

## **Election and Rules – Year End Report 2015-2016**

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The primary objective of ERC this academic year was to revise and update the Senate Constitution and Bylaws. Members met throughout the fall and spring semester and both documents were reviewed to ensure they reflect current practice, best practices as suggested by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and legal mandates. The changes to the Constitution were relatively minor while the changes to the Bylaws were extensive. The Bylaws in effect at the beginning of the academic year had organizational issues, issues with rules for succession, rules for filling vacancies that were onerous, and no rules related to Senate funds. The revised Bylaws attempted to address these issues.

Revised Constitution and Bylaws were brought to the Academic Senate in the spring semester and passed the second read in the Academic Senate on 5/10/2016. The Constitution has been passed onto the faculty for a ratification vote.

During the Fall semester, the ERC worked with Academic Affairs to run elections for Chairs of several departments. During the Spring semester, elections were held for Academic Senate seats, Officer seats and Curriculum Representatives. Slight problems developed in the protocol for the elections due to staffing issues in Management Information Services that resulted in delays of obtaining results. A protocol has been agreed upon between Management Information Services and ERC that should prevent such problems from occurring in future elections.

### Changes to Constitution

- 1) Slight changes to time frame of elections to allow flexibility in scheduling to avoid scheduling issues of elections in intersessions and holidays.
- 2) Updated responsibilities of officers to reflect current practices.
- 3) Clarified that both full-time faculty and part-time faculty serve as Senators.
- 4) Moved conduct of meeting of Senate to the Bylaws.
- 5) Clarified pathways to change the Constitution and reduced the threshold of Senate votes needed before changes were passed to the faculty for a decision.

### Changes to Bylaws

- 1) Changed timing requirements of elections to allow flexibility in scheduling to avoid issues of elections in intersessions and holidays.
- 2) Clarified rules of order for governing meetings.
- 3) Created rules of succession for officer vacancy, to supplement those in Constitution.
- 4) Removed requirement of running elections each time a senate seat is vacated.
- 5) Added rules for Curriculum seats.

- 6) Delineated clear pathway of how an item is put on agenda for Senate.
- 7) Added rules related to Senate Budget.
- 8) Revised scope of all Senate Committees and removed functions of these committees from the Bylaws to allow individual committees more flexibility each term.
- 9) Clarified nomination, appointment and election process.
- 10) Added a procedure that would allow Joint Committees to have student members (current practice had student members on several committees in contradiction of rules outlined in Bylaws.)