

Constitution Of the Columbia College Academic Senate

Preamble:

In accordance with the Education Code, Title 5, and Assembly Bill 1725, the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) Board of Trustees has agreed that they shall rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates in selected areas. “Rely primarily” means that recommendations will be accepted in most cases. If a recommendation is not approved, the Board (or its designee) shall promptly communicate, in writing, the reasoning to the respective senate(s).

The areas that fall under the jurisdiction of “rely primarily” include:

- A. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites.
- B. Degree and certificate requirements.
- C. Grading policies.
- D. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes.
- E. Policies for Faculty professional development activities.

Also, in accordance with the Education Code, Title 5, and Assembly Bill 1725, the YCCD Board of Trustees has agreed that they shall reach mutual agreement with the Academic Senate(s) in selected areas. “Mutual agreement” means that recommendations shall be prepared by either the Academic Senate(s) or the Board (or its designee) and subsequently ratified by both. If mutual agreement cannot be reached, the Board (or its designee) shall promptly communicate, in writing, the reasoning to the respective senate(s).

The areas that fall under the jurisdiction of “mutual agreement” include:

- A. Educational program development.
- B. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success.
- C. Processes for program review.
- D. Processes for institutional planning and budget development.
- E. District and college governance structures, as related to Faculty roles.
- F. Others as may be mutually agreed upon by the Academic Senates and the Board of Trustees.

A Constitution and By-Laws have been adopted to meet the responsibilities allowed by the Education Code, Title 5, Assembly Bill 1725 and the YCCD Board of Trustees and to guide the business and organization of the Columbia College Academic Senate.

Constitution

Adopted April 21, 2003
Revised and adopted December 9, 2010
Revised and adopted November 20, 2015
Revised and adopted March 19, 2018
Revised and adopted October 9, 2020
Revised and adopted April 9, 2021

ARTICLE I – Purpose

The name of this organization shall be the Columbia College Academic Senate. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the best interest of higher education, as the representative of the Faculty of Columbia College, in making recommendations to the College and District administration and the Board of Trustees with respect to academic and professional matters and sharing in the governance of Yosemite Community College District. In addition, the Senate represents the Faculty in State-wide academic and professional matters.

ARTICLE II – Structure and Meetings

The Academic Senate shall consist of two voting bodies: A Senate-of-the-Whole and the Academic Senate Executive. The meetings of these bodies are open to the public and operate in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

- The Senate-of-the-Whole shall review and vote on action items and resolutions regarding policy development and implementation of academic and professional matters. The electorate of the Senate-of-the-Whole shall consist of all full-time (contract, probationary and temporary) Columbia College Faculty members and three elected Part-Time Faculty representatives.
- The Academic Senate Executive shall conduct the business of the Senate. Voting members of the Academic Senate Executive shall include the President of the Academic Senate, the Vice-President/President-Elect, the Curriculum Committee Chair, the Representative-at-large, the YFA Member-at-Large from Columbia College, the Past President, and the Part-Time Faculty Senate Executive Representative. If the YFA Member-at-Large position is vacant the YFA Vice President from Columbia College will serve on the Academic Senate Executive.
- Meeting calendars for the Academic Senate Executive and the Senate-of-the-Whole shall be set annually at the February meeting of the Academic Senate Executive and agendized for vote at the March Senate-of-the-Whole, published and distributed by the end of spring semester.

ARTICLE III – Officers

- A. The duties of the Academic Senate President (one-year term) shall be to chair meetings; to prepare and distribute agendas prior to the meetings; to make necessary appointments and to act as liaison between the CC Faculty, MJC Academic Senate Executive, the Board of Trustees, the District Chancellor, the College President and other College Administrators; to be a member of the College Council, the District Council, Policy and Procedure Committee, District Fiscal Advisory Committee (DFAC), and to represent the Columbia College Faculty at state level meetings.
- B. The Vice-President/President-Elect (one-year term) shall assume the duties of the president in the absence of the President, shall serve as President beginning one year after their election on the day after spring semester ends, and shall be a representative on the College Council, and coordinate a monthly newsletter.
- C. The Curriculum Committee Chair (two-year term) shall oversee the activities of the Curriculum Committee and assume the duties of the Vice President/President-Elect in the absence of the Vice-President/President-Elect.
- D. The Representative-at-Large (one-year term) shall represent the Faculty on the College Council.
- E. The Past President shall serve as Elections Officer. Responsibilities of the Elections Officer are outlined in the Elections Policies and Procedures.
- F. The Part-Time Faculty Senate Executive Representative (one-year term) shall serve as liaison with Part-Time Faculty, communicating the business of the Senate and representing the views of the Part-Time Faculty on the Academic Senate Executive and before the Senate-of-the-Whole.
- G. The Yosemite Faculty Association (YFA) Member-at-Large for Columbia College shall act as YFA liaison to the Academic Senate Executive, the Academic Senate-of-the-Whole and the College Council.

ARTICLE IV – Amendment

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Academic Senate may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the electorate. Voting to amend the Constitution or By-laws shall be by open ballot.