures, as related to faculty roles;
 - . 2.8.3 Processes for institutional planning and budget development; and
 - . 2.8.4 Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed on by the Board of Trustees and the District Academic Senate.
- 3. Work with the LRCFT for the benefit of faculty. The Academic Senate represents the faculty regarding Academic and Professional Matters. The LRCFT represents the faculty regarding working conditions. Often, Academic and Professional Matters overlap with working conditions. The Los Rios District committee, Senate Union Joint Issues Committee (SUJIC), addresses such issues as they arise.

Role of a Senator

1. Attend and vote at all regular and special meetings of the Academic Senate

2. Inform the faculty in your **area division** (not just your department) on senate issues – Provide a senate report to your division soon after each senate meeting. Using the approved senate minutes as a report often slows down processes and in many cases does not provide timely notice to faculty to provide feedback regarding academic and professional matters.
3. Represent the faculty in your **area division** at senate meetings – This can be done by reporting to the senate comments from faculty in your division regarding issues, as well as casting your vote to reflect the will of the faculty in your area division.
4. Serve on senate subcommittees as needed

Other members of the Academic Senate

The following regular contract faculty are non-voting members of the academic senate:

1. Faculty Tri-Chairs of Standing Committees
2. Faculty Co-Chair of Curriculum Committee*
3. Faculty Chair of Student Learning Outcome Assessment Committee (SLOAC)*
4. Chair of Department Chairs Council (DCC)

They are encouraged to serve as a liaison between the senate and their committee/council, which may include, but is not limited to:

1. Attend Senate Meetings
2. Report Committee/Council work to the Academic Senate as needed (oral or written)
3. Report relevant Senate work to the Committee/Council as needed

Senate Meetings

1. The Sacramento City College Academic Senate meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00. We try to finish by 12:50 so that senators with 1:00 classes may attend the entire meeting.
2. The District Academic Senate (DAS) meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00 at the District Office. The SCC Academic Senate President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Past-President are all members of the DAS.

*Senate-led Committee (Standing Committee of the Academic Senate)

References:

Sacramento City College Academic Senate Constitution

Sacramento City College Academic Senate Bylaws

LRCCD Policy P3412

ASCCC website <http://www.asccc.org>