

**Rancho Santiago Community College District  
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION**

Chapter 2  
Board of Trustees

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**AR 2510.1 Participation in Local Decision-Making – Academic  
Senates**

**References**

Education Code Section 70902(b)(7)  
Title 5 Sections 53200 et seq, 51023.5, and 51023.7  
ACCJC Accreditation Standards 4.2 and 4.3

The Rancho Santiago Community College District utilizes a participatory decision-making structure at both the district and individual college levels.

The Board of Trustees is committed to participatory governance. This regulation is intended to ensure that faculty, students, and staff have the right to participate effectively in the governance of the District. The regulation also ensures the right of the Academic Senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards.

**ACADEMIC SENATES**

**1. DEFINITIONS**

a. Consult Collegially: The Board of Trustees shall rely on one of the following two consultation methods:

1) Rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates; and

2) The Board or its representatives and the representatives of the Academic Senates shall have the obligation to attempt to reach mutual agreement.

b. Academic Senates: Organizations whose primary function is, as representative of the faculty, to make recommendations to the administration and governing board with respect to academic and professional matters, outside of collective bargaining.

c. Faculty: Those individuals employed in positions that are not designated as supervisory or management and for which minimum qualifications for employment are specified by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The Board of Trustees shall consult collegially with representatives of the Academic Senates.

b. The Academic Senates shall retain the right to meet with and appear before the Board of Trustees with respect to the views, recommendations or proposals of the Academic Senates.

c. The Board of Trustees shall respond to recommendations of the Academic Senates through either of the following:

1) The Board of Trustees shall elect to rely primarily on the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates for the following policy development:

- a) Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites, placing courses within disciplines and student outcomes assessment;
- b) Degree and certificate requirements;
- c) Grading policies;
- d) Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;
- e) Policies for faculty professional development activities;

In instances where the Board of Trustees elects to rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates and recommendations are not accepted, the Board of Trustees shall communicate the reason in writing to the President of each Academic Senate within 30 days of the decision.

2) Mutual agreement with the Academic Senates

The Board of Trustees shall attempt to reach mutual agreement with the Academic Senates for the following policy development:

- a) Educational program development
- b) District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles\*
- c) Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including institutional self-evaluations and annual reports;
- d) Processes for program review
- e) Processes for institutional planning and budget development
- f) Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board of Trustees and the Academic Senates.

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 governing board of Trustees may act, after a good faith effort to reach agreement, only for compelling legal, fiscal, or organizational reasons. In such instances, in the spirit of collegiality, all parties shall continue to participate in the resolution process.

In the event mutual agreement cannot be reached, the Board of Trustees shall communicate the reasons in writing to the President of each Academic Senate within 30 days of the decision.

### 3. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The appointment of faculty members to serve on college or District committees, task forces, or other groups shall be made by the Academic Senates.

**Responsible Manager:** Vice Chancellor of Human Resources

**Adopted:** August 31, 2015

**Revised:** October 7, 2024