

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We hold that the governing of Mesa Community College is the joint responsibility of the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Governing Board, the Mesa Community College administration, and the faculty of the college. In order to assure that the faculty fully participates in the determination of educational policy, the adoption of this Constitution establishing a Faculty Senate at Mesa Community College is hereby ordained.

Article One: Title

The name of this organization shall be the **Mesa Community College Faculty Senate**, hereafter referred to as the Senate.

Article Two: Purpose

The purposes of the Mesa Community College Faculty Senate shall be to:

1. serve as the exclusive representative of the Mesa Community College faculty to the college administration in academic and professional matters and policy development;
2. advise the College President on matters of importance to the college and faculty;
3. promote communication, collaboration, and education among the faculty and between the faculty and other groups;
4. maintain and promote the standards and ideals of the profession;
5. serve as the voice of the faculty in shared governance;
6. protect and preserve academic freedom;
7. provide an open forum for the free discussion of academic and professional issues.

Article Three: Membership

All residential faculty members, as defined in the Residential Faculty Policies, are eligible to serve on Senate.

1. **Rights:** Every MCC residential faculty member is entitled to an equal vote on issues presented to the membership; is entitled to representation in the Senate; may elect Senators within their zone; observe all official meetings of the Senate; may attend all social events; and may serve in the Senate.
2. **Responsibilities:** Every MCC Senate member will uphold the standards set forth in the American Association of University Professors Statement on Professional Ethics

(Appendix A); is expected to attend regularly scheduled Senate meetings and any MCC all faculty meetings; and will abide by the Senate's Constitution, Bylaws, rules, and regulations.

Article Four: Senate

Section A. Privileges and Responsibilities

1. The Senate shall, of its own determination, concern itself with any academic or professional matter that it deems important to the welfare of the college.
2. The Senate shall be the exclusive negotiating representative of the Faculty with respect to all academic and professional matters as stated in the *Residential Faculty Policies*.
3. The Senate shall act for and on behalf of the faculty as a whole in exercising its primary responsibility for such matters as curriculum, subject matter and method of instruction, faculty status (including appointments, evaluations, and dismissals), and those aspects of student life that relate to the educational process.
4. The Senate may formulate recommendations on the selection of administrators of the college after due diligence has been conducted. On behalf of the faculty, the Senate may forward its recommendations to the College President as well as the Chancellor and the Governing Board of MCCCCD.
5. The Senate shall work jointly with administration officials on the appointment of faculty members to all College, Academic, and Ad Hoc committees and to other extracurricular offices and responsibilities.

Section B. Composition

The Senate shall be composed of the President, President-Elect, Past President, and elected Zone and At-Large Senators. In addition, the following groups may send liaisons to Senate: Department Chair Association, Adjunct Faculty Association, and the Associated Students of MCC.

Section C. Meetings

The Senate shall meet at least once per month during the academic year. MCC residential faculty shall be notified of meetings as determined in the Bylaws.

Section D. Procedures

In all matters of internal functioning not otherwise covered by the Constitution or Bylaws, the

Senate shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Article Five: Officers

Section A. Officers

Officers of the Senate must be residential faculty members. The officers of the Senate shall be the President, President-Elect, Past President, Recording Secretary, and Business Secretary.

1. **President:** The President shall be the principal elected officer of the MCC faculty and shall, in general, supervise all business affairs of the MCC faculty. The President shall be the official spokesperson for the Senate. The President shall be elected by a vote of the residential faculty in the event that the President-Elect is unable to serve in that capacity.
2. **President-Elect:** The President-Elect shall assist the President and substitute for the President when required. The President-Elect will serve as President once the President's term has concluded. The President-Elect shall be elected by a vote of the residential faculty.
3. **Past President:** The Past President shall assist the President and President-Elect as requested. The Past President shall be appointed by the current President and the appointment will be ratified by a vote of the Senate.
4. **Other Officers:** The Senate shall elect from among its members a Recording Secretary and Business Secretary.

Article Six: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will include the President, President-Elect, Past President, and the appointed MCC FEC representatives.

Article Seven: Standing Committees

The President shall appoint members to standing committees. These committees shall include, but not be limited to, Faculty Staffing Advisory, Student Outcomes, CTL Advisory, Professional Rights and Responsibilities, Peer Assistance and Review Committee, and the Neutral Third Party Committee.

Article Eight: Amendments, Ratification, and Revision

This Constitution may be amended through the following procedure:

1. A proposal for amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate membership provided that the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing (including electronic transmission) to each member of the Senate at least five (5) full working days in advance of the meeting.
2. An approved proposal for amendment shall be disseminated to the MCC faculty members for their review and feedback via their respective Senate Representatives or directly from the Senate President. This review period will be open for ten (10) business days during the regular Fall or Spring semester. Electronic communication methods as established by the Senate may be employed.
3. After the ten (10) day review period, any proposals for amendments may be submitted to the Senate for a vote by a Senate Representative or the Senate President.
4. The newly proposed Constitution shall become effective solely by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate, unless the Senate, by a 2/3-majority vote, decides to open the vote to include the MCC faculty membership. In the case of the latter, electronic voting methods, as established by the Senate, may be employed.
5. This Constitution shall be reviewed and revised as deemed necessary by the Senate or within five (5) years of its revision date.

NOTE: Editorial changes such as correcting typographical errors, punctuation, formatting, and conforming terminology are not considered amendments and may be made by a vote of the Senate.

Amended and ratified by MCC Faculty Senate on December 3, 2020 by process described in Article Eight above.

APPENDIX A

Statement on Professional Ethics American Association of University Professors

The statement that follows, a revision of a statement originally adopted in 1966, was approved by the Association's Committee on Professional Ethics, adopted by the Association's Council in June 1987, and endorsed by the Seventy-third Annual Meeting.

Introduction:

From its inception, the American Association of University Professors has recognized that membership in the academic profession carries with it special responsibilities. The Association has consistently affirmed these responsibilities in major policy statements, providing guidance to professors in such matters as their utterances as citizens, the exercise of their responsibilities to students and colleagues, and their conduct when resigning from an institution or when undertaking sponsored research. The *Statement on Professional Ethics* that follows sets forth those general standards that serve as a reminder of the variety of responsibilities assumed by all members of the profession.

In the enforcement of ethical standards, the academic profession differs from those of law and medicine, whose associations act to ensure the integrity of members engaged in private practice. In the academic profession the individual institution of higher learning provides this assurance and so should normally handle questions concerning propriety of conduct within its own framework by reference to a faculty group. The Association supports such local action and stands ready, through the general secretary and the Committee on Professional Ethics, to counsel with members of the academic community concerning questions of professional ethics and to inquire into complaints when local consideration is impossible or inappropriate. If the alleged offense is deemed sufficiently serious to raise the possibility of adverse action, the procedures should be in accordance with the 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*, the 1958 *Statement on Procedural Standards in Faculty Dismissal Proceedings*, or the applicable provisions of the Association's *Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure*.

The Statement:

1. Professors, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their subject is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end

professors devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Although professors may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise their freedom of inquiry.

2. As teachers, professors encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly and ethical standards of their discipline. Professors demonstrate respect for students as individuals and adhere to their proper roles as intellectual guides and counselors. Professors make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to ensure that their evaluations of students reflect each student's true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. They avoid any exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students. They acknowledge significant academic or scholarly assistance from them. They protect their academic freedom.
3. As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. Professors do not discriminate against or harass colleagues. They respect and defend the free inquiry of associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas professors show due respect for the opinions of others. Professors acknowledge academic debt and strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. Professors accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.
4. As members of an academic institution, professors seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although professors observe the stated regulations of the institution, provided the regulations do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain their right to criticize and seek revision. Professors give due regard to their paramount responsibilities within their institution in determining the amount and character of work done outside it. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, professors recognize the effect of their decision upon the program of the institution and give due notice of their intentions.
5. As members of their community, professors have the rights and obligations of other citizens. Professors measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of their responsibilities to their subject, to their students, to their profession, and to their institution. When they speak or act as private persons, they avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting for their college or university. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, professors have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.