Preamble

The purpose of the Academic Senate, as a representative of the faculty, is to make recommendations to the administration of the District and the Board of Trustees with respect to academic and professional matters. We are a recommending body, and we make our recommendations to the District under the assumption of collegiality, that is, under the assumption that the faculty interact with each other, the administration, and the Board in a professional relationship, mutually respecting each other’s opinions. Faculty and administration must keep in mind that the District exists to serve our students. To this end the Academic Senate of the Sequoias Community College District is dedicated.

Article I: Definitions

A. The name of the organization shall be the Sequoias Community College District Academic Senate, hereafter the “Academic Senate.”

B. Faculty—all academic personnel under a permanent or temporary contract who are not declared as holding a management position.

1. Full-time faculty—all academic personnel with permanent contracts and temporary academic personnel working more than 67% of a full load.

2. Adjunct faculty—all academic personnel with a temporary contract working at 67% or less of a full contract.

C. Academic Senate—the organization whose primary function is, as the representative of faculty, to make recommendations to the administration of the District and to the Governing Board of the District with respect to academic and professional matters (Title V, Section 53200).

D. Senator—any faculty member duly elected to the Academic Senate according to the conditions set forth in this Constitution or its bylaws.

E. Division—any department or group of departments presided over by a division chair or otherwise defined as a “division” in the Bylaws of the Academic Senate.

F. Department—any discipline-oriented entity within a division.

G. Special Programs—any program that is not administered through a division.

Article II: Powers and Functions

A. The Academic Senate shall be empowered to make recommendations to the President/Superintendent of the District and shall have the right, after such presentation, to lay its views directly before the Board on any matter pertaining to the academic and
professional matters of the District as defined in Title V of the California Code of Regulations.

B. Title V of the California Code of Regulations, Division 6, Chapter 4, Subchapter 2, Article 2, Section 53200 defines the powers, rights, and responsibilities of the Academic Senate in California Community Colleges. This stipulates that the District Governing Board shall consult collegially with the Academic Senate when developing policies, processes, and procedures regarding academic and professional matters by using either of the following methods:

1. Relying primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic senate;

2. Agreeing that the District Governing Board, or such representatives at it may designate, and the representatives of the Academic Senate shall have the obligation to reach mutual agreement by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the Governing Board effectuating such recommendations.

3. If no mutual agreement is reached, no changes may be made to policies, processes, or procedures.

C. The Board of Trustees agrees to rely primarily on the Academic Senate regarding the following academic and professional matters:

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines.

2. Degrees and certificate requirements.

3. Grading policies.

4. Policies for faculty professional development activities.

D. The Board of Trustees agrees to mutually agree with the Academic Senate regarding the following academic and professional matters:

1. Educational program development.

2. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success.

3. District and college governance structures, as related to faculty roles.

4. Processes for program review.

5. Process for institutional planning and budget development
6. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation process, including self-study and annual reports.

7. Any other academic and professional matters as mutually agreed upon between the Governing Board and Academic Senate.

E. The Academic Senate shall have authority to recommend policies and/or mutually agree with the Board of Trustees on any issues stipulated in the California Education Code and in any other applicable laws.

Article III: Members and Elections

A. Senators shall be elected by their respective divisions for two (2) year terms.

B. With the exception of D.5 below, a Senator must be a full-time faculty member.

C. Senators may be reelected by their respective divisions.

D. Representation on the Academic Senate shall be determined as follows:

1. Senators shall be chosen by divisions by elections as outlined in this article.

2. Each division with one to 10 full-time faculty shall elect one senator; each division with 11-20 full-time faculty members shall elect two senators; and each division with 21 or more full-time faculty members shall elect three senators. The division chair and department heads shall be counted as members of the division.

3. Any Senator who teaches in more than one division shall declare to the division chairs and Academic Senate Secretary, via email, which of these divisions he/she shall represent during all Senate voting. This declaration must be made at the beginning of the Senator’s term, and shall be permanent for the duration of the Senator’s term.

4. Library faculty shall elect one Senator.

5. Adjunct faculty shall elect two Senators.

6. The Sequoias Community College District Student Senate Executive Board shall elect one representative to serve on the Senate. This is a non-voting representative.

7. The classified staff shall elect one representative to serve on the Academic Senate. This is a non-voting representative.

E. In April of each year, each division with an upcoming Senate vacancy will hold an election in which each full-time faculty member of that division may cast one vote. Each
division electing a Senator is responsible for developing its own election process. Each division will then submit the name(s) of any newly elected senator(s) to the Academic Senate President via email before the next regular meeting of the Academic Senate.

F. Senate vacancies shall be filled by the division prior to the regular meeting of the Academic Senate after which they occur. The name of any senator chosen by a division to fill a vacancy must be submitted via email to the Academic Senate President and Secretary before the next regular meeting of the Academic Senate.

G. Senators may be recalled by a two-thirds vote of the full-time faculty members of the senator’s division in a meeting called for that purpose. Notice of such a meeting must be provided to the Academic Senate President at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

H. Senators must be present at a Senate meeting in order to vote on business in that meeting. There shall be no proxy voting.

Article IV: Senate Officers

A. The officers of the Academic Senate include:
   1. President
   2. Vice-President
   3. Secretary-Treasurer
   4. Faculty Enrichment Chairperson
   5. Equity Committee Chairperson
   6. Senate State Delegate

B. Officers of the Academic Senate shall be elected at large by faculty-wide election. Any full-time faculty member is eligible to run for Academic Senate office.

C. The election of all Academic Senate officers shall be conducted in the month of February of even-numbered years, by a faculty-wide election as outlined in the bylaws of the Academic Senate.

D. Officers shall serve for two-year terms and may be reelected to succeed themselves in office.

E. The Faculty Enrichment Chairperson shall serve for a four-year term.

F. In the event of a resignation or other absence of an officer during the term of an officer, the Academic Senate President may appoint an interim officer for the remainder of the term with the consent of the Academic Senate.

G. Any officer of the Academic Senate may be recalled from the office by a 2/3 vote of the District’s entire full-time faculty in an election called for that purpose. Notice of such an election must be publicly posted at least one week before the election is held.
H. With the exception of the President, who is allowed to vote only in the event that such a vote will break a tie, officers are entitled to vote on Senate business by procedures outlined in the Bylaws.

I. Specific duties of the Academic Senate officers shall be defined in the Senate’s Bylaws.

**Article V: Meetings**

A. The Academic Senate shall meet at least once a month during the academic year.

B. A quorum shall consist of the presence of at least 51% of the voting members of the Senate and at least three officers.

C. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President of the Academic Senate on his/her own initiative or at the request of any member of the Academic Senate. Any special meetings shall require an emailed notice to each Academic Senate member at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting.

D. Official action can take place only at a regular or special meeting of the Academic Senate.

E. Regular and special meetings of the Academic Senate are open to all. Guests may voice their opinions or ask questions only when recognized by the chair.

F. Outside speakers before the Academic Senate are limited to those invited by the Executive Board.

G. The rules contained in the most recent edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the Academic Senate in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Academic Senate’s Bylaws and any special rules of order the Senate may adopt.

**Article VI: Amendments**

A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in the following ways:

1. A simple majority vote of the Academic Senate.

2. Petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of the full-time faculty.

B. Amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the full-time faculty by email, at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote to amend.

C. Before ratification by the full-time faculty, an amendment must be presented at a faculty forum.

D. Amendments to the Constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of all full-time faculty.
Article VII: Enactment Clause

A. This Constitution shall be effective upon a vote, verified by the Academic Senate, of 2/3 of all full-time faculty of the Sequoias Community College District.

B. Amendments to the Constitution will be effective upon vote or verification by the Academic Senate.
SEQUOIAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BYLAWS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Article I: Definition of Divisions
For the purposes of representation on the Academic Senate, the following entities are considered “divisions” whether or not they are presided over by a chair: Agriculture, Consumer/Family Studies, Counseling, Industry & Technology, Library, Physical Education, Math & Engineering, Science, Business, Fine Arts, Language Arts, Nursing, and Social Science.

Article II: Election of Officers
A. In the academic year during which elections for Senate officers is to take place, the Academic Senate Executive Board shall call for nominations and develop a slate of candidates.

B. Each full-time faculty member is eligible to cast one vote per office. Each adjunct faculty member is eligible to cast a vote for each office proportional to his/her teaching load (e.g., 40% FTE equals 0.4 vote) in the semester in which the election occurs.

C. A minimum of two weeks’ notice by email shall be given prior to the date of the election.

D. The election shall be held over a period of two consecutive weekdays in February of the even-numbered year. These weekdays shall not include a Friday.

E. Voting shall be facilitated in such a way that voter privacy and the integrity of the vote are assured.

F. For each office, the candidate receiving the most votes shall be deemed the winner.

G. For each office, the number of ballots cast and the number of votes received by each candidate shall be announced.

H. No candidate for Academic Senate office shall participate in the planning, administration, or vote tabulation of any Academic Senate election.

Article III: Duties of Elected Officers
A. The Academic Senate President shall:

1. Establish the time and place for all general meetings and all Executive Board meetings.

2. Prepare the agendas for all general meetings and Executive Board meetings.

3. Appoint a Parliamentarian.
4. Preside over all general and Executive Board meetings in an impartial manner. The President may not introduce motions or resolutions, and may only vote in the event of a tie.

5. Represent the Academic Senate at the meetings of the Board of Trustees.

6. Report to the Academic Senate in a timely manner the disposition of Senate actions.

B. The Vice-President of the Academic Senate shall:

1. Act as President in the absence of that officer.

2. Perform such functions as the President assigns to assist in carrying out the purposes and policies of the Academic Senate.

3. Serve as Co-Chair of the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee.

4. Represent the Academic Senate on Instructional Council.

5. Chair the Equivalency Committee.

C. The Secretary-Treasurer shall:

1. Act as President in the absence of the President and Vice-President.

2. Record all minutes of all general and special meetings of the Senate. In the event the Secretary Treasurer must act as President, he or she may appoint a Senator to act as Secretary for that meeting.

3. Maintain the currency of all mailing lists of the Academic Senate.

4. Ensure that all minutes and agendas are posted, emailed, and placed on the District website in accordance with the District Manual of Governance and Decision-Making.

D. The Faculty Enrichment Chair shall:

1. Plan, develop, and host faculty development workshops.

2. Promote and approve sabbatical proposals and institutional improvement projects.

3. Coordinate with other groups and committees to provide staff training.

4. Facilitate new faculty orientation prior to the first day of the Fall semester.
5. Supervise the approval of FLEX hours.

E. The Equity Committee Chair shall:

   1. Chair committee meetings and establish meeting agendas
   
   2. Collaborate with the Vice President of Student Services in the preparation of the Student Equity Report.

F. The Senate State Delegate shall:

   1. Vote at State Academic Senate meetings.
   
   2. Ascertain Academic Senate preference on significant State Academic Senate resolutions.
   
   3. Bring relevant state and local resolutions to the attention of the Academic Senate.
   
   4. Facilitate nominations for State Academic Senate awards.

**Article IV: Senate Meetings and Voting**

A. Senate meetings are to be conducted according to the most recent edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

B. At its first meeting of the academic year, the Senate shall review the “Organizational Meeting Agenda Guide” (as indicated in the District’s *Integrated Planning Manual*).

C. Business of the Academic Senate shall be decided by each Academic Senator casting one vote. A vote may only take place with the presence of a quorum as defined in Article V.B of the Constitution. There shall be no proxy votes.

D. Any member of the faculty, administration, member of the Board of Trustees, or member of the Student Senate Executive Board may bring matters to the attention of the Academic Senate, but in order to receive consideration, such matters must be distributed to each Academic Senate member, by email, by 9:00 a.m. on the Friday morning preceding the next scheduled Academic Senate meeting.

**Article V: General Faculty Meetings**

A. The Academic Senate President has the authority to call and preside over a general faculty meeting.

B. Upon the request of the majority of the Academic Senators or any four divisions, the Academic Senate President shall be required to call and to preside over a general faculty meeting.
C. Upon a majority vote by the Academic Senate, the Academic Senate can submit a matter to a vote of the full-time faculty.

D. The majority of the faculty of any four divisions can request that any decision made by the Senate be submitted to the faculty for a referendum.

E. Any matter other than a Constitutional amendment referred by the Senate to the faculty for a decision shall require a simple majority vote of the full-time faculty for passage.

**Article VI: Academic Senate Executive Board**

A. The Executive Board of the Academic Senate shall comprise the six officers of the Academic Senate, the chairs of the standing committees, the Distance Education Coordinator, Faculty Enrichment Chair, the Curriculum Coordinator, and the Equity Committee co-chair. The Executive Board shall perform administrative functions consistent with the mission of the Academic Senate and the purposes of the Constitution and its Bylaws.

B. Executive Board Meetings shall be chaired by the Academic Senate President.

C. In the event that the Senate President is absent from an Executive Board meeting, the Vice President shall chair the meeting; in the event of the absence of both President and Vice-President of the Academic Senate, the Executive Board meeting may be chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Academic Senate.

**Article VII: Senate Committees and Committee Duties**

A. The Academic Senate shall maintain committees, including the following:

1. Up to three standing committees (A, B, and C)

2. Faculty Enrichment Committee

3. Curriculum Committee

4. Outcomes and Assessment Committee

5. Equity Committee

6. Equivalency Committee

7. Distance Education Committee

B. The Senate may create one or more task forces if necessary to investigate short-term issues.
C. Each Academic Senate committee shall meet as needed for the conduct of its business and shall submit at least three progress reports to the Academic Senate during the academic year:

1. An initial report after the committee’s first meeting of the academic year. This report will:
   i. List committee members.
   ii. Provide a schedule of meeting dates/times.
   iii. Share issues/goals to be addressed during the school year.

2. A midterm report in January. This report will:
   i. Provide a list of initiatives.
   ii. Explain progress made on those initiatives, even if they have been changed or deleted.

3. End-of-year report on or about May 1. This report will
   i. Provide a comprehensive list of initiatives.
   ii. Explain progress made on those initiatives.
   iii. Provide tentative plans for the following academic year.

D. Each Senate committee, at its first meeting of the academic year, shall review the “Organizational Meeting Agenda Guide” (when indicated in the District’s Integrated Planning Manual).

E. Each committee is responsible for developing its own Bylaws.

F. All committees must give a summary of their current business from time to time to the full Academic Senate at the discretion of the Academic Senate Executive Committee.

G. The Academic Senate shall distribute to the Board of Trustees, faculty, and administration a summary of accomplishments at the close of the academic year.

H. Academic Senate standing committees shall operate as follows:

1. Each standing committee shall have a chair appointed by the President of the Academic Senate with the consensus of the Academic Senate. The chair shall establish meeting times and agendas.
2. Each standing committee shall elect its own secretary.

3. Each Senator must serve on one of the standing committees; however, no Senator may serve on more than two standing committees simultaneously; no Senator may be chair of more than one standing committee.

4. The Academic Senate President shall appoint Academic Senators to standing committees with the consensus of the Academic Senate.

5. Senate business to be referred to committee shall be delegated to the appropriate standing committee by the Academic Senate President with the consensus of the Academic Senate.

I. The Curriculum Committee shall:

1. Determine that courses meet quality standards.

2. Review prerequisites.

3. Assure courses meet standards for articulation.

4. Review distance education classes for conformity to regulations.

5. Determine associate degree requirements.

6. Determine the District’s GE courses.

7. Recommend the courses for transfer and articulation.

8. Review existing courses to maintain course currency.

9. Bring to the Academic Senate in a timely manner courses for approval.

J. The Outcomes and Assessment Committee shall:

1. Recommend policies to the Academic Senate regarding student outcomes assessment.

2. Use outcomes to assess and improve student learning and institutional effectiveness.

3. Facilitate training and dialogue regarding student outcomes assessment.

4. Contribute to the Accreditation Reports.

5. Serve as a member of the Program Review Committee.
K. The Equivalency Committee shall:

1. Be available as a resource to screening and selection committees.

2. Recommend all equivalency determinations to the Board.

3. Keep careful records of all equivalency determinations.

4. Periodically review this procedure and recommend necessary changes to the Academic Senate and the District Governing Board.

5. Ensure that the process works well and meets the requirements of the law.

L. The Distance Education Committee shall:

1. Recommend to the Senate policies regarding distance education, including:

   i. Course management systems

   ii. Training and certification for faculty.

**Article VIII: Summer Operations**

A. There shall be no scheduled meetings of the Academic Senate from the end of the Spring Semester to the beginning of the Fall Semester, except in emergency.

B. The Academic Senate President or Vice President shall inform the Academic Senate Executive Board about all academic and professional matters that arise during the summer or that must be addressed during the course of the summer. A meeting of the Executive Board may be called by any of its members to consider such issues. A summary of any such meetings called will be made available to all Academic Senators by email.

**Article IX: Resolutions**

A. Senate meetings and resolutions shall adhere to the most recent edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, except in cases where *Robert’s Rules* conflict with the present article.

B. Academic Senate resolutions are designed to recommend policy or action to the Board of Trustees, the Superintendent/President of the District, the Academic Senate, and/or the faculty.

C. Resolutions may be drafted in committee or by individual Senators.
D. Resolutions should be submitted for a first reading and then designated as an “action item” at a subsequent Senate meeting.

E. A resolution can be designated as an “action item” on the agenda; however, if it is also a first reading, any senator can move that it be re-designated as a first reading for that meeting. No vote is required to do this and no action can be taken on that item at that meeting.

F. Resolutions must be made available by email three (3) days prior to the general Academic Senate meeting.

G. Any attendee of the Academic Senate meeting may engage in the debate once recognized by the chair; however, only Academic Senators may vote on the resolution.

H. Approved resolutions shall be forwarded to the President/Superintendent and to the Board of Trustees and/or any other appropriate parties by email within ten (10) days of their approval.

I. Operating within the criteria of the Delegation of Authority passed by the Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate will expect the Board of Trustees to “primarily rely” upon the advice of the Academic Senate or to reach “mutual agreement” with the Academic Senate before deciding on the issue.

J. When the Superintendent/President does not forward a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate must be notified by email.

**Article X: Enactment and Amendment Clause**

A. These Bylaws shall be effective upon approval by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Academic Senate.

B. The Academic Senate may amend its Bylaws by the following procedure:

1. Amendments to Bylaws may be proposed by any Academic Senate member.

2. A proposed amendment must be submitted by email to each member of the Academic Senate at least thirty days prior to a vote.

3. Amendments to the Bylaws must be ratified by a 2/3 vote of the Academic Senate.

C. In the event these Bylaws interfere with the faithful execution of the Constitution or its Bylaws, individual components may be temporarily suspended by a 2/3 vote of the Academic Senate. Such suspension is not subject to the 30-day notification stipulated in this article.