
Discussion, Debate, and Information Dissemination
Resolution 2012-08

Whereas, the Academic Senate is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters as defined in Title 5, Article 2, Section 53200; in particular, district and college governance structures as related to faculty roles; and,

Whereas, Academic Freedom is stipulated by the California State Educational Code in Title 5, Article 2, Section 51023 "The governing board of a community college district shall: (a) adopt a policy statement on academic freedom which shall be made available to faculty," and, the Accreditation Standard II.7.a which states "In order to assure the academic integrity of the teaching-learning process, the institution uses and makes public governing board- adopted policies on academic freedom and responsibility, student academic honesty, and specific institutional beliefs or worldviews. These policies make clear the institution's commitment to the free pursuit and dissemination of knowledge;" and,

Whereas, BP 4030 Academic Freedom recognizes "that a free society functions efficiently only if its citizens have the right to discuss, debate, and disagree constructively, that the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech is meaningful only to the extent that the majority is willing to hear honest expressions of unpopular ideas by all; Mt. San Antonio College has an obligation to its community to promote healthy discussion as an educative force;" and,

Whereas, "To protect human dignity and individual freedom, and assure that students are respected as individuals, as learners, and as independent decision-makers; To keep foremost in mind at all times that the College exists to serve students; To develop a climate of trust and mutual support..." (Employee Responsibility guidelines as outlined in BP 3050);

Resolved, Academic Senate recognizes that faculty should have the academic freedom to express a diversity of views on what will and what will not advance student learning and the academic freedom to engage in robust and balanced discussion, debate, and information dissemination regarding all issues that impact Mt.SAC students and the institution that serves them; and,

Resolved, the Academic Senate encourages and agrees to the use of webinars, listservs, campus e-mails, websites, and other information and communication venues to encourage discussion, debate and dissemination of information; and,

Resolved, the Academic Senate will advocate and engage in discussion, debate and dissemination of information, particularly that relevant to the implementation of the California Community College Student Success Task Force Recommendations at the Board of Trustees, State level meetings and professional arenas; and,

Resolved, the Academic Senate will create a task force to explore, determine, and develop processes, procedures, and venues for effective, timely and transparent communication to include but not limited to discussion forums, a robust website, ongoing agenda items, and reports to BOT.

Submitted by: Barbara Gonzales,
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