



## Senate Culture Statement

To ensure productive discussions leading to consensus and decision-making, the Academic Senate must be a safe, welcoming, and respectful space where all are guided by the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion for the ultimate purpose of student success. All voices, opinions, and perspectives are encouraged and valued.

## Expectations of Senators Before, During, and After Senate Meetings

### Before

- Read Agendas, Minutes, and all documents of the Academic Senate meetings in advance of the meetings and be prepared to participate constructively at each meeting
- Senators represent the faculty who elected them. They should seek input on Senate issues and action items. Bring ideas from constituents to the Academic Senate.
- Present topics for discussion and/or motions to the Academic Senate Secretary, preferably *in writing* and *prior* to the meeting
- All presentation materials must be sent by the executive committee to Senators as early as possible before meetings.

### During

- Please remember that as a Senator, you are representing a constituency that includes yourself and also your area.
- Think about the college and student body as whole as well as your own area.
- In the interest of inclusivity, please be aware of privilege and power dynamics and be mindful of others so that everyone has an opportunity to contribute.
- Make comments concise and directed to the topic at hand. Critique ideas, not the person presenting them

- During virtual meetings, please refrain from sidebar conversations in the WebEx chat, where everyone can see. Likewise, refrain from sidebar conversations during face-to-face meetings.
- Be respectful, inclusive, and accepting of others during Senate meetings, as well as in all of your college work. This includes following the Ethics and Standard of Conduct for Employees and College Policies during meetings.

### **After**

- Senators must share the work of the Senate with constituents through the means determined by your area.
- Senators are strongly encouraged to contribute to Academic Senate standing-committees, teams and/or other college wide committees on behalf of the Senate.
- Third year elected senators are expected to mentor an incoming new senator.
- Administrative senators are expected to conduct an informal “New Senator Orientation” in conjunction with the Secretary for the senator taking their seat.

Adopted 11/19/21

Amended 4/22/22