

Moorpark College Academic Senate
WHITE PAPER on PROPOSED UPDATE OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

This is an outline of some of the key articles and changes in the proposed update to the Academic Senate's constitution and by-laws, as recommended by the Senate Council. To see the full documents of the proposed update along with the current constitution and by-laws please go to the Senate's webpage on <http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/node/2477>.

An update to these documents is long overdue and the Senate Council has been working on this for two years; it is now time to present its recommendations to the general membership of all faculty for comments. We will be pleased to hear from you; please contact the president, Mary Rees (mrees@vccd.edu), the vice president, Nenagh Brown (nbrown@vccd.edu), or any executive officer or member of the Academic Senate Council.

For the updated constitution and by-laws to be adopted they need a two thirds majority of those voting in a secret ballot open to all members of the Senate, both full and part time faculty. This is planned for the end of this semester.

Reminder: The constitution defines the overall purpose and charter of the Senate and is intended to be a stable, long term document. The by-laws define the processes by which the Senate will fulfill its purpose and are intended to allow for modifications to reflect changes as needed.

Constitution

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Senate is now firmly based on California's Title V and lists the academic and professional matters that are its responsibility (the "10 plus 1").

Article III: Procedures

This reminds members that the Title V requirement that college administrations "shall consult collegially" with Senates is defined within the VCCCD as "by mutual agreement".

Article IV: The Academic Senate Membership

This re-emphasizes the current practice at Moorpark of including all full and part-time faculty as complete and voting members of the Senate. It also re-states that final authority within the Senate rests with the general membership.

Article V: Academic Senate General Meetings

Here it lays out that Senate meetings of the whole membership should be held at least once a year and sets out procedures for calling additional ones.

Article VI: The Academic Senate Council

This lists the membership of the Senate Council as is practiced now, principally departmental representation with four executive officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer).

Article VII: The Academic Senate Executive Officers

This update states that the officers are elected for two year terms (as now) and states there is a three term limit (new).

Article IX: Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

As now changes to the constitution require a vote of the general membership; however this updated version allows changes to the by-laws to be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the Academic Senate Council.

By-Laws

Article III: Procedures

This now includes the Senate's *Faculty Statement of Ethics* as a guide for all its work.

Article IV: The Academic Senate Membership

This lays out the rights of all members of the Senate including the right to attend meetings, vote, access Senate business and information, and initiate actions or policies.

Article VI: The Academic Senate Council

This lists the Council's function and its responsibilities, as well as the responsibilities of its representatives and how they should be elected by their constituents.

Article VII: The Academic Senate Executive Officers

Here it lays out the duties of the four officers, the procedures for their election, and the process by which any officer vacancies should be filled.

Article VIII: Academic Senate Standing and Other Committees

This section is new, strengthening the role of our standing committees underneath the Academic Senate in all academic and professional matters. It states the election procedures for the faculty co-chairs and faculty membership, as well as their respective responsibilities as Standing Committee members.