

# *Collegiality and Leadership: The Role of the Academic Senate In Participatory Governance*

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# “Participatory Governance”

## What?

- *Involvement / Engagement / Sharing / Partaking*

## Why?

- The short answer is it's the *law*,
- The long answer is it's important to the overall benefit and success of *students*

## How?

- AB 1725

## Assembly Bill 1725 and *the faculty* (1988)

Old news? Maybe, but it means *a lot*

This legislation requires that faculty, staff and students participate in the governance of the college. It is the “most inclusive system of governance enjoyed by any system of higher education in the world”

(ASCCC Rostrum, September 2017).

Locally this means faculty, staff and students ***actively*** serve on committees and ***provide guidance, advice, direction, recommendations,*** etc. in decision-making along with the administration to forward to the Board of Trustees for official action

## **Education Code §70902 (b)(7):**

The Governing Board shall enact regulations to ensure faculty, staff and students the right to participate effectively in district and college governance.

... and, further to ensure “the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendation in the areas of curriculum and academic standards.”

*(Participating Effectively in District and College Governance, ASCCC/CCLC, Fall 1998).*

## Title 5 § 53203

(A) Governing Board shall adopt policies delegating authority and responsibility to its Academic Senate.

(B) Policies in (A) shall be adopted through *collegial consultation* with the Academic Senate.

(C) Guarantees the Academic Senate the right to meet with or appear before the board.

## Board Policy 213

The Board of Trustees is the ultimate decision-maker of the Mendocino-Lake Community College District. In executing that responsibility, the Board is committed to *ensure* that members of the District's constituent groups *participate* in developing recommended policies for Board action, and administrative procedures for action by the Superintendent/President.

Each of the following shall participate as required by law in the decision-making processes of the District:

- **Academic Senate:** (Title 5, Sections 53200-53206)

Board or its designees will consult *collegially* with the Academic Senate, as duly constituted with respect to *academic and professional matters*, as defined by law

- Staff: (Title 5, Section 51023.5)

Staff shall be provided with the opportunities to participate in the formulation and development of district policies and procedures that have significant effect on staff

- Students: (Title 5, Sections 51023.7)

The Associated Students shall be given an opportunity to participate effectively in the formulation and development of district policies and procedures that have a significant effect on students, as defined by law

# Title 5 §53200 (c)

## Academic & Professional Matters ("10 + 1")

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
11. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate

## Title 5 §53200 (d)

District Governing Board is required to *consult collegially* with the Academic Senate and develop policies on academic and professional matters through either or both:

- 1. Rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate  
(1, 2, 3)**
  
- 2. Reach *mutual agreement* with the Academic Senate by written resolution, regulation, or policy  
(4 - 11)**

# Committee Structure

## Decision - Making Committees

- Educational Action Planning Committee
- Facilities and Safety
- Outreach & Marketing
- Professional Development
- Student Learning Outcome Team
- Staffing

## Other Important Committees

- Accreditation Steering Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Guided Pathways Leadership Team (Foundational Skills & Equity)
- President's Policy Advisory Committee
- Planning and Budgeting Committee

## In Summary:

AB 1725, Ed Code, Title 5 & BP requires *faculty* and classified staff to *participate* in the governance of the college

It is our obligation to participate,  
not just be in the room



Resources:

<https://www.mendocino.edu/sites/default/files/docs/policies/BP213.pdf>

<https://www.mendocino.edu/sites/default/files/docs/policies/AP2131.pdf>

<https://asccc.org/content/history-asccc-project-partial-history-passage-ab-1725>

[https://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/local\\_senates\\_handbook2015-web.pdf](https://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/local_senates_handbook2015-web.pdf)

*Participating Effectively in District and College Governance, ASCCC/CCLC, Fall 1998).*