The Academic Senate Purview

# Brief history

* 1. 1963 Assembly Concurrent Resolution established legal recognition of local senates and jurisdiction over academic and professional matters
  2. 1967 legislation created the Board of Governors and the Chancellor’s Office for the California Community Colleges
  3. 1968 first statewide meeting and constitution ratified statewide and approved by the Board of Governors in 1969

# The Community College Reform Act (AB 1725, Vasconcellos, 1988)

* 1. NOTE: AB represents the bill’s origin
     1. AB—Assembly Bill
     2. SB—Senate Bill
  2. Uncoupled community colleges from K-12
  3. Created pre- and post-tenure reviews, lengthened the tenure period, established idea of min quals and
  4. Strengthened role of local academic senates
  5. 🡪aspirational –pretty much created the community colleges of today (was…now)
     1. “The Legislature is committed to an alternative vision in which California remains a place of opportunity and hope – where innovation and creativity mark our economy and our culture, and where the minds and spirits of all our communities contribute to our common future. The community colleges will be at the heart of whatever effort we make to insure that the future is equitable and open, that California’s economy remains healthy and growing, and that both rural towns and rapidly expanding urban centers have educational resources close at hand…”
     2. “The provision of quality transfer education is a primary mission of the community colleges”
     3. “Vocational and technical education is a primary mission of the California Community Colleges, and programs of study leading to employment meet the needs of both students and society.”
     4. ESL, adult literacy and basic skills, non-credit adult education, faculty diversity, associate degrees
     5. 🡪changing California landscape & want to lift everybody up

# Education Code—Law

* 1. Legislation related to education is “chaptered” into the California Education Code
  2. Changes as new legislation is passed

# Title 5—Rules and regulations

* 1. CCC Board of Governors codifies the rules for the implementation of Education Code in Title 5
  2. Regulations have the force of law
  3. Community College material largely in Division 6: Community Colleges
  4. May be changed by the Board of Governors
  5. Title 5: Education🡪Division 6: California Community Colleges🡪Chapter 4: Employees🡪Subchapter 2:Certificated Positions🡪Article 2: Academic Senates

# Title 5 §53200. Definitions

* 1. “Academic senate,” “faculty council” and “faculty senate” means an organization formed in accordance with the provisions of this Subchapter whose primary function, as the representative of the faculty,
     1. is to make recommendations to the administration of a college and to the governing board of a district with respect to academic and professional matters.
  2. “Academic and professional matters” means the following policy development and implementation matters:
     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. Process for program review
     10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development, and
     11. Other academic and professional matters as are mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate
  3. 🡪commonly referred to as the “10+1”
  4. “Consult collegially” means that the district governing board shall develop policies on academic and professional matters through either or both of the following methods, according to its own discretion:
     1. Relying primarily upon the advice and judgement of the academic senate; or
     2. Agreeing that the district governing board, or such representatives as it may designate, and the representatives of the academic senate shall have the obligation to reach mutual agreement by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the governing board effectuating such recommendations
        1. VCCCD is mutual agreement for the 10+1 (Making Decisions Document)
        2. Faculty and administrators will work in good faith to reach agreement on academic and professional matters
        3. If not, the admin and Board commits its decision will be based on a clear and substantive rationale that puts the explanation for the decision in an accurate, appropriate, and relevant context. The Academic Senate shall have a reasonable expectation of receiving a written explanation when mutual agreement is not reached.
     3. 🡪commonly referred to as participatory governance

# Title 5 §53201. Academic Senate or Faculty Council

* 1. In order that the faculty may have a formal and effective procedure for participating in the formation and implementation of district policies on academic and professional matters, an academic senate may be established at the college and/or district level
  2. 🡪simply put establishes local Academic Senates with purview over “academic and professional matters”

# Title 5 §53206 Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

* 1. An Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges has been established through ratification by local academic senates or faculty councils so that the community college faculty of California may have a formal and effective procedure for participating in the formation of state policies on academic and professional matters.
  2. The Board of Governors recognizes the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges as the representative of community college academic senates or faculty councils before the Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office.

# Participatory governance at the college level

* 1. Academic Senate
     1. Elected officers
     2. AS Council members of elected department reps
     3. 8 standing committees
        1. Curriculum, DE, EdCAP, Fiscal, FTCAP, PD, SEA, SLO
  2. Largely spelled out in the following documents:
     1. Constitution
     2. By-laws
     3. Making Decisions Handbook

# Participatory governance at the district level

* 1. Various committees
  2. And the aptly named “board meetings”

# We are a recommending body (often forgotten)

* 1. Effectiveness rests on building relationships

# All of this is unique to California

# Legislative bodies

* 1. Senate and its standing committees, the board, etc. are legislative bodies (created by state statute) and therefore subject to the Brown Act