

Marin Community College District Participatory Governance System Plan

PHILOSOPHY

Any system of governance is dependent upon the cooperation and collaboration of all of its components to function effectively. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts and it is the interdependence of those parts that is important to the success of any effort by the whole. Members of the College community need to respect each other's professionalism and encourage trust and a sense of teamwork. To that end, the College of Marin has established a participatory, advisory system of governance, which includes a commitment to participation from all segments of the college community in making recommendations for the policies and procedures that govern the college. It is expected that the Superintendent/President will always give careful consideration to the recommendations made through participatory governance. However, it should be understood that all recommendations are advisory to the Superintendent/President, who will provide written rationales when not following those recommendations. The Board of Trustees holds the final decision-making authority.

College of Marin's governance system is guided by of the California Education Code as specified in the Education Code section 70901(b)(1)(E) [Appendix A. 1.] which pertains to: governing boards of community college districts, and reads in part that they will "ensure faculty, staff, and students the right to participate effectively in district and college governance, and the opportunity to express their opinions at the campus level and ensure that these opinions are given every reasonable consideration, and the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards as well as other academic and professional matters as are mutually agreed upon between the governing board and the academic senate." Further, the College of Marin governance system aspires to establish and practice transparency in decision-making.