

College Council

Brief History

In 1988, AB1725 enacted collegial consultation as the new structure for California community college governance. Out of the legislation grew the concept of "shared governance," which CSM defines as a set of structures and processes that:

- involves the genuine participation of faculty, classified staff, students, and administrators; and
- effectively captures their collective wisdom and voice to reach the best recommendations for the decisionmakers and for the good of the campus community.



What is the College Council and who serves on it?

As an initial step in implementing shared governance at CSM, the four governance constituencies — the Academic Senate, Classified Senate, Associated Students, and Management Council — established the College Council as the institution's shared governance body at the college-wide level. The president of each constituency group and three additional members designated by each group make up the membership of the College Council.

The membership of the Council is intended to be broadly representative of the campus community; in other words, each constituency group should consider members of historically underrepresented groups when selecting representatives.

All College Council members are expected to:

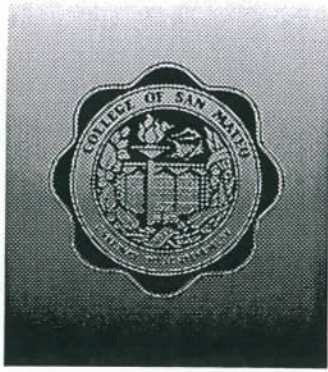
- display a willingness to reexamine their assumptions,
- possess a campus-wide community outlook,
- show their commitment to shared governance by active and regular participation in Council meetings, and
- keep lines of communication open by informing those outside the Council of issues and developments involving shared governance and soliciting their input on topics being discussed.

What is the College Council's work?

College Council serves as the principal shared governance forum in which appointed representatives provide advice to the college president and address issues related to the development of the college budget, allocation of instructional equipment and similar funds, fundraising and development priorities, annual college goals, student equity, and other matters of college-wide interest.

While College Council serves to engage and consider the views of all governance constituency groups, its role should not infringe upon the traditional and legally mandated roles of any of the groups. For instance, the Academic Senate has primary voice in academic and professional matters, and the college president has ultimate responsibility for the fiscal integrity of the college and its budget.

College Council also expedites the business of the college by making referrals to appropriate committees and task groups on campus.



How does the College Council work?

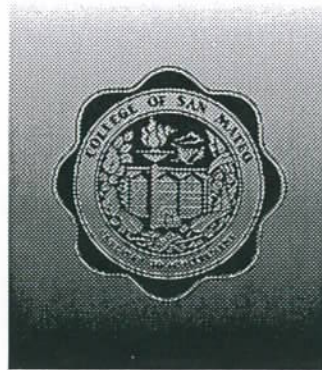
The council uses a trained non-member to facilitate dialogue, discussion, and debate at its meetings, and follows procedural rules that:

- emphasize consensus building as the principal method of decision-making,
- make explicit provision for the expression of dissenting opinions, and
- specify the use of polling in strong preference to voting.

All meetings of the College Council are open to any interested member of the campus community and to the public. The Council generally meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month when classes are in session. Most meetings are held in Building 1, Room 115, beginning at 2:15 p.m. and ending at 4:15 p.m.

How can I participate?

College Council seeks to use an inclusive process in which the views of the college community are sought, considered, and represented. College Council assures proper consultation has occurred on major issues. Individuals who would like to suggest an item for the Council's agenda should speak with a member of the College Council, preferably one who represents the person's constituency group. Members of the college community are also welcome to attend Council meetings and, as attendees, to participate actively in the meeting.



College of San Mateo

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