

Faculty Senate's Role in Shared Governance

Shared governance provides the checks and balances necessary to create the ideal educational institution supporting the over-all purpose of Tidewater Community College. While the communities of shared governance strive to contribute to the success of the educational institution, there will be competing interests and priorities. The College Faculty Senate, as representative of all faculty members, promotes the interests and priorities of the faculty, and provides a conduit for communication between faculty, staff, and administration, while upholding the ideals of academic integrity. The principles of shared governance should permeate the college, reaching every level of decision-making. Whenever possible, those who will be affected by a decision on policy or procedures are entitled to be informed in a timely manner and have opportunities to influence the discussion in a collegial and transparent way. The College Faculty Senate is partner in the shared governance system. Thus, the College Faculty Senate should be invited to and will participate in decision-making that includes, but is not limited to, changes or modifications to the faculty handbook, academic policies and procedures, technology plans, and the strategic plan. It must be understood by administration, faculty, staff, and students that shared governance relies upon mutual respect and consistent, trustworthy communication that is multidirectional. Such communication is undertaken with the understanding that the time and work of all participants is valuable, and the collegial decisions made will be acted upon as agreed by all voting participants.