Resolution in Support of More Collaborative, Effective, and Equitable Participatory Governance Practices and Policies

Whereas, Education Code §70901 requires "governing boards of community college districts to ensure faculty, staff, and students the right to participate effectively in district and college governance, and the opportunity to express their opinions at the campus level and to ensure that these opinions are given every reasonable consideration, and the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards";

Whereas, GCCCD Board Policy 2510 stipulates that Academic Senate, Administrators and Staff, and Students "shall participate as required by law in the decision-making processes of the District";

Whereas, GCCCD Administrative Procedure 2510 stipulates: "The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District governance structure provides each constituency group with the opportunity to participate in planning processes, initiatives, and the development of District and college policies and procedures through their representatives. The District is committed to effective participatory governance as a foundation for all policy-making within the District";

Whereas, we recognize the inherent value of and need for robust participation of student, staff, and faculty representation in decision-making;

Whereas, our structures and policies should cement our commitment to effective participatory governance by removing barriers to engagement impacting student, staff, and faculty representatives;

Whereas, current policies and practices have yet to address all barriers to adequate and well-balanced representation in all levels of participatory governance resulting in a lack of adequate representation for affected constituencies;

Whereas, a commitment to effective participatory governance requires that all affected constituencies have reasonable access to representation, and that they and their elected representatives be welcome and included in the decision-making process; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Cuyamaca Classified and Academic Senates reaffirm our commitment to effective participatory governance and our responsibility to adequately and unwaveringly represent our constituencies; and

Resolved, that the Cuyamaca Classified and Academic Senates strongly support one another in pursuit of adequate and robust access to participatory governance; and

Resolved, that the Cuyamaca Classified and Academic Senates uphold that in order to truly engage in effective participatory governance all constituencies should have adequate and mutually agreed upon representation in all District councils, committees, and task forces; and

Resolved, that the Cuyamaca Classified and Academic Senates strongly request that the current policies and practices be reviewed and revised in favor of increasing access for all constituencies and their representatives, including but not limited to reviewing release or reassigned time allocated to Presidents and Vice-Presidents of both Senates; and

Resolved, that the Cuyamaca Classified and Academic Senates request that hiring committees be mindful to respect the schedules of all appointed representatives–such as the fact that many faculty have courses to teach during the academic year or are off contract during certain periods of the year–when collaborating on setting the committee schedule, timeline, and deadlines; and

Resolved, that the Cuyamaca Classified and Academic Senates request that more deliberate efforts be made to ensure that student representatives be included in all decision-making spaces, including robust onboarding for student representatives on councils and committees, and intentional recruitment efforts to encourage student involvement in participatory governance; and

Resolved, that we make our practices and policies more collaborative, effective, and equitable by taking deliberate, meaningful, and long-term steps to increase access to and engagement in participatory governance.