CONSTITUTION
OF THE
LOS RIOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
ACADEMIC SENATE

ARTICLE I
NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The organization shall be known as the Los Rios Community College District Academic Senate, hereinafter referred to as the District Academic Senate.

ARTICLE II
DEFINITION

Section 1. The District Academic Senate is the legally recognized and duly elected official voice of the Executive Councils of the Academic Senates of the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD), and comprises the Academic Senate Executive Councils from each of the constituent colleges within the District. It is an official vehicle for communication between the LRCCD Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as the Board of Trustees), the LRCCD Chancellor (hereinafter referred to as the Chancellor) and college faculties. It is recognized as the faculty body to make recommendations to the administration and Board of Trustees with respect to district procedures, policies and regulations with respect to academic and professional matters. (Gov. Code 3540; Title 5, section 53200 of the California Code of Regulations)

ARTICLE III
PURPOSES

Section 1. To provide coordination among the Academic Senates of the colleges within the Los Rios Community College District.

Section 2. To provide the faculty with a formal representative voice for recommending institutional and district policies addressing academic and professional matters.

Section 3. To provide the Chancellor with recommendations and views pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the district's colleges.

Section 4. To provide the Board of Trustees with recommendations and views pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the district's colleges.
ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the District Academic Senate shall consist of the Executive Committee or Executive Council of each of the Academic Senates, not to exceed four people from each college.

Section 2. In the event that a District Senator resigns or is unable to regularly attend meetings, the college Academic Senate president may name a designee.

ARTICLE V

ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The officers of the District Academic Senate shall include, but not be restricted to, a President, Secretary, and Past-President. The officers of the District Academic Senate and the Executive Council are considered to be ‘on duty’ for the full year, including during the summer and other times outside the regular academic calendar.

Section 2. The Office of the President shall rotate from college to college in alphabetic order every two years as follows: ARC 2011-2013, CRC 2013-2015, FLC 2015-2017, SCC 2017-2019.

Section 3. The President shall be selected by the officers of the college academic senate to which the Office of President shall be rotated preferably from the roster of previous academic senate presidents. If the college academic senate whose turn it is in the rotation does not designate the appointment by April 1, then the position will rotate to the next college academic senate in alphabetic order and those college academic senates will swap positions within the four college rotation cycle.

Section 4. The President cannot serve as college academic senate president while serving as the District Academic Senate President. The President cannot serve as a member of the executive board of the district bargaining unit while serving as the District Academic Senate President.

Section 5. The incoming President shall appoint the Secretary in consensus with the District Academic Senate. The outgoing President will become the Past President. If the outgoing President is unable to serve as Past President, then the position will revert to a previous District Academic Senate President.

Section 6. The President shall serve a term of office of two years, beginning at the conclusion of the final regular meeting of the District Academic Senate in May. The second year of the President’s term is subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the members of the District Academic Senate. A confirmation vote will occur in April
of the first year of a President’s term. If not confirmed, the officers of the college academic senate in the current rotation will select a replacement.

Section 7
If the sitting President is not confirmed to serve a second year as outlined in Section 6, the Secretary, Past President and any other officers of the District Academic Senate will continue to serve until the next regular change of officers.

Section 8
A sitting District Academic Senate President may be removed from office by formal resolution. Should the position become vacant by this method, the Past-President, or if unavailable, a previous past president will become acting District Academic Senate President for up to 30 calendar days. The college of the District Academic Senate President being removed will appoint a permanent replacement within 30 days to serve for the rest of the existing term.

Section 9
The college academic senate may select a replacement to fulfill the unexpired term of a District Academic Senate Officer or Member who resigns, is absent from two consecutive regular meetings of the District Academic Senate without approval from the President, or who is on an authorized and approved leave.

Section 10
The District Academic Senate may establish committees and may define and limit the powers and duties of these committees. The District Curriculum Coordinating Committee and the District Matriculation Committee are two committees that have been designated by the Board of Trustees to be Senate-led committees. The Chairperson for each of these committees will be a faculty member appointed by the District Academic Senate from the faculty serving on the committee and will serve as an ex officio member of the District Academic Senate.

ARTICLE VI
POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1.
The District Academic Senate is recognized by the Board of Trustees as the body with which it will consult collegially when adopting policies and procedures on academic and professional matters. (Gov. Code 3540; Title 5, section 53200 of the California Code of Regulations)

Section 2.
The District Academic Senate may accept any powers and responsibilities delegated to it by law and by the Board of Trustees. Further, it is recognized as a partner in developing the policies of participatory governance for the District.

Section 3.
The District Academic Senate may accept any powers and responsibilities delegated to it by resolution of one or more of the college Academic Senates.

Section 4.
The District Academic Senate President and the President of each college academic senate shall have a recognized chair at all formal meetings of the Board of Trustees and shall be empowered to speak to the items under consideration.
Section 5. The Academic Senate of a college within the District may present views and recommendations to the Chancellor for inclusion in the Board Agenda as information items. The Board of Trustees shall consider and respond to such views and recommendations. (Title 5, Section 53200 of the California Code of Regulations.)

Section 6. Upon request of the District Academic Senate, and subject to the limitations of the "Brown Act," the Board shall meet and confer with representatives of the District Academic Senate either as: (1) a full Board of Trustees; or (2) through designated Board of Trustees members; or (3) through designated administrative officers.

Section 7. Responding to Section 53200 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, the District Academic Senate herein affirms its intent to exercise a full partnership role in the participatory governance of the Los Rios Community College District. Therefore, the chairs of LRCCD Senate-led committees are members of the District Academic Senate as designated in Article V, section 9.

Section 8. A quorum shall be defined as nine (9) members of the District Academic Senate with at least one (1) member participating from each constituent college academic senate. The requirement for each academic senate to be represented can be waived if the District Academic Senate president is notified by a member of an academic senate’s executive team of non-participation in advance of the meeting; however, a minimum of three academic senates is always required.

Section 9. In consultation with college Academic Senate presidents, the District Academic Senate President makes all District Academic Senate appointments to District committees. Wherever possible, the president will balance college academic senate representation on district committees or task forces.

Section 10. The District Academic Senate President shall be responsible for all meeting arrangements; facilitate all District Academic Senate meetings; facilitate the formation of the District Academic Senate’s agenda and distribute the agenda to all members and interested parties; attend all Board of Trustee meetings and any other meetings at the direction of the District Academic Senate; report District Academic Senate resolutions; chair the District Budget Committee or provide a designee; make appointments to those committees; appoint a liaison to the District Curriculum Coordinating Committee; serve as official contact to the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges; and perform any and all reasonable duties as directed by consensus of the District Academic Senate. It is the direction of the District Academic Senate that the District Academic Senate President be responsible for all communication and other duties that are the responsibility of the District Academic Senate in periods of time when the faculty, as a whole, and the Academic Senates of each college are not normally in session.

Section 11. The District Academic Senate Secretary conducts the development of the minutes.
Section 12. The District Academic Senate Past President can also be called on by the District Academic Senate President to perform any of the duties of the President.

Section 13. In all matters of internal functioning not covered by the Constitution, the District Academic Senate shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VII

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Section 1. The District Academic Senate is comprised of a council of representative academic senates from the colleges, and must provide a forum for the expression of concerns from these separate entities. Constituent academic senates must enjoy equality in the deliberative process, and through the District Academic Senate be heard as one voice.

Section 2. A Consensus Model shall be the operational model through which decisions shall be made. Ultimately, the deliberations and exchanges that occur within the District Academic Senate body shall distill into a consensus opinion.

Section 3. In the event of an impasse, and where, after two consecutive meetings, honest deliberation of a critical issue has failed to produce a consensus, the issue may be resolved at the third meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 4. STATEMENT ON CONSENSUS: The exercise of leadership through the District Academic Senate is intended to reflect a consensus, or unified voice among the several college academic senates being represented. The leadership of the District Academic Senate will occasionally be asked by the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, or the media to state the position of the District Academic Senate on various issues. However, in the absence of a clearly defined or established position, the District Academic Senate President (or other District Academic Senate member) will apprise the inquisitor that "the matter has not been acted upon by the District Academic Senate." After stating this "qualification," the District Academic Senate President (or other District Academic Senate member), if asked, may offer a "personal opinion." When doing so, it should be made clear that the statement is an opinion not currently endorsed by the District Academic Senate as a body. In no instance, shall the District Academic Senate leadership act to bind the constituent academic senates without their prior consent and agreement. In other words, without a consensus (or an appropriate vote as delineated in Section 3) there can be no District Academic Senate position.

Section 5 The District Academic Senate may also speak by written resolution. Draft resolutions must be listed on the agenda in order to be discussed. A First Reading is required for discussion and editing purposes, but no vote shall be taken. Action on the resolution may take place at a Second Reading, which may come no sooner than
the next regular meeting of the District Academic Senate. Action may include
Acceptance, Rejection or Revision of the resolution. Revision during a Second
Reading shall not force delay of a vote for acceptance or rejection to a later date.

Section 6
The District Academic Senate will take up, as an issue affecting all colleges and
faculty, any issue that affects two or more of the colleges. College Academic Senate
presidents may request inclusion of an item on the District Academic Senate agenda
by forwarding the issue to the District Academic Senate President in advance of a
meeting (but within a timeframe to comply with the timely and orderly publication
of the agenda). Items may also be added to the agenda at any specific meeting by the
consensus of the District Academic Senate as a sitting body.

ARTICLE VIII
OPEN MEETING PROVISIONS (BROWN ACT)

Section 1. The agendas for all District Academic Senate meetings must be posted at least 72
hours before a regular meeting. The agenda must contain a brief general description
of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting.

Section 2. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. No action
shall be taken on any item upon a first reading.

Section 3. Meetings of the District Academic Senate are to be open and public.

Section 4. Notice of meetings must be delivered to those requesting notice at least 24 hours
before the time of such meeting.

Section 5. The District Academic Senate shall regularly meet on the first and third Tuesdays of
each month in the academic calendar year.

Section 6. The District Academic Senate President may call special meetings, with the
consensus of the four college academic senate presidents, or by a majority of the
voting members of the District Academic Senate at a regular meeting. Any special
meeting is subject to the provisions of Sections 1-4 of this Article.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS & ADOPTION

Section 1. These articles may be amended by introduction of a formal motion followed by a
subsequent two-thirds vote of the members of the District Academic Senate present.
The formal motion for change and the final vote shall not take place at the same
District Academic Senate meeting.

ARTICLE X
IMPLEMENTATION

Section 1. Changes to the District Academic Senate Constitution shall become effective when approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the District Academic Senate. Approved changes shall routinely be reported to the constituent college academic senates.

Revised; effective May 15, 2001; April 1, 2003; February 16, 2010; September 20, 2011.