

SHARED GOVERNANCE

Los Medanos College – February, 2014

Some thought-provoking perspectives/definitions:

“Shared governance is a set of practices under which college faculty and staff participate in significant decisions concerning the operations of their institutions.” – American Federation of Teachers

“The bureaucratic model describes a traditional, rule bound, hierarchical power structure similar to K-12 structures. Authority is delegated from the top down with the faculty, staff and students each occupying respectively lower levels of the pyramid. The political model proposes a perpetual state of conflict between constituencies – trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and students – each with competing interests. The collegial model proposes a community of scholars, with consensual decision-making processes involving all constituencies affected by the decisions.” – Pam Schuetz

“In whatever shared governance structures exist or are created, faculty and staff must have representatives of their own choosing. They must respect the rights of other participants in shared governance. Institutional structures of shared governance should be constructed to incorporate views of faculty and staff at all levels of decision-making. The institution’s administrators must provide the participants in shared governance time, encouragement and the information necessary to be effective. Shared governance is vital to maintain the academic integrity of our colleges and universities...” – American Federation of Teachers

“The term ‘shared governance’ does not appear in law or regulation; however, it is used to refer to processes that involve faculty, staff and students in decision-making.” – Community College League of California

“Shared governance is a social system of self government wherein decision-making responsibility is shared among those affected by the decisions. At the community college level, shared governance means that responsibility for institutional decisions is shared among governing boards, district administrators and faculty, with joint recognition and respect for participation of staff and students.” – R. Lau

“Shared governance may be understood as the principle that final institutional authority resides ultimately in the governing board and that the board entrusts day-to-day administration to the president who then delegates specific decision-making power to the faculty in their areas of expertise.” – American Association of University Professors