



LOCAL DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



DEFINITION



Participating effectively in district and college government is...

- Shared involvement in the decision-making process,
 - not total agreement
 - the same involvement by all not required, and
 - final decisions by the board or designee.

VALUE



- Expertise and analytical skills of many
- Understanding of objective/decisions
- Commitment to implementation
- Leadership opportunities
- Promotion of trust and cooperation
- Opportunities for conflict resolution

CHALLENGES



- Participation by individual with limited expertise
- Time away from other duties
- Considerable time for decision
- Shared accountability
- Differing expectations and understanding
- Potential conflict if board/designee rejects recommendation



“ ... not a simple process to implement – goodwill, thoughtful people, a willingness to take risks and the ability to admit problems exist – can go far toward establishing a positive environment...”

The central objective should be creation of a climate where energy is devoted to solving crucial educational tasks and not to turf battle over governance.”

THE LAW



Board of Governors shall establish “minimum standards” and local governing boards shall “establish procedures not inconsistent” with those standards to ensure:

- Faculty, staff and students the right to participate effectively in district and college governance, and
- The right of academic senates to assure primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards.

RECOMMENDING NATURE OF ACADEMIC SENATE ROLE



“The Legislature intended that academic senates retain their recommendatory character – an action that is advisory in nature than one having any binding effect.”

(Legislative Counsel of the State of California, Opinion Letter, April 1991)

REGULATIONS – ACADEMIC SENATES



The governing board shall adopt policies for appropriate delegation of authority and responsibility to its academic senate.

...providing at a minimum the governing board or its designees

- consult collegially with the academic senate
- when adopting policies and procedures
- on academic and professional matters.

(Title 5 §53303)

REGULATIONS – ACADEMIC SENATES



“Consult collegially” means:

1. Relying primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate, or
2. Reaching mutual agreement between the governing board/designee and representatives of the academic senate.

(Title 5 §53200)

REGULATIONS – ACADEMIC SENATES



“Academic and professional matters” means the following policy development and implementation matters:

1. Degree and certificate requirements
2. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines
3. Grading policies
4. Educational program development
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success
6. District and college governance structure, 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 academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate.

(Title 5 §53200)

GUIDELINES – ACADEMIC SENATES CONSULTING / PROCEDURES



- **QUESTION:** The regulations list ten areas defined as “academic and professional matters.” The local board must adopt procedures identifying how it will “consult collegially” in these ten areas. Those procedures include either to “rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate” or to “reach mutual agreement.” Must a local board select only one procedure for addressing all ten of the identified academic and professional matters or can there be a different approach used for the different matters?
- **ANSWER:** Either one of the procedures may be used to address each of the ten areas defined as academic and professional matters, the procedure need not be the same for all ten. It is recommended – although not required – that the specific procedure selected be identified in policy for each of the ten “academic and professional matters.”

REGULATIONS - STAFF



Governing board adopts policies and procedures that provide staff opportunity to participate effectively in district and college governance,

- formulation and development of policies and procedures, and
- processes for jointly developing recommendations
- that have or will have a significant effect on staff.

Board shall not take action on matters significantly affecting staff until

- the recommendations and opinion of staff are given every reasonable consideration.

(Title 5 §51023.5)

REGULATIONS - STUDENTS



Governing board adopt policies and procedures that provide students opportunity to participate effectively in district and college governance

- formulation and development of policies and procedures, and
- processes for jointly developing recommendations
- that have or will have a significant effect on students.

Board shall not take action on a matter having a significant effect on students until

- recommendations and positions by students are given every reasonable consideration.

(Title 5 §51023.7)

REGULATIONS - STUDENTS



Policies and procedures that have a “significant effect on students” include:

1. Grading policies;
2. Codes of student conduct;
3. Academic disciplinary policies;
4. Curriculum development;
5. Courses or programs which should be initiated or discontinued;
6. Processes for institutional planning and budget development;
7. Standards and policies regarding student preparation and success;
8. Student services planning and development;
9. Student fees within the authority of the district to adopt;
10. Any other district and college policy, procedure or related matter that the district governing board determines will have a significant effect on students; and
11. Policies and procedures pertaining to the hiring and evaluation of faculty, administration, and staff.

(Title 5 §51023.7)