

Draft
Resolution on Protecting Faculty Governance
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Whereas APM 127 states the Academic Assembly is “the official voice of the faculty” and that “the Academic Assembly provides the means for the faculty to participate in the collegial form of governance that is based on historic academic traditions as recognized by the people of the State of California through the Board of Trustees and the Legislature”;

Whereas APM 127 states “Membership of the Academic Assembly shall be (1) all full-time faculty members of instructional departments who hold the rank of Instructor, Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor or their equivalents; (2) all tenured faculty members of instructional departments who are serving on a part-time basis; (3) Librarians; (4) Student Services Professionals, Academically Related; and (5) Administrators on a non-voting basis”;

Whereas APM 127 states “the Academic Assembly or bodies to which it delegates its powers, shall be the body composed of faculty members acting for the Faculty of the University with power to formulate, review, revise, and adopt for recommendation to the President all University policies, including matters directly affecting the instructional budget, which relate to the educational mission. The faculty has the primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research and creative/scholarly activity, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process”;

Whereas APM 127 in Article II states “The Academic Assembly shall elect an Academic Senate to which it shall delegate the power of the Academic Assembly, and the concomitant responsibilities for carrying out its duties”;

Whereas APM 328, the Bylaws of the academic State “The committees of the Academic Assembly shall be the Standing Committees of the Academic Senate”;

Whereas APM 127 clearly notes that members of the administration are to be “Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members of both the Assembly and the Senate”;

Whereas APM does allow for the creation of taskforces but clearly states “Policy recommendations or reports, except as defined in Section 8.C, emanating from Academic Senate Standing Committees, Subcommittees, task forces or ad hoc committees shall be forwarded to the Academic Senate for appropriate review and approval before submission to the President for final action.”

Whereas tradition of the Senate has been to establish standing committees through a democratic process which allows for elected representation of each college, and a chance for full faculty input into vital issues on campus;

Whereas full Senate consultation is vital on issues impacting the academic affairs of campus because as a body each program has the ability to elect its representation and is then given equal voice in any such deliberation;

Whereas Senate deliberations are recorded in minutes that allow for formal public records of discussions, including a record of minority opinions, records not reliability maintained in other forums;

Be it resolved that the Senate of California State University, Fresno, expresses its gravest concerns at the increasing use of taskforces and ad-hoc committees for consultation that do not give full weight and deliberation of vital issues to the existing standing committees of the Senate;

Be it further resolved that the Senate affirm that where Senate standing committees exist on relevant topics, their consultation cannot be by-passed through the creation of taskforces or ad-hoc committees on which their chairs have membership. Such taskforces and ad-hoc committees may be useful to starting conversation on matters of importance. However, they are not a substitute for consultation of entire standing committees, nor of the Senate as a whole, since deliberations by these bodies ensure a vital cross-college airing and deliberation of all policy proposals impacting curriculum.

Be it finally resolved leadership of the Senate will forward a copy of this resolution to the Provost and President of California State University, Fresno and publicize it to the University as a whole on the Academic Senate Web Page.