ACADEMIC SENATE for CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Celebrating 50 years

Effective Senate Practices & the Brown Act –should we consider changes?
January 2025

Josh Scott
Modified from Erik Shearer's ASCCC Breakout Presentation

Why the Brown Act?

"In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly."

"The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."- Government Code Section 5

Brown Act

- Academic Senate is beholden to the Brown Act
  - Open and public
  - Must post agendas that are accessible to the public at least 72 hours in advance
  - Agenda, minutes and supporting documents are public record
  - We can determine to what extent and how they rely on Roberts Rules of Oder.
  - Agenda must contain short description of every item for action or discussion

Agendas: Regular Meetings

Only agendized items may be discussed during Regular Meetings, except for the following: Government Code §54954.2(b)

• "...a majority vote of the legislative body [determines] an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5."

• An agenda item requiring immediate action came to the attention of the "local agency" after the agenda was posted, if:

- ⅔ of the committee has voted to the addition of the item, or
- Unanimous approval if quorum is less than ⅔ of committee membership

Parliamentary Rules—Role of the Chair

● Remain impartial during the debate; if the chair wishes to engage in debate, they must assign a temporary chair, usually the Vice President or next in line
● Votes only to break a tie
● Introduces the agenda items and provides factual context to the item
● Recognizes speakers
● Determines if a motion is in order (relevant to the topic and within the scope of the Senate)
● Keeps the discussion centered on the current item or motion
● Maintains the order of the process
● Puts motions to vote and announces the results

Questions for us to consider

- Should we continue to have our Vice President of Academic Affairs attend most meetings?
- Do we want more structured time Management? One option would be to only allow each senator a certain amount of time to speak. This would mean creating a timekeeper position on Senate.

Questions, continued

- Do we want to invite ASSC, CSEA, Local 39, and/or SCFA to report to the Senate on a regular basis?
- Should we add space on the agenda for written updates from each senator?
- Do we want to devote time to a "community guidelines" conversation? This would mean talking about conflict, professional conduct, how to move through conflict towards decision and restoration, etc.? This could be a Senate meeting item or a FLEX event that we facilitate
- Other ideas for how to improve the experience and outcome for us and our guests?

10+1 Review of Academic Senate purview and brainstorm session. What is our responsibility? Our opportunity?

January 2025

Josh Scott

Education Code §70902 (b)(7)

Establish procedures…to ensure faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to express their opinions at the campus level, to ensure that these opinions are given every reasonable consideration, to ensure the right to participate effectively in district and college governance, and to ensure the **right of academic senates** to assume **primary responsibility** for making recommendations in the areas of **curriculum** and **academic standards**.

Academic Senate "10 + 1"

"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.

Red = SCC Board of Trustees "relies primarily" on the Academic Senate (2024).

Black = Mutually Agree

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. Processes for program review
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development
+1 Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the Governing Board and Academic Senate

Red = SCC Board of Trustees "relies primarily" on the Academic Senate (2024).

Black = Mutually Agree

Senate Executive Board

President: Josh Scott
Vice President: Rachel Purdie
Secretary-Treasurer: Erin Duane
Past President: LaNae Jaimez
Adjunct Representative: Kristieen Rodriguez

Subcommittees

Student Equity and Success Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 3:30-5pm. Please contact SESC Coordinator and chair Com St. Germain (Commodore.St.Germain@solano.edu) for more info.

Curriculum meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 1-3pm in LRC 113. Please contact Curriculum Chair Jim Deoe (James.Dekloe@solano.edu) for more information.

Academic Program Review In the fall semester, APR meets on the second Thursday of the month (3:30 – 5 PM) in room 902. In the spring semester, the committee meets twice a mo nth, usually on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month (3:30 – 5 PM). For more information, please contact APR coordinator and chair LaNae Jaimez (LaNae.Jaimez@solano.edu).

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Subcommittees, continued

Assessment meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 2-3pm in room 902. Contact Assessment chair and coordinator Andrew Wesley (Andrew.Wesley@solano.edu) for more information.

Professional Development/FLEX meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 2-3:30pm in LRC112. Please contact PDFC chair and coordinator Nazia Mostafa (Nazia.Mostafa@solano.edu) for more information

Distance Education meet on the fourth Friday of the month at 10:30am.   Please contact DE Coordinator and Chair Laura Maghoney (Laura.Maghoney@solano.edu) for more information

Are there areas of 10+1 / Academic Purview that you would like to see us further explore in 2025?

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. Processes for program review

10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development

+1 Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the Governing Board and Academic Senate