



Policy

7-8049 Academic Senates

- I. The Board of Trustees recognizes the Academic Senates of Columbia College and Modesto Junior College as the bodies which represent the faculty in collegial governance related to “academic and professional” matters. Each respective Senate is authorized to fix and amend by vote of the faculty the composition, structure and procedures of its Senate. The Board or its designees will consult collegially on Academic and Professional matters that come before the Board for action.
- II. The Senate Presidents or their designees shall be provided the opportunity to address the Board regarding their concerns at regularly scheduled Board meetings. The Board of Trustees shall consider and respond to Senate recommendations in an appropriate manner. While in the process of consulting collegially, the Academic Senates shall retain the right to meet with or to appear before the Board with respect to the views, recommendations, or proposals of the Senates. In addition, after consultation with the administration of the college and/or District, the Academic Senates may present their views and recommendations to the Board and will be given reasonable accommodation to do so.
- III. The Board of Trustees shall “rely primarily” upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates in selected areas. “Rely primarily” means the recommendations of the Senate will normally be accepted, and only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons will the recommendations not be accepted. If a recommendation is not approved, the Board or its designee shall promptly communicate in writing its reason to the respective Senate(s).

These areas are:

 - A. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines
 - B. Degree and certificate requirements
 - C. Grading policies
 - D. Faculty role and involvement in accreditation process, including the self-study
 - E. Policies for faculty professional development activities
- IV. The Board of Trustees shall reach “mutual agreement” between the Academic Senates and the Board on selected areas. “Mutual agreement” means that recommendations shall be prepared by either the Academic Senates or the Board’s designee, and are subsequently ratified by both. If “mutual agreement” cannot be reached after good faith effort, existing policy shall remain in effect unless continuing with such policy exposes the District to legal liability or causes substantial fiscal hardship, which the Board shall promptly communicate in writing to the respective Senate(s).

These areas are:

- A. Education program development
- B. Student preparation and success

- 1 C. Processes for program review
- 2 D. Institutional planning and budget development processes
- 3 E. District and college governance structures
- 4 F. Others as may be mutually agreed upon by the Academic Senates and the Board of Trustees

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6 **References:**

7 Education Code Sections [56190-56194 \(Community Advisory Committee\)](#); Title 5 Sections [53200 et seq.](#)

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9 **Adopted:** June 28, 2004

10 **Revision Adopted:** ~~April 14, 2010, November 13, 2013,~~ March 9, 2022

11 **Last Reviewed:** March 9, 2022