

# **FORGING AN UNBREAKABLE BOND: STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SENATES AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEES**

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# OVERVIEW

- Ed Code and Title 5 on The Curriculum Committee
- Models of structures and relationships between local curriculum committees and local academic senates
- Strategies for curriculum committees and academic senates to work together
- Discussion...

# ED CODE AND TITLE 5 ON THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

**California Education Code §70902(b)(7):** The governing board of each district shall establish procedures to ensure . . . the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards.

**Title 5 §53200 lists the following as “academic and professional matters” or “10+1”:**

- curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
- degree and certificate requirements;
- grading policies;
- educational program development;
- standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;

## ED CODE AND TITLE 5 ON THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

**Title 5 §55002 includes:** The college and/or district curriculum committee recommending the course shall be established by the mutual agreement of the college and/or district administration and the academic senate. The committee shall be either a committee of the academic senate or a committee that includes faculty and is otherwise comprised in a way that is mutually agreeable to the college and/or district administration and the academic senate.

## ED CODE AND TITLE 5 ON THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The Curriculum Committee and the Curriculum Approval Process are two different things:

- Separate rules and procedures for the committee and the process
- Changes to the curriculum committee composition must be mutually agreed upon by both the Academic Senate and the administration
- Per Title 5, the senate must be involved in the approval process

# MODELS OF STRUCTURES AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ACADEMIC SENATES

## A Tale of Three Colleges...

- College of the Canyons
- Copper Mountain College
- Sacramento City College



# MODELS OF STRUCTURES AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ACADEMIC SENATES

Curriculum approval depends on the structure...

- Curriculum Committee is a subcommittee of the Academic Senate and reports directly to the Academic Senate
- Curriculum Committee is a standing committee under the direction of the Academic Senate and generally sends curriculum directly to the Board of Trustees
- Others?

How is curriculum approved?

- Curriculum Committee, Academic Senate or both?
- Consent, Action or ????

## MODELS OF STRUCTURES AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ACADEMIC SENATES

- Membership should reflect the diversity of college programs and service areas
- Membership should also include faculty/administrators/staff with expertise in distance education, disability access requirements, articulation, and counseling
- Students are an integral part of any shared governance committee – Title 5 §51023.7 (b)(4) – The students’ “9+1”
- Who should have voting rights? What is the role of your academic senate on curriculum approval?



# STRATEGIES FOR CURRICULUM COMMITTEES AND ACADEMIC SENATES TO WORK TOGETHER

Depending on local structure and processes:

- Open and Transparent Communication
- Academic Senate representative on Curriculum Committee
- Curriculum Committee representative on Academic Senate
- Clear roles for administrators and classified staff
- Clearly defined written processes and procedures that are regularly reviewed, evaluated and improved—Curriculum Handbook?
  - Local policies and procedures that establish the curriculum committee should be separate from the policies and procedures that establish the local curriculum approval process
  - Regular training (refresher) on regulations/guidelines

# STRATEGIES FOR CURRICULUM COMMITTEES AND ACADEMIC SENATES TO WORK TOGETHER

“The nature of the senate report requires comment. Typically, the committee reports both on the courses and programs to be recommended to the board for approval (usually just a list) and on the procedures used (usually as committee minutes). Because Title 5 specifies that curriculum is recommended to the board by the curriculum committee [Title 5 55002(a)], *it is not the role of the senate to change the recommendations (emphasis added)*. However, it is appropriate for the senate to review the policies and procedures used [Title 5 53203(a)] and call attention to any irregularities which might require a recommendation to be returned to the committee for reconsideration.”

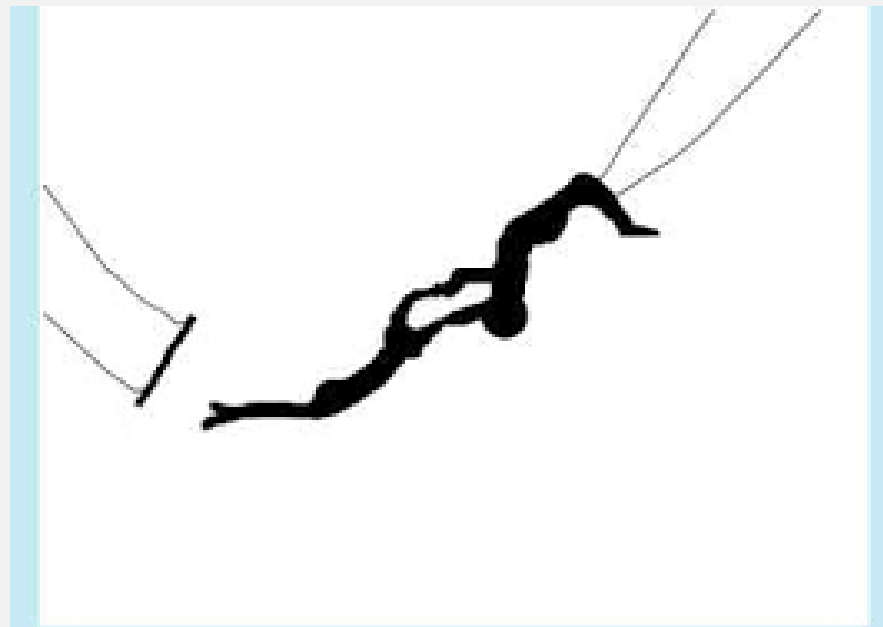
-“The Curriculum Committee: Role, Structure, Duties, and Standards of Good Practices”, adopted in fall of 1996

## DISCUSSION...

- What is the structure of your curriculum committee?
- How is your academic senate informed about the work and actions of the curriculum committee?
- Which topics or "biggies" go to the academic senate for discussion?
- Which topics should not go to the academic senate for discussion?
- Other burning questions...

THANK YOU!

Working together...



...is the key!

# REFERENCES

- May 2006 Rostrum Article: Where, Oh Where, Does the Curriculum Go?  
<https://asccc.org/content/where-oh-where-does-curriculum-go>
- Ensuring Effective Curriculum Approval Processes: A Guide for Local Senates, adopted 2016:  
[https://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Effective%20Curriculum%20Approval%20Process\\_0.pdf](https://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Effective%20Curriculum%20Approval%20Process_0.pdf)
- Curriculum Committee: Role, Structure, Duties and Standards of Good Practice, adopted 1996:  
[https://asccc.org/sites/default/files/publications/Curriculum\\_0.pdf](https://asccc.org/sites/default/files/publications/Curriculum_0.pdf)
- Title 5 §51023.7. Students:  
[https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I49A33D60D48411DEBC02831C6D6C108E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&bhcp=1](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I49A33D60D48411DEBC02831C6D6C108E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)&bhcp=1)