

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

As affirmed in Board Policy 2510 – *Participation in Local Decision Making*, it is the policy of the Board that there shall be appropriate delegation of responsibility for and authority over academic and professional matters to the college academic senates. Regarding such matters, the Board:

- A. Recognizes the college academic senates as the representatives of the faculty;
- B. Relies primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senates in accordance with processes of collegial consultation as defined below; and
- C. Designates the Chancellor as its agent for purposes of implementation.

I. SCOPE

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

- A. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
- B. Degree and certificate requirements;
- C. Grading policies;
- D. Educational program development;
- E. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;
- F. District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles;
- G. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports;
- H. Policies for faculty professional development activities;
- I. Processes for program review;
- J. Processes for institutional planning and budget development; and
- K. Other matters as mutually agreed upon between the Board of Trustees and the academic senate, or as otherwise provided by statute or regulation.

II. PROCESS OF COLLEGIAL CONSULTATION

Primary reliance upon the advice and counsel of the academic senates means that the Board 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 or its

designee will promptly communicate its reasons in writing. 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 the management team 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.

III. 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 and/or its agents to review relevant policies, regulations, procedures, and/or guidelines should the Board and/or its agents believe that modifications are necessary or appropriate.

IV. STATUS

Board Policy 2511 is in mutual agreement between the Board and the academic senates and may be modified upon mutual consent of the parties.

Reference:

*Education Code Section 70902(b)(7)
Title 5 California Code of Regulations; Sections 53200 et seq.
Accreditation Standards IV.A and IV.D.7*