

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

In response to Sections 53200-53205, of Title 5, Calif. Code of Regulations, it is the policy of the Board of Trustees that there shall be appropriate delegation to the college academic senates of responsibility for and authority over academic and professional matters [53203(a)]. Regarding such matters, the Board of Trustees:

1. Recognizes the college academic senates as the representative of the faculties; and
2. Will rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senates in accordance with processes of collegial consultation as defined below; and
3. Designates the Chancellor of the District as its agent for purposes of implementation.

Scope

Academic and professional matters upon which the Board of Trustees will rely primarily upon the advice and counsel of the academic senates include [53200]:

1. Curriculum, including established 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 matters as mutually agreed upon between the Board of Trustees and the academic senate, or as otherwise provided by statute or regulation.

Process of Collegial Consultation

Primary reliance upon the advice and counsel of the academic senates means that the Board of Trustees and/or its designees will accept the recommendations of the academic senates regarding academic and professional matters as itemized above, and will act otherwise only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons. If a recommendation of the senate is not accepted, the Board of Trustees or its designee will promptly communicate its reasons in writing [53203(d.1)]. Such explanation will convey the "exceptional circumstances and compelling reasons" that necessitated the action in question.

In exercising their delegated authorities and responsibilities, the college academic senates will consult collegially with administrative staff and other governance groups and will do so through appropriate governance processes developed and implemented at each college. Each college president has the responsibility and the authority to determine whether the college senate has duly observed these obligations and may refuse to accept recommendations that have been formulated outside defined processes of college governance. Any such rejection is to be made in writing and is to specify the procedural concerns to be addressed before the recommendation is reconveyed.

Implementation

All existing policy regulations, procedures, and guidelines addressing academic and professional matters will remain in place and be subject to modification only through the processes of collegial consultation as defined herein. The academic senates will honor requests from the Board of Trustees and/or its agents to review relevant policies, regulations, procedures, and/or guidelines should the Board of Trustees and/or its agents believe that modifications are necessary or appropriate.

Status

Nothing contained herein will limit other rights and responsibilities of the academic senate as otherwise provided in statute or regulation, nor will this policy constrain the Board of Trustees in ways other than are herein agreed [53203(a)]. Nothing contained herein is to impinge upon the due process rights of faculty, nor to limit the collective bargaining rights of the faculty's exclusive representative. The Board of Trustees will respect agreements between the academic senates and collective bargaining agents as to how they will consult, collaborate, share, or delegate among themselves the responsibilities that are delegated to the senates pursuant to this policy [53204].

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