OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Introduction

Merritt College is managed by a college president and a team of vice presidents, deans and directors. The collective effort of administrators is to establish vision, provide leadership and support of the college's integrated planning and budgeting, decision making and allocation of resources. Merritt College's administration is committed to the principles of participatory governance. This commitment to participatory governance is demonstrated through a continual process of soliciting feedback and considering input in decision-making. The four constituency groups makeup the Participatory Governance Structure. The committees and constituencies at Merritt College contribute to the ongoing planning and decision making process and fulfillment of the college's mission through committee participation. The committees provide the foundation of communication, collaboration and the integration of institutional planning, budgeting and decision making. All committee meetings are open, and all members of the campus community are welcome and encouraged to attend. Committee by-law (Appendix B) will delineate responsibilities and reporting relationships.

Constituency Groups

The constituency groups that contribute to Merritt College's collegial decision making process are:
- Academic Senate
- Administration
- Associated Students
- Classified Senate.

Please refer to college website for constituency group by-laws and/or constitutions.

Academic Senate (AS)

The Merritt College Academic Senate, comprised of Faculty, has a primary function to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters as defined in Title 5 of the California Administrative Code (See Appendix A for Board Policies and Administrative Procedures). The role of the Academic Senate, provided by state law, is to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees in the following 10+1 areas. The Board is to "rely primarily" on the recommendations of the Academic Senates in developing policies and procedures in these areas. Academic and professional matters mean the following policy development:

1. Curriculum, including establishing pre requisites
2. Degree and Certificate requirements
3. Grading policies
4. Educational program development
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success
6. College governance structures, as related to faculty roles
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes
8. Policies for faculty professional development activities
9. Processes for Program Review
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development
11. Other academic and professional matters.