

Role of Faculty

Full-time and part-time faculty members are represented in governance by the Academic Senate. The Academic Senate assumes primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum, academic standards, and other areas of professional and academic matters identified in Assembly Bill 1725.

The VCCCD Board of Trustees agreed in Board Policy 2510 to function with the Academic Senate in academic and professional matters under the mutual agreement option. When the Board fails to reach mutual agreement with the Academic Senates, existing policy shall remain in effect unless such policy exposes the District to legal liability or fiscal hardship. In cases where there is no existing policy, or when legal liability or fiscal hardship requires existing policy to be changed, the Board may act, after a good faith effort to reach agreement, only for compelling legal, fiscal, or organizational reasons.

Each of the three colleges in the District has its own Academic Senate that makes recommendations to their college administration and to the District on the following specific academic and professional matters (10 + 1):

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
2. Degree and certificate requirements
3. Grading policies
4. Educational program development
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success
6. District and College governance structures, 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
 - Other academic/professional matters, mutually agreed upon between the Board of Trustees and the Academic Senate

Academic Senates have a statutory requirement to confer with students in their respective areas of responsibility. Consultation is required on processes in program review, planning, and budgeting. Consultation is not required on the content of program review, planning, and budgeting. Academic Senates appoint faculty members to District groups.

Role of Classified Staff