Moorpark College Academic Senate

White Paper on Proposed Update to Constitution and By-Laws (Draft 1, dated 10 July 2014)

*The Constitution defines the purpose and charter of the local Senate and is a stable, long term document. The By-Laws define the process by which the Senate will function and are intended to allow modifications to reflect changes as needed.*

*Proposed major changes in the Constitution and By-Laws*

1. *Allows changes to the By-Laws with a of 2/3 majority vote of the Academic Senate Council*
2. *Defines general meetings*
3. *Contains updated language to comply with legal requirements such as the Brown Act*
4. *Define the relationship of the Senate and the Standing Committees, including Co-chair duties, election process, alternating schedule of 2 year terms*
5. *More clearly define the authority of the Senate as specified in Title 5*

Summary of the Constitution

The proposed constitution includes the following key articles.

Article II: Purpose of the Academic Senate.

The statement is based on Title V and lists the academic and professional matters that are

the responsibility of Senates (the “10 plus 1”).

Article III: Procedures of the Academic Senate

This explains how the State requirement that college administrations “shall consult

collegially” with Senates is defined by the VCCCD (“by mutual agreement”).

Article IV: Membership of the Academic Senate

This continues the current practice at Moorpark of including all full and part-time faculty.

Article V: Organization of the Academic Senate

This lays out the organization of the Senate with authority coming from its general

members to the Senate Council and then through its Standing Committees, with a meeting of the general membership having the final authority.

Article VI: The Academic Senate Council

This lists the membership of the Senate Council (the same as it is practiced now:

principally departmental representation and four elected officers), lists the terms of office for each (one year and two years respectively), and states how vacancies should be filled.

Article VII: Amendments to the Constitution and its By-Laws

This states the procedures for amending the constitution and the by-laws. As now

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

Summary of the By-Laws

The proposed by-laws include the following articles.

Article I: The Academic Senate Council

This provides the details of the Senate Council and its workings on matters including:

The Council’s function and its responsibilities

The responsibilities of its representatives and how they should be elected

The duties of the four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and

Treasurer) and the procedure by which they should be elected

The process by which vacancies on the Council should be filled

Article II: The Senate’s Standing and Other Committees

This article focuses on the duties of the Standing Committees concerning academic and

professional matters under the Academic Senate, as well as the responsibilities of their faculty co-chairs and how they are elected.

Article III: Senate Meetings

This states how often Senate meetings should be held at a minimum (once a year for

General Meetings and once a month for the Senate Council), and sets the quorum for each type of meeting (a minimum of one third of its membership for a General Meeting and a majority of its voting representatives for Council).

Article IV: Prerogatives of the Membership

This lists 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.