

**CHAPTER 2: Administration and General Institution  
BOARD POLICY NO. 2.05 (BP 2510)**

**BOARD POLICY  
San Mateo County Community College District**

**Subject:** BP 2.05 Academic Senate  
**Revision Date:** 5/09; **Reviewed xx/xx**  
**Policy References:** Title 5 Sections 53200 et seq; 53200.c; 53202.b; 53203.d.1; Ed Code 70902.b.7

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1. Academic Senates, organized under the provisions of the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, shall represent the faculty and make recommendations to the administration and to the Board with respect to academic and professional matters, so long as the exercise of such functions does not conflict with the lawful collective bargaining agreement.
2. The College Academic Senates shall represent the faculty and make recommendations to their College administration and to the Board concerning academic and professional matters of importance at a single College in the District.
3. A District Academic Senate shall coordinate activities of and communications among the College Academic Senates and shall represent the faculty and make recommendations to the District administration and to the Board concerning academic and professional matters of importance at all Colleges in the District. The District Academic Senate shall bring forth only those recommendations that have the unanimous vote of all three College Senates.
4. The Academic Senates' organization, membership functions and committee structure shall be developed by the Academic Senate at each of the Colleges.
5. "Academic and professional matters" means the following policy development and implementation matters:
  - a. curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines;
  - b. degree and certificate requirements;
  - c. grading policies;
  - d. educational program development;
  - e. standards or policies regarding student preparation and success;
  - f. district and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles;
  - g. faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports;
  - h. policies for faculty professional development activities;
  - i. processes for program review;
  - j. processes for institutional planning and budget development; and
  - k. other academic and professional matters as are mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate.
6. The Board or its designees will consult collegially with the Academic Senate when adopting policies and procedures. The Board will rely primarily on faculty expertise on academic and professional matters as listed above through the established Academic Senate processes. The Academic Senate will consult collegially with the administration of the college and/or district.

BP 2.05 Academic Senate (Continued)

7. The Academic Senate will provide an opportunity for students and staff to participate effectively in the formulation and development of policies and procedures that have or will have a significant effect upon them. (See Rules and Regulations 2.08(9).
8. Recommendations regarding matters identified in Rules and Regulations 2.08 (4) as subject to the participatory governance processes of the District shall undergo review by those bodies prior to advising the Chancellor on policy matters for Board action.
9. The recommendations of the Academic Senate will normally be accepted, and only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons will the recommendation not be accepted. If a recommendation is not accepted, the Board or its designee, upon request of the Senate, shall promptly communicate its reasons in writing to the Senate. The reasons will be based upon a clear and substantive rationale which puts the decision in an accurate, appropriate, and relevant context.