

PRINCIPLES OF PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

1. Mutuality, Collegiality, and Collaboration

The District's governance and decision-making processes are based on recognition of and respect for the interrelationships of constituent groups.

The commitment to this principle is demonstrated in the following ways:

- Leaders and members of all constituent groups publicly acknowledge the importance of participatory governance and the rewards to all for collegial participation.
- With the exception of the Academic Senate and Student Senate, collaborative groups are co-chaired by a faculty or staff member and an administrator. The non-administrative members of the group select the faculty or staff co-chair and the Superintendent/President or his/her designee appoints the administrative co-chair.
- Sharing ideas is valued. Meetings include clear presentations of the issues to be resolved followed by brainstorming during which committee members ask questions and suggest ideas with the expectation that other group members will withhold criticism until the final stages of developing a recommendation. Divergent views are fully explored.

2. Transparency

The District values transparency and strives to maintain an open and honest approach to decision-making, operations, and communication. Everyone who will be impacted by a decision is encouraged to be involved in shaping the recommendation.

The commitment to this principle is demonstrated in several ways:

- The schedules for senate meetings and senate committee meetings are posted online at the beginning of each academic year and meetings are open to the public.
- Agendas are published on the District's website 72 hours before meetings. Senate meetings, and their agendas, include a standing item for public comment.
- Anyone from the college community can bring forward an item or issue during public comment.
- Meeting minutes are posted on the District's website when they are approved.
- District-wide emails are used to keep the internal community involved and updated on issues and decisions.
- Open forums are convened at least once a semester as a venue for general discussions of emergent issues.

3. Representative Participation

This principle supports the use of democratic processes to ensure that the voices of all constituent groups are included as appropriate. Any member of a constituent group can bring items and issues to his/her senate representative and have that item brought to the senate as a whole.

In order for this principle to be fully implemented, all members of governance and decision-making groups are asked to fulfill the following responsibilities of group membership:

- Attend meetings;
- Clearly articulate constituent needs;
- Introduce items, issues, or comments on behalf of constituents;
- Function as a team member with other members of the group;
- Follow through on tasks;
- Report meeting outcomes back to constituent groups;
- Work toward common understanding and consensus in an atmosphere of respect;
- Support the implementation of recommendations once group consensus is reached; and
- Welcome change and innovation.

4. Mutual Accountability

The principle of mutual accountability refers to the importance of the members of the various constituent groups adhering to their roles and following through on their responsibilities.

This commitment is demonstrated in the following ways:

- The District's processes for governance and decision-making are formally evaluated every year.
- Members of governance and decision-making groups respond expeditiously to requests for information and consultation.

5. Clarity of Roles

This principle requires that the separate and mutual areas of responsibility for governance and decision-making be clearly articulated. This document is evidence of the District's commitment to this principle.