

Resolution Regarding Senate Purview in College Reorganization

The Academic Senate of Santa Rosa Junior College

Whereas, California Education Code directs, “governing boards of community college districts to ensure faculty, staff, and students the right to participate effectively in district and college governance, and the opportunity to express their opinions at the campus level and to ensure that these opinions are given every reasonable consideration, and the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards” (section 70901 (b) E),¹

Whereas, Title 5 specifies and expands the Academic Senate’s purview over “curriculum and academic standards“ to “academic and professional matters,” and enumerates those matters in the 10 + 1 (section 53200 (b) and (c), and obligates governing boards to consult collegially with the academic senate, defining “consult collegially” in sub section (d) thus:

“Consult collegially” means that the district governing board shall develop policies on academic and professional matters through either or both of the following methods, according to its own discretion:

- (1) relying primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate; or
- (2) agreeing that the district governing board, or such representatives as it may designate, and the representatives of the academic senate shall have the obligation to reach mutual agreement by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the governing board effectuating such recommendations,”²

Whereas, The Sonoma County Junior College District Board of Trustees and the Santa Rosa Junior College Academic Senate agreed that the 10 + 1 would be divided as follows: on #s 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 the Board will *rely primarily* on the Academic Senate, and on #s 4, 6, 8, 9, and 10 the Board and the Senate are obligated to “reach mutual agreement,” as specified in Board Policy 2.5P,³ and

Whereas, The reorganization of the college currently under discussion falls within at least four of the 10 + 1 academic senate purview, to wit: # 5: “Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success,” designated as a rely primarily on the senate item; # 4: Educational program development; # 6: “District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles;” and #10: “Processes for institutional planning and budget development” (#’s 4, 6, and 10 being “by mutual agreement”),

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of Santa Rosa Junior College affirm the administration’s efforts to conduct listening sessions and other events which give all constituents of the college--students, classified professionals, administrators and managers, as well as faculty—an opportunity to make their views known, and urge the administration to give these opinions every reasonable consideration, and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of Santa Rosa Junior College remind the District and its designees, that it has a legal obligation to the Academic Senate beyond that owed to any other group including administrators, to rely primarily on the advice of and/or reach mutual agreement with the Academic Senate, and therefore must not implement any reorganization involving student success and preparation, educational programs, District governance structures with any relation to faculty roles, or institutional planning and budget development, without the express written agreement of the Academic Senate of Santa Rosa Junior College.

¹https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=7.&title=3.&part=43.&chapter=&article=

²<https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I6EED7180D48411DEBC02831C6D6C108E?transitionType=Default&contextData=%28sc.Default%29>

³ <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/santarosa/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#>