

1990 SPRING SESSION
BACKGROUND REPORT
By Local Senates Committee
Harry Kawahara, Chair

PROFILE OF A STRONG SENATE (Or, How to Evaluate Your Own Senate)

AB 1725 specifically designates academic senates to assume additional responsibilities in college governance. This is as it should be. We are taking on the role assigned to academic senates at four-year colleges and universities.

Clearly, these added responsibilities require more time and energy from community college faculty. Thus, the following profile is set forth as a model for local senates to emulate.

1. CONSULTATION:

- The senate president sits at the board of trustees table or resource table at their regular meetings and has a place on the agenda.
- The senate president has meaningful input into decision-making processes of college/district, including but not limited to, the annual budget, educational standards, curriculum, affirmative action, and hiring.
- The senate president consults with the college president/district chancellor on a regular basis to provide faculty input.
- The senate president has voting rights in college/district cabinet or executive council and other decision-making bodies.
- Senate officers are available to all faculty for regular consultation.

2. DEFINED SENATE STRUCTURE AND GOALS:

- Establish clearly defined goals for the year; they should be realistic and attainable.
- Assign specific goals to appropriate senate committees for implementation.
- Review senate constitution periodically for practicality.

3. COMMUNICATION:

The Senate

- Distributes a monthly information newsletter campus-wide for communicating faculty issues and concerns.
- Distributes minutes to all management, faculty, and board of trustees members.
- Has a designated representative responsible for communication to and from the Academic Senate's statewide electronic bulletin board, InfoNet.

4. REASSIGNED TIME:

- Local senate is given at least two full-time equivalent positions to be distributed among the officers.

- Faculty curriculum chair or co-chair has at least 40% reassigned time.
- Additional reassigned time is given to faculty to participate effectively in college/district governance.

5. DISTRICT OR COLLEGE BUDGET:

The senate

- Has the college pay for state Academic Senate membership.
- Has conference monies for academic senate business.
- Has funds for postage and duplicating.
- Has an expense allowance for senate president.

6. RELATIONS WITH UNION:

The senate

- Maintains a positive working relationship with the collective bargaining agent.
- Meets with union representatives periodically to discuss mutual concerns.
- Has a delineation of function agreement with union.

7. OFFICE SPACE:

- Space is available for a local senate office with one meeting room and adjoining office for secretary.
- The senate office is centrally located and accessible to faculty.

8. SECRETARIAL HELP:

- Local senate office has at least 50% secretarial assistance (11 month contract).
- College work study assistance is available when needed.

9. OFFICE EQUIPMENT:

- Telephone (at least two lines)
- Telephone answering machine
- Electronic typewriter/computer
- Word processing capability
- Letter quality printer
- Modem (tie-in to InfoNet)
- Fax machine
- Furniture (adequate for needs)

Prepared by the Relations with Local Senates Committee:

Harry Kawahara, Chair

Edith Conn, Ventura College

Charles Donaldson, Santa Monica College

Diana Ogimachi, Long Beach City College

Lynn Pomeroy, Glendale Community College

Gerald Scheib, L.A. Mission College

Terri Ann Linn-Watson, Chaffey College