

1.0 Definitions (Ed. Code, § 70902; Title 5, § 53200):

- 1.1 “Faculty” means those employees of the Los Rios Community College District who are employed in academic positions that are not designated as supervisory or management and for which minimum qualifications for hire are specified by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.
- 1.2 “District Academic Senate” means the organization whose primary responsibility, as the representative of the faculty, is to make recommendations to the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees with respect to academic and professional matters. “College Academic Senate” means the organization whose primary responsibility, as the representative of the faculty, is to make recommendations to the administration of their individual College with respect to academic and professional matters.
- 1.3 “Academic and professional matters” means the following policy development and implementation matters:
 - 1.3.1 Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
 - 1.3.2 Degree and certificate requirements;
 - 1.3.3 Grading policies;
 - 1.3.4 Educational program development;
 - 1.3.5 Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;
 - 1.3.6 District/College(s) governance structures, as related to faculty roles;
 - 1.3.7 Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports;
 - 1.3.8 Policies for faculty professional development activities;
 - 1.3.9 Processes for program review;
 - 1.3.10 Processes for institutional planning and budget development; and
 - 1.3.11 Other academic and professional matters as are mutually agreed upon between the Board of Trustees and the District Academic Senate.
- 1.4 “Consult collegially” means the Board of Trustees shall adopt policies on academic and professional matters through either or both of the following methods, according to its own discretion:
 - 1.4.1 Relying primarily upon the advice and judgment of the District Academic Senate; or

- 1.4.2 Agreeing that the Board of Trustees, or designee, and the representatives of the District Academic Senate shall have the obligation to reach mutual agreement by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the Board of Trustees effectuating such recommendations.

2.0 Recognition (Ed. Code § 70902, Gov. Code § 3540; Title 5, § 53203)

- 2.1 The Board of Trustees notes and confirms the legislative intent to recognize the role of academic senates in District and College participatory governance.
- 2.2 The faculty of each College in the District may organize a College Academic Senate for the purpose of College faculty government and to establish formal and effective procedures for participation in making recommendations on policies on academic and professional matters. The Board of Trustees recognizes the College Academic Senate(s) as a consulting body at each College. A primary responsibility of the College Academic Senate(s) is to make recommendations to the administration of the College.
- 2.3 The Board of Trustees recognizes the District Academic Senate, composed of various representatives of the College Academic Senate(s), as the representative body of the College Academic Senate(s) for the purpose of making recommendations on developing district-wide educational policies and procedures in accordance with this Policy. The primary responsibility of the District Academic Senate is to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, or designee, with respect to academic and professional matters.
- 2.4 The Board of Trustees, or designee, shall consult collegially with the District Academic Senate when adopting policies and procedures on academic and professional matters. Formal recommendations from the District Academic Senate shall be presented by the President of the District Academic Senate in writing to the Chancellor's Cabinet or in regular meeting reports to the Board of Trustees.
- 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.

2.9 The President of the District Academic Senate and the president of each College Academic Senate shall have a recognized chair at all formal meetings of the Board of Trustees.

2.10 In order to facilitate the consultation process, there shall be regularly scheduled meetings between representatives of the District Academic Senate and the designee of the Board of Trustees.

3.0 Committees (Ed. Code, § 70902; Title 5, § 53203)

3.1 The Board of Trustees supports a robust and representative committee system as an important participatory governance tool across the District.

3.1.1 Normally, the appointment of faculty members to serve on District committees shall be made by the District Academic Senate President in

consultation with the local College Academic Senate Presidents in consultation with the Chancellor or designee.

- 3.1.2 The appointment of faculty members to serve on College committees, task forces, or other groups shall be made by the College Academic Senate President in consultation with the College President.
- 3.2 Recognizing the faculty's primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards, the following committees are senate-led: The District Curriculum Coordinating Committee and the District Matriculation Committee.
 - 3.2.1 The District Academic Senate has the right to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees about policy, regulation, or strategic direction in academic and professional matters. The District Academic Senate may allow senate-led committees to forward certain types of recommendations (e.g., curriculum proposals) directly to the Board of Trustees, or designee, provided that the District Academic Senate has authorized that practice in writing. Those authorized recommendations constitute the recommendation of the District Academic Senate.
- 3.3 Non-senate-led District Committees consist of members representing different constituencies who make recommendations regarding District Policy or practice outside of the arena of academic and professional matters but which have areas of responsibility regarding one or more of the academic and professional matters.

The District Academic Senate recognizes that recommendations from these committees regarding academic and professional matters shall constitute mutual agreement between the District Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees or its representatives if the following two conditions are met:

- 3.3.1 The District Academic Senate has appointed a representative to the committees in order to carry the District Academic Senate's views and suggestions for agenda items; and
- 3.3.2 The faculty membership of any standing committee or of any subcommittee of a standing committee working on tasks related to the academic and professional matters as agreed to by the District Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees or designee has been increased to produce a weighted faculty voice.
 - 3.3.2.1 "Weighted faculty voice" shall be defined to mean that the following faculty membership on these committees will exceed by at least one (1) number of representatives of any other constituent group having membership on the committee.
- 3.3.3 Even though recommendations of these committees represent mutual agreement, the District Academic Senate reserves its right to attach its own recommendation to those committee recommendations where the

District Academic Senate believes that the committee processes in specific cases did not allow adequate opportunity for faculty expression and deliberation.

- 3.4 Other academic and professional matters: These matters will be restricted to the following area: If the District Academic Senate or the Board of Trustees or its representatives believe that the formation of a new District standing committee is required to address any of the academic and professional matters, then the District Academic Senate and the representative of the Board of Trustees will consult in order to determine whether the committee shall be formed and what its charge shall be. If agreement between the District Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees' representative cannot be reached, then the two (2) respective positions will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for final determination.
- 3.5 At its discretion, the Board of Trustees or its representative may assign additional areas of responsibilities to the District Academic Senate which have been determined by mutual agreement to lie within the academic and professional matters.

4.0 Timeliness and Limits

- 4.1 Recognizing that the work of the District must continue against a background of timelines and deadlines produced by legislation, state and federal agencies and the general welfare of its primary clients, the District Academic Senate affirms that the Board of Trustees clearly retains the right to act without the benefit of recommendation if the responsible recommending body fails to perform or fails to perform in a reasonably timely way. The District Academic Senate also recognizes that effective shared involvement in the District/College(s) decision making processes depends on the willingness and ability of all affected parties to share vital information in a timely and useable way.
- 4.2 Pursuant to 5 CCR § 53204, nothing in this 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 District Academic Senate and collective bargaining representatives as to how they will consult, collaborate, share, or delegate among themselves the responsibilities that are or may be delegated to the District Academic Senate pursuant to 5 CCR § 53204.

(Formerly P-7612)

LRCCD

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