

**BP 4005 ACADEMIC SENATE(S)**

**References:**

Title 5 Sections 53200-53205

The Board of Trustees recognizes the Academic Senate(s) of the Riverside Community College District as the organization(s) representing the faculty in the formation of District policy on academic and professional matters.

The primary function of the Riverside Community College District Academic Senate(s) is to make recommendations with respect to the following academic and professional matters:

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
2. Degree and certificate patterns;
3. Grading policies;
4. Educational program development;
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;
6. Policies for faculty professional development activities;
7. District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles;
8. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self study and annual reports;
9. Processes for program review;
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development; and
11. Other academic and professional matters.

The Board of Trustees relies primarily on the recommendations of the Academic Senate(s) for items 1 through 6. The Senate(s) will work with the appropriate

administrative office(s) while developing its position. The Senate(s) will then forward its final recommendations to the Chancellor of the District, who will present them in a timely manner to the Board of Trustees with or without his/her endorsements or comments. When the Board relies primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate(s), the recommendation of the Senate(s) will normally be accepted. In instances where a recommendation is not accepted, the Board's decision must be based on a clear and substantive rationale that puts the explanation for the decision in an accurate, appropriate, and relevant context. The Board or its designee shall communicate its reason in writing to the Senate(s) in a timely manner. If such recommendation is not accepted, existing policies and procedures will remain in effect.

The Board of Trustees will receive items 7 through 10, and those matters developed in item 11 as the result of mutual agreement reached by resolution, regulation or policy. In instances where agreement has not been reached, existing policy shall remain in effect unless the policy exposes the district to legal liability or fiscal hardship. In cases where there is no existing policy, or when legal liability or fiscal hardship requires existing policy to be changed, the Board may act, after a good faith effort to reach agreement, but only for compelling legal, fiscal or organizational reasons.

Nothing in this Board Policy shall be construed to infringe upon the due process rights of faculty, nor to detract from any negotiated agreements between collective bargaining representatives and the Board of Trustees.

Collegial consultation will take place in accordance with existing practices. The Academic Senate(s), after consultation with the Chancellor, may present its written views and recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall consider and may respond to such views and recommendations.

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Date Adopted: April 22, 2008  
(Replaces Policy and Regulation 3010)