

BY-LAWS OF THE MOORPARK COLLEGE ACADEMIC SENATE

Passed by Academic Senate Council and adopted by general membership April/May, 2015

Last Amended by Academic Senate Council May 2nd, 2023

ARTICLE I – NAME

See Constitution.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

See Constitution.

ARTICLE III – PROCEDURES

The Academic Senate must abide by the Brown Act in all of its business.

The Academic Senate *Statement of Professional Ethics* shall provide the guiding principles for its deliberations, decisions, and actions.

The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the Academic Senate on all matters not specifically covered by this Constitution, its By-laws, and applicable law and regulations.

ARTICLE IV – THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEMBERSHIP

Any member of the Academic Senate may:

1. Attend any meeting of the Academic Senate Council, its Standing Committees, or a General Meeting of its membership.
2. Vote on all matters of concern to the faculty member as stated in the Constitution and By-Laws.
3. Readily access all information relevant to the business of the Senate, both as mandated by the Brown Act as well as on other matters pertaining to its work, such as its budget and its policies and procedures on different aspects of its charge.
4. Bring matters of concern to the attention of the Academic Senate Council, any of its Standing Committees, or a general meeting of its membership, either through their representatives, or to the Executive Officers or faculty co-chairs of its Standing Committees, or during public comments at the start of a meeting.
5. Initiate action or policies, when the Academic Senate Council has not responded to regularly channeled requests. They may do this through a petition signed by at least one-tenth of the Senate membership stating the action to be considered and requesting either a special Senate General Meeting or a place on the agenda of an Academic Senate Council meeting. If taken to a General Meeting such an initiated action shall require a majority vote of those voting to be approved, provided that a number equivalent to over one half of the full-time faculty membership at the time of the meeting participates in the voting. If

taken to the Academic Senate Council such an initiated action requires a majority vote to be approved. Any proposed initiative action shall be made available to all members either in paper or electronic form at least two weeks prior to the Academic Senate Council meeting or General Meeting at which it will appear on the agenda.

ARTICLE V – ACADEMIC SENATE GENERAL MEETINGS

The Academic Senate shall hold a General Meeting of the membership at least once a year. It shall be planned for maximum opportunity for attendance by all members.

A quorum for the General Meetings of the Academic Senate shall be a number equivalent to over one half of the full-time faculty membership at the time of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI – THE ACADEMIC SENATE COUNCIL

Section A: Function and Responsibilities of the Academic Senate Council

It shall be the function of the Academic Senate Council to transact the business of the Academic Senate, to develop and implement the policies of the faculty, and to serve as the voice of the faculty on all academic and professional matters.

Specifically, it shall be the responsibility of the Academic Senate Council to:

1. Be the official representative of the Moorpark College faculty in regard to all academic and professional matters.
2. Establish procedures for determining and implementing faculty policies related to all academic and professional matters.
3. Establish processes to expedite the transaction of Academic Senate business.
4. Consider, discuss, and move on recommendations presented to it by the Standing Committees, a General Meeting, or the Executive Officers.
5. Elect the faculty co-chairs of the Standing Committees.
6. Ratify the members of the Standing Committees.
7. Establish work groups of the Senate Council when necessary, appointing the members and naming the chairperson of each group.
8. Advise the Academic Senate President and the other officers of the Senate; assist the Academic Senate President in preparing agendas; and perform those duties requested by the Academic Senate President, the other officers, or the Academic Senate general membership.

Section B: Academic Senate Council Meetings

The Academic Senate Council shall meet at least once a month during the regular academic year.

A quorum for the Academic Senate Council shall be a simple majority. In the case of a vacancy in a representative or Executive Officer position, the Council quorum shall be considered reduced by one until such vacancy is filled.

Section C: Academic Senate Council Department Representatives

1. Basis of representation

Representation shall be based upon the following:

- a) One representative for each academic “department” or “faculty service area” as administratively determined. Each “department” is defined as that portion of the full- and part-time faculty who are administered by a department chair according to contract. Each “faculty service area” is defined as that portion of the full- and part-time faculty who are administered by a full-time faculty coordinator according to contract.
- b) One representative for each of the following areas, determined to be insufficiently represented by their department/faculty service areas by a two-thirds vote of the Academic Senate Council:
 - Library
 - Athletics.
- c) One part-time faculty representative.
- d) One non-voting representative from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).
- e) Ex-officio non-voting positions as follows:
 - One Career Technical Education (CTE) Faculty Liaison
 - One Guided Pathways Liaison
 - All faculty co-chairs of Academic Senate standing committees.
- f) One student representative appointed by the Associated Students of Moorpark College with an advisory vote. The student advisory vote will be recorded in the minutes. The student advisory vote does not count towards quorum or the official vote tally and the student may not make or second motions.

Faculty members assigned to more than one area shall be represented within the group to which the greater amount of their assignment is allocated.

2. Duties of representatives

It shall be the duty of each representative to:

- a) Represent the viewpoints of the faculty in their respective area to the Academic Senate Council, including providing input for Senate Council agendas when appropriate.
- b) Report Academic Senate Council business and activities to all faculty of their respective area.

3. Election/appointment of representatives

- a) Election of department and faculty service area representatives

All faculty representatives to the Academic Senate Council must have the majority of their loads allocated within the respective areas they represent and may be either full- or part-time members of the faculty.

The method of electing a representative shall be determined by the members of each department or faculty service area and shall include open nominations and elections in a process that allows any within the department to serve. A department or faculty service area may also elect an alternate representative to serve in the case of the absence of the primary representative.

- b) Election of representatives for areas determined to be insufficiently represented

These elections shall adhere to the same process as department and faculty service area representatives and may also elect an alternate representative.

- c) Election of part-time representative

The part-time representative shall be elected for a two-year term by part-time faculty in a process that will include open nominations and elections and allow any part-time faculty to serve. The candidate receiving second-most votes shall serve as alternate.

- d) Appointment of AFT representative

The non-voting AFT representative shall be appointed by AFT.

- e) Appointment of Liaisons

The ex-officio, non-voting CTE and Guided Pathways Liaisons shall be appointed by their respective committees.

- f) The student representative with an advisory vote shall be appointed by ASMC.

4. Start date for representatives

It is recommended to elect a representative by the end of the spring semester prior to the next school year so membership can be ratified, and the representative can begin their term June 1st.

Therefore, all representatives should be elected and ready to serve no later than the 1st day of June.

5. Vacancies of representatives

The President of the Academic Senate shall notify the relevant area of the vacancy. If no alternate exists the area shall elect a new representative as determined above.

ARTICLE VII – THE ACADEMIC SENATE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Academic Senate shall have four Executive Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section A: Duties of Executive Officers.

1. President.

It shall be the duty of the President to:

- a) Preside over all meetings of the Academic Senate Council and General Meetings.
- b) Serve on the Moorpark College and District administrative councils and committees in accordance with Title 5 and upon invitation by the administration.
- c) Represent the faculty at meetings of the Board of Trustees and keep the Academic Senate informed of pertinent decisions and topics of discussion.
- d) Communicate General Meeting and/or Academic Senate Council recommendations and proposals to the President of the college.
- e) Communicate General Meeting and/or Academic Senate Council recommendations and proposals to the District Board of Trustees.
- f) Prepare, with input from the other Executive Officers and the Senate Council, the agenda for Senate Council and General meetings.
- g) Be an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws.
- h) Attend the program plan meetings with the Vice Presidents of the College as they discuss the needs laid out in the departments' program plans.
- i) Represent the faculty at both regular and annual budget meetings on campus and the District.
- j) Perform other duties as assigned by the Senate Council or the membership of the Senate through a General Meeting.

2. Vice-President.

It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to:

- a) Serve on behalf of the President of the Academic Senate during any temporary absence of the President.
- b) Be an ex-officio member of such committees as are designated by the President and the Senate Council.

- c) Be a member of Moorpark College and District administrative councils and committees in accordance with Title 5 and upon invitation of the administration.
- d) Represent the President of the Academic Senate as the President, Senate Council, or a General Meeting may direct.
- e) Perform other duties as assigned by the President, Senate Council, or a General Meeting.

3. Secretary.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

- a) Issue notices of meetings, publish agendas and policy statements, and record and distribute minutes of all Senate Council and General meetings in paper and/or electronic formats.
- b) Update the Academic Senate pages on the Moorpark College website.
- c) Record and update the faculty membership of Academic Senate Council and Standing Committees.
- d) Conduct all correspondence appropriate to this office.
- e) Perform other duties as assigned by the President, Senate Council, or a General Meeting.

4. Treasurer.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

- a) Develop an annual Academic Senate budget to present to the Senate Council.
- b) Collect all assessments of the Senate when directed by the Senate Council.
- c) Receive and deposit funds as necessary in the name of the Senate.
- d) Issue requisitions, as needed, co-signed by the President of the Senate and/or another Senate Executive Officer.
- e) Bring financial statements of all transactions of the Senate to the Senate Council when there are changes as well as present a budget summary to Council at the end of each academic year.
- f) Lead the Academic Senate Scholarship Workgroup
- g) Perform other duties as assigned by the President, Senate Council, or a General Meeting.

5. Order of Precedence of Executive Officers

Order of precedence for officers shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer. In the event of the temporary absence of any officer, the next in the above order shall perform any necessary function of the absent officer. A further order of precedence may be established by the Senate Council.

6 . Academic Senate Release Time

Members of the Senate executive council (senate officers and standing committee co-chairs) are entitled to 2.0 release time to be allocated by the Senate President in consultation with the officers with initial assignments of release time announced preceding an election or filling any vacancies.

Section B: Election of Executive Officers

1. Elections Committee.

The election of the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be run by an Elections Committee comprised of three members of the Academic Senate Council. Its duties shall include calling for and receiving nominations, collating and distributing the position statements of all candidates running in the election, holding the election, declaring the results, and adjudicating any disputes that may arise.

Volunteers for the Elections Committee shall be called for and its membership confirmed during a meeting of the Academic Senate Council early in the Fall semester during Academic Senate election years. Any voting member of the Academic Senate Council may volunteer, unless running for election, and if necessary, the Senate Council shall determine by vote the committee's final membership.

Upon first meeting the Election Committee shall appoint a chair. Any disputes before or during the election shall be resolved by the Committee, following the spirit of the Academic Senate *Statement of Professional Ethics*. All decisions of the Committee shall be final, subject to approval by the Academic Senate Council.

2. Elections procedures

The Elections Committee shall call for nominations for the Executive Officers in October of election years, ensuring all nominations are submitted to the Committee no later than the first meeting in November, when the Committee will announce the list of candidates to the Academic Senate Council.

The Committee shall ensure that elections are held before the last meeting in November. Voting shall be by a secret paper or electronic ballot of the general membership. A simple majority of those Academic Senate members voting shall be sufficient for election. If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes on the first ballot.

The Elections Committee shall announce the results of the election before or at the last meeting of the Fall semester, upon acceptance of which by the Academic Senate Council the Committee shall disband.

Additional election procedures are detailed in the Academic Senate Election Rules.

Section C: Vacancies in the Executive Officer positions

Vacancies in the Executive Officer positions shall be filled as follows.

In the case of a resignation, the President of the Academic Senate shall notify the Senate general membership of the vacancy and call for nominations.

These must be filed with the President (or the Vice President, in the case of a Presidential vacancy) within two weeks after the announcement of the vacancy.

The Academic Senate Council shall vote on the nominations received, and upon a two-thirds majority a candidate shall be appointed to fill the vacancy. The vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term of office.

In the case of the recall of an Executive Officer, the procedures shall be followed for a regular officer election. The Senate Council shall form an Elections Committee to run the election and the general membership shall vote on the nominations received, following Article VII, Section B above.

Additional election procedures are detailed in the Academic Senate Election Rules.

ARTICLE VIII: ACADEMIC SENATE STANDING AND OTHER COMMITTEES

Section A: Standing Committees.

1. Faculty Co-Chairs

The term of office for faculty co-chairpersons of Standing Committees shall be two years, beginning the first day of June of odd-numbered years.

Elections for the faculty co-chairpersons shall be held by the Academic Senate Council in the Fall semester of even years. The Senate President shall put out a call for nominations at least four weeks before the election and distribute any nominations at least two weeks before the election in Council. A simple majority of votes in the Academic Senate Council is required for election of faculty co-chairs.

Members elected to office shall shadow the current officers/co-chairs during the Spring semester before their term of office commences.

In the case of a resignation, a replacement faculty co-chair shall be elected by the Academic Senate Council for the remainder of the term of office.

Faculty co-chairs may serve for three terms consecutively and then shall stand down for at least one term before being able to stand again for election.

Additional election procedures are detailed in the Academic Senate Election Rules.

2. Standing Committee Members

The Senate membership of Standing Committees shall be ratified by the Academic Senate Council annually and as needed.

The terms of office for faculty co-chairs and Senate members of the Standing Committees shall begin the first day of June.

3. Duties of the Standing Committees

It shall be the duty of the Standing Committees to:

- a) Work under the authority of the Academic Senate on all academic and professional matters.
- b) Consider, study, and make recommendations on all matters submitted to them by the Academic Senate President, the Senate Council, or Standing Committee co-chairs, or through resolutions passed at a General Meeting of the Academic Senate.
- c) Bring their recommendations back to the Academic Senate Council.

In the event that the Academic Senate Council disapproves the recommendation of a Standing Committee on an academic or professional matter, the committee may appeal the decision of the Senate Council to the Academic Senate membership in a General Meeting, as stated in Article IV of the By-Laws.

4. Duties of the Standing Committee Faculty Co-Chairs

It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee faculty co-chairs to:

- a) Meet as an executive group with the Executive Officers of the Senate at least twice a semester to ensure communication between the Academic Senate and the Standing Committees.
- b) Co-chair the meetings of the Standing Committees on behalf of the Academic Senate.
- c) With their co-chairs, call regular meetings of the committee and publish notice of committee meetings in sufficient time to inform all Academic Senate members.
- d) With their co-chairs, prepare agendas for committee meetings, maintain all committee minutes and records, and report committee actions to the Academic Senate Council and to the Academic Senate general membership.
- e) Maintain communication with other committees, as appropriate, and with the Academic Senate Council.
- f) Ensure that Standing Committees abide by the Brown Act.

Section B: Sub-Committees

Sub-committees may be appointed by the Academic Senate Council and its Standing Committees with defined membership and outcomes in the furtherance of the business of the Senate. The chairperson and members of a sub-committee shall be named by or given to the Academic Senate Council, and its membership shall include members drawn from the forming committee and may include additional outside members. Subcommittees make recommendations to the committee that formed them and must follow the Brown Act in their proceedings.

Section C: Work Groups

Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the Academic Senate Council and its Standing Committees to complete a specific task that is under the authority of the relevant committee in accordance with the Brown Act. The chairperson of each work group shall be named by or given to the Academic Senate Council, and its membership shall include members drawn from the forming committee and may include additional outside members. Work groups make recommendations to the committee that formed them and are dissolved upon completion of purpose.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

See Constitution.

ARTICLE X – RATIFICATION

See Constitution.