RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

The Board of Trustees (Board) recognizes the College of the Redwoods Academic Senate as the organization formed in accordance with the California Code of Regulations Section 53200 to represent the faculty to the administration of the College and to the Board with respect to academic and professional matters. Recognition of the Academic Senate ensures that faculty have a formal and effective procedure for participating in the development and implementation of District policies on academic and professional matters.

The Board delegates to the President/Superintendent the authority to consult collegially with the Academic Senate on these matters prior to making a recommendation to the Board. The President/Superintendent will rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate and/or reach mutual agreement with the Academic Senate for the designated academic and professional matters.

Primary Matters

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines
2. Degree and certificate requirements
3. Grading policies
4. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success
5. Policies for faculty professional development activities

In these areas, the recommendations of the Academic Senate will normally be accepted. Only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons will the recommendations not be accepted. If a recommendation is not accepted, the Board or the President/Superintendent, upon request of the Academic Senate, will communicate its reasons in writing.

Mutual Agreement Matters

1. Educational program development
2. District and College governance structures, as related to faculty roles
3. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports
4. Processes for program review
5. Processes for institutional planning and budget development
6. Other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the Board and the Academic Senate.

In these areas, when agreement cannot be reached between the President/Superintendent and the Academic Senate, existing policy shall remain in effect unless continuing with such policy exposes the district to legal liability or causes substantial fiscal hardship. In cases where there is no existing policy, or in cases where the exposure to legal liability or substantial fiscal hardship requires existing policy be changed, the Board and the President/Superintendent will act, only after a good faith effort to reach agreement.

In addition to the specific responsibilities noted above, the Academic Senate is responsible, after consultation with the President/Superintendent or his or her designee, for making faculty appointments to all committees, task forces, or other groups dealing with academic and professional matters.

Nothing in this policy is intended to preclude the Academic Senate from exercising its right to present its views on any issue it deems appropriate directly to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

References:
Education Code 70902 (14), 87357, 87359, 87360, 87458, 87663, 87743.1, 87743.2
California Code of Regulations 53200, 53203, 51023.5, 51023.7

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Former Board of Trustees Policy No. 203