

Academic Senate Resolution Condemning Administrative Violations of Shared Governance in the Program Review Process

Whereas, the Ventura College Program Review process is a critical component of institutional planning and resource allocation, designed to ensure transparency, equity, and alignment with the college's Educational Master Plan and Student Equity Plan; and

Whereas, program review serves as a structured opportunity for faculty and staff to analyze program data, develop long-term strategic objectives, and document resource needs necessary to achieve student success and institutional goals; and

Whereas, the Academic Senate holds primacy over academic and professional matters as outlined in Title 5 § 53200, commonly referred to as the "10+1" shared governance framework, including the role of faculty in institutional planning and budget development; and

Whereas, the administration, through directives given to deans, unilaterally removed faculty-initiated program initiatives from the program review process without consultation with discipline faculty or department chairs; and

Whereas, these removals not only eliminated associated resource requests but also erased vital documentation of strategic planning efforts undertaken by faculty, thereby undermining program development, long-term planning, and transparency in the allocation of institutional resources; and

Whereas, the administration's actions dismissed faculty expertise in determining programmatic needs, obstructed programs from having their resource requests considered by the Executive Team, and effectively circumvented the established prioritization and ranking process; and

Whereas, these actions have resulted in inequities in resource allocation, with some programs being unfairly denied access to funding while others retain the ability to present and justify their needs;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Academic Senate formally condemns the administration's removal of faculty-generated program initiatives from the program review process, recognizing it as a direct violation of shared governance principles; and

Be it further resolved, that the Academic Senate demands a formal acknowledgment from the administration that the shared governance process was violated, along with a commitment to adhere to proper shared governance procedures in all future program review cycles; and

Be it further resolved, that the Academic Senate calls for the immediate restoration of all faculty-generated initiatives and documentation that were removed from the 2024-2025 program review cycle, ensuring the integrity of historical records and strategic planning efforts; and

Be it further resolved, that the Academic Senate insists on the implementation of a transparent process in which any administrative alterations to program review submissions be fully disclosed, justified in writing, and appealable by the faculty authors; and

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be communicated to the College President, the Executive Team, the Board of Trustees, and all shared governance committees to reaffirm the role of faculty in institutional decision-making and uphold the principles of transparency, equity, and academic integrity in the program review process.