

# MJC ACADEMIC SENATE RULES

RATIFIED JANUARY 28, 1993  
LAST AMENDED NOVEMBER 5, 2009

## Election Rules and Procedures

- A. Election of the President-Elect is in accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws.
- B. The President shall appoint annually a Nominating/Election Committee and Chair in October.
- C. Nominations, with the consent of the nominee, must be delivered in writing to the Chair of the Nominating/Election Committee. Nominations may be made by the Nominating/Election Committee or they can originate from the floor, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. For officers other than the President-Elect, all nominees shall be Senators at the time of their nominations.
- D. Nominations will be closed at the December meeting.
- E. No one standing for election may chair any part of the election process or serve as the chair for the Nominating/Election Committee, or participate in the distribution, collection or tallying of the votes.
- F. The agenda for the meeting in January shall designate the nominees standing for election. The election of officers other than the President-Elect will be held at the January meeting.
- G. A candidate must receive a vote from a majority of those Senators present and voting to be elected.
- H. If no candidate receives the majority of votes cast for an office, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates with the greatest number of votes. Ballots shall be distributed within one week following the announcement of election results. Distribution and submission of ballots shall otherwise follow the same procedures as regular elections.

## II. Vacancies of Executive Board Offices

- A. Vacancies of Academic Senate offices will be filled by current Senators, nominated by the Nominating/Election Committee or from the floor of the Academic Senate and elected by majority vote at a regular or special meeting.
- B. Under circumstances deemed sufficiently compelling by the Executive Board, the Executive Board may appoint an interim replacement to a vacant office, to serve until the next regular or special meeting of the Academic Senate.

- 1 C. The Academic Senate shall vote on ratification of all appointments by the  
2 Executive Board at the next regular session.  
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5 **III. Powers and Duties of Officers**  
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- 7 A. The President shall:  
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10 1. Be responsible for establishing the time and place for all general  
11 sessions and all Executive Board meetings.  
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13 2. Be responsible for the preparation of the agenda for all general  
14 sessions and all Executive Board meetings.  
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16 3. Preside over all general sessions and Executive Board meetings.  
17 When presiding over the general sessions of the Senate, the  
18 President is required to strive for the role of an impartial mediator,  
19 facilitating democratic consensus. The President should normally  
20 refrain from joining in debate and may vote only to break ties. The  
21 President is not allowed to introduce motions or resolutions.  
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23 4. The Academic Senate President may make agreements with the  
24 Administration of Modesto Junior College and the Yosemite  
25 Community College District on behalf of the Academic Senate only  
26 when authorized by the Academic Senate, under terms and  
27 conditions specified by the Academic Senate. Under  
28 circumstances deemed by the Academic Senate President to be  
29 sufficiently compelling, tentative agreements with the Administration  
30 of Modesto Junior College and the Yosemite Community College  
31 District may be made without initial authorization, subject to report  
32 to and ratification by the Academic Senate at a regular or special  
33 meeting.  
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35 5. Be responsible for the Academic Senate budget development,  
36 Educational Master Plan (EMP), and have the sole power to  
37 authorize expenditures for the Academic Senate.  
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39 6. Represent the Academic Senate at meetings of the College  
40 Council, District Council, and Board of Trustees. When interacting  
41 with those bodies, as elsewhere, the President is required to  
42 faithfully represent the will of the Academic Senate, strive for its  
43 legitimate empowerment, and advocate for positions taken by the  
44 Senate. Any delegation of such duties must be approved by the  
45 Senate.  
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47 7. Co-chair the Accreditation and Institutional Effectiveness  
48 Committee with the Vice President of Instruction. This is a standing  
49 committee of the college.  
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51 8. Co-chair the Planning and Budget Committee with the College  
52 President. This is a standing committee of the college.  
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54 9. Represent the Academic Senate or appoint a Delegate to the State  
55 Academic Senate.  
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10. Report to the Senate in a timely manner, the disposition of Senate actions. Typically, this should occur within one week via e-mail or other written correspondence to the Senate.
11. Perform any other function normally thought to be within the realm of a presiding officer which is not otherwise denied by the Bylaws or Senate Rules.

B. The President-Elect shall:

1. Act as President in the absence of that officer.
2. Perform such functions as the President assigns to assist in carrying out the purposes and policies of the Academic Senate.
3. Represent the Academic Senate to the College Council.
4. Represent the Academic Senate as an observer to the Instructional Administrators Council of Modesto Junior College.
5. Become the President in the case of a presidential recall or resignation.
6. Become the President at the end of the President's current term.
7. Co-chair the Curriculum Committee with the Faculty Co-Chair elected by the Curriculum Committee. This position may require the President-Elect to serve on the Accreditation and Institutional Effectiveness Committee (AIE), depending upon which curriculum committee co-chair is appointed to the AIE Committee by the Academic Senate.

C. The Secretary shall:

1. Be responsible for all minutes of all general sessions.
2. Be responsible for ensuring the currency of all mailing lists of the Academic Senate.
3. Supervise the editing of all written material that is to be prepared for dissemination to faculty and at the general sessions of the Academic Senate.
4. Be responsible for creating a semester end report of the current Senate's actions and disposition.
5. Supervise the maintenance of all minutes and official documents except those placed in the keeping of other officers.
6. Represent the Academic Senate on the College Council.
7. Co-chair the Professional Development Committee with the Vice President of Instruction. This is a standing committee of the college.

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8. Perform such functions as the President assigns to assist in carrying out the purposes of the Academic Senate.

9. Serve as editor of all Academic Senate publications.

D. The Legislative Analyst shall:

1. Be responsible for the review and summary of legislative reports and communications.

2. Report to the Executive Board concurrent legislation.

F. The Parliamentarian shall:

1. Have a purely advisory and consultative role on the rules of parliamentary law, Senate Bylaws and Senate Rules.

2. Consult with the presiding chairperson prior to the meeting to discuss any possible parliamentary rules that could affect the next meeting.

3. Assist the presiding chairperson with the conduction of Senate business in an orderly and timely fashion.

G. Academic Senate officers may make agreements with the Administration of Modesto Junior College and the Yosemite Community College District on behalf of the Academic Senate only when authorized by the Academic Senate, under terms and conditions specified by the Academic Senate. Under circumstances deemed by the Academic Senate President to be sufficiently compelling, tentative agreements with the Administration of Modesto Junior College and the Yosemite Community College District may be made without initial authorization, subject to report to and ratification by the Academic Senate at a regular or special meeting.

**IV. Meetings**

A. Regular meetings of the Senate shall be scheduled at least once each month during the academic year.

B. Meetings will be held on Thursdays during the last teaching block before 6 PM. Currently this is 3:45 to 5:30.

C. Each division should develop its own procedure for substitutions in the event a designated Senator is unable to attend a meeting; this procedure should then be conveyed to the Senate. Substitutes selected in accordance with the above provisions will act as voting members. There will be no other provision for representation of the unit.

D. Special meetings (those not regularly scheduled) shall be called by the President of the Senate upon consultation with the Executive Board. One week's notice shall be given to Senators.

Senators may call a meeting of the Senate by simple majority vote.

1 A petition signed by 50 members of the faculty can call a special meeting  
2 of the Senate. The purpose for the meeting shall be indicated on the  
3 petition. The President of the Senate shall call the Senate into meeting  
4 within one week after receipt of the signed petition.  
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- 6 E. Agenda items for meetings shall be the responsibility of the President.  
7 Items may be requested and put on the agenda by any Senator.  
8 Faculty may submit agenda items through the Senator from their division  
9 or through a Senator-At-Large. Administrators, trustees, classified and  
10 student government officers may request items to be placed on the  
11 agenda by notifying the President of the Senate.  
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13 1. Senate Executive  
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- 15 a. Proposed resolutions and other discussion/potential action  
16 items submitted by Senators to the Academic Senate office no  
17 later than one day prior to the Executive Board meeting will be  
18 placed on the subsequent Senate meeting agenda. Later  
19 submissions will be placed on the Senate meeting agenda with  
20 a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.  
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22 b. The Executive Board is expected to discuss submissions for the  
23 Senate (general) meeting agenda before the meeting at which  
24 they are to be agendized.  
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26 c. The Executive Board shall fix the suggested times of the  
27 agenda items on the Senate meeting agenda. Times will be  
28 adjusted so that the suggested length of the entire meeting shall  
29 be no more than 1 hour and 45 minutes.  
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- 31 F. Official action can take place only at regular and special meetings of the  
32 Senate.  
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- 34 G. Regular and special meetings of the Senate are open to all. Guests may  
35 voice their opinion or ask questions when recognized by the chair.  
36 Executive session is limited to the Senate membership and may be  
37 declared by the Presiding officer or two-thirds majority vote of the  
38 Senators present.  
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- 40 H. In accordance with Senate Resolution FL02-D, outside speakers to  
41 appear before the Academic Senate are limited to:  
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44 ♦ Those invited by the Executive Board to present information and enter  
45 discussion on an action item that has come before the Academic  
46 Senate, and  
47 ♦ Those who have been invited by a majority vote of the Academic  
48 Senate to appear for the purposes of conveying additional information  
49 and answering questions.  
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1 **Summer Operations**  
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- 3 I. There will be no scheduled meetings of the Senate between the end of the  
4 spring semester and the beginning of the fall semester. However, the  
5 Senate shall identify presumptive dates on which the Senate would meet if  
6 meetings were needed. Presumptive dates will be the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
7 Thursdays of the month.  
8
- 9 J. The President (or designee) shall inform the Executive Board of the  
10 Senate about all academic and professional matters that arise during, or  
11 must be addressed in the course of, the summer. A meeting of the  
12 Executive Board may be called by any of its members to consider such  
13 issues.  
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- 15 K. Each division or unit represented by the Senate will be responsible for  
16 establishing its own procedure designed to maintain frequent contact with  
17 the Senate office during the summer. All matters communicated to the  
18 Executive Board will also be made available by electronic means to the  
19 entire Senate. Units not classified as instructional divisions are Student  
20 Services and Office of Instruction.  
21
- 22 L. Should Senators representing at least four of the nine units express a  
23 sentiment indicating that some matter is of sufficient importance that a  
24 special meeting of the Senate is required, a meeting will be scheduled as  
25 soon as is practicable. A quorum at such a meeting shall include  
26 representatives from a majority of the units represented by the Senate.  
27
- 28 M. A position adopted by a vote at a special meeting, or by the Executive  
29 Board if no meeting is called, will be sufficient to satisfy the requirement of  
30 ratification stated in Section III.A.4 of the Senate Rules.  
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33 **V. Resolution Guidelines for the Modesto Junior College Academic Senate**  
34 **(Adopted October 13, 1994)**  
35

- 36 A. Resolution Writing  
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- 38 1. Resolutions are designed to urge or recommend policy or action to  
39 the Board of Trustees, the State Academic Senate, District Council,  
40 College Council or administrators. They are designed to solicit a  
41 rapid response in writing.  
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- 43 2. Resolutions may be drafted in committee or by individuals who are  
44 elected representatives of the Senate.  
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- 46 3. Resolutions should be submitted for first readings and then for  
47 action at a following meeting. This process may be altered by a  
48 "suspension of the rules" for urgent situations.  
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- 50 4. Resolutions should be attached to the agenda for the meeting at  
51 which the first reading will be held.  
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- 53 B. Resolution Amendments  
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1. Resolutions may be amended for further clarification/addition/deletion of some kind. This amendment should be submitted in writing.
2. Resolutions may be substituted with another resolution on the same topic; however, this should be submitted in writing before considering the original resolution for action.
3. A motion or resolution which contradicts a motion or resolution already passed by the Senate during the same meeting is out of order.
4. If a motion or resolution contradicts a motion or resolution passed at a previous meeting the latter motion or resolution shall take precedence.

C. Resolution Discussion/Voting

1. Discussions, debate, and voting will be managed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised
2. Discussion on resolutions or any amendments should have a pre-set time limit.
  - a. The Senate President can institute a pro/con style of debate when he/she deems it appropriate, alternating between both sides of the issue. When there is no speaker on the side of the motion that is to be heard next, debate on that question is closed.
  - b. If the delegation objects to this debate change, they can object to the pro/con style of debate and then by a majority vote the delegation can revert to the normal debate procedures. This will be a non-debatable motion.
3. Any attendee at the meeting may engage in the debate.
4. Only Senators may vote. Unless otherwise specified, a successful vote requires a majority vote of the members present.

D. Dispensation

1. Approved resolutions should be forwarded to the appropriate parties by the Senate President or designee with an expectation of a written reply which can be shared with the voting body.
2. Resolutions passed or failed should be written into the official minutes of the senate meeting where action was taken.

**VI. Committees**

Standing committees of the Academic Senate and Modesto Junior College shall include those enumerated in these Rules as well as any other Academic Senate task forces necessary to fulfill its mission. The primary role of standing committees and task forces shall be to make policy recommendations on

1 academic and professional matters and to suggest means for the administrative  
2 implementation of those recommendations.  
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- 4 A. Faculty can be represented on academic and professional matters only on  
5 standing committees. The Senate President, with the concurrence of the  
6 Executive Board, will appoint the chair and all members of standing  
7 committees as well as all members of Academic Senate task forces.  
8 These appointments are subject to ratification by the Senate. The  
9 President is responsible for informing task force members of any  
10 academic and professional matters where the District and College are to  
11 rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Senate; as well as any  
12 matters upon which the agreement of the Senate is required.  
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- 14 B. Any member of the faculty shall be eligible to serve on any standing  
15 committee or Academic Senate task force. It shall be the responsibility of  
16 Senators to assist in recruiting faculty members for a particular standing  
17 committee or Academic Senate task force when necessary.  
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- 19 C. Standing committees and Academic Senate task forces shall conduct  
20 such research and hold those hearings necessary to fulfill the charge of  
21 each standing committee and Academic Senate task force. Notice of all  
22 standing committee or task force meetings shall be sent to the President  
23 of the Senate at least three school days prior to the meeting.  
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- 25 D. All standing committees and Academic Senate task forces will inform the  
26 Senate on their progress by oral or written report at least once each  
27 school year. Each Academic Senate task force will submit a written  
28 report to the Senate upon completion of the charge of the standing  
29 committee or task force. Any standing committee or task force may be  
30 required by the President, or by motion of the Senate, to submit an interim  
31 report. A vote may be scheduled to accept any written committee report  
32 to the Senate. Passage of the motion to accept a standing committee or  
33 task force report will indicate the Senate's satisfaction that the standing  
34 committee or task force has fulfilled its charge with respect to the content  
35 of the report. Senate action to approve any written recommendations of a  
36 standing committee or task force must be by separate resolution.  
37
- 38 E. Quorums for all Academic Senate standing committees or task forces  
39 shall be a majority of its members, and any action of a standing committee  
40 or task force will require the presence of a quorum.  
41
- 42 F. Standing committees shall exist to advise, make recommendations for the  
43 creation and implementation of policy, and otherwise carry out the work of  
44 the Senate and the College in the areas identified in law and Board policy  
45 as academic and professional. All formal actions (e.g., proposals or  
46 changes to policies or procedures) of the standing committees are subject  
47 to ratification by the Senate. The standing committees shall be:  
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- 49 1. Executive Board
  - 50 2. Curriculum Committee
- 51 Curriculum committees established under CCR T.5 §55002 are  
52 responsible for:  
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- ◆ Determining that courses meet the standards for quality in CCR T.5 §55002
- ◆ Defining critical thinking and college level as called for in CCR T.5 §55002
- ◆ Scrutinizing prerequisites as required in CCR T.5 §55001 (d)
- ◆ Determining that credit courses approved under CCR T.5 §55805.a fulfill the intersegmental expectations for either (i) submission of general education courses in the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Core (IGETC) and/or (ii) the general education standards of the California State University (CSU) as stated in CSU Executive Order 595; or the transfer standards for electives and major requirements to campuses of CSU, and the University of California, and/or other postsecondary colleges and universities.
- ◆ Determining that credit courses approved under §55805.5b meet the standards of the occupation for which they prepare students
- ◆ Determining that special classes offered pursuant to CCR T.5 §56028 meet the guidelines therein
- ◆ Reviewing distance education courses for conformity to state regulations and guidelines
- ◆ Under the collegial consultation provisions of AB1725 (i.e., CCR T.5 §51023) many colleges assign a variety of other responsibilities to their curriculum committees including the determination of associate degree requirements, the general education status of courses, the recommendation of courses for transfer and articulation, and the review of existing course and programs.

3. Professional Development Committee

To facilitate meeting the obligation of the District to rely primarily on the advice of the Academic Senate on faculty professional development, the Professional Development Committee, a standing committee of the Academic Senate and the College, makes recommendations to the College President regarding the direction and evaluation of professional development activities for full-time and adjunct faculty, including:

- Develop the theme and activities of the faculty portion of Institute Day, linked to one or more the college's strategic goals
- Develop processes for sabbatical report activities and for disseminating this information to the college community
- Plan and implement pedagogical FLEX activities
- New full-time and adjunct faculty orientation

4. Accreditation and Institutional Effectiveness Committee

To facilitate meeting the obligation of the District to rely primarily on the advice of the Academic Senate on accreditation issues, the Accreditation/Institutional Effectiveness Committee, a standing committee of the Academic Senate, makes recommendations to the College President including:

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- Accreditation criteria for institutional effectiveness
- Program review
- Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)
- Annual evaluation of the college's planning process

5. Planning and Budget Committee  
To facilitate meeting the obligation of the Academic Senate and the District to mutually agree on institutional planning and budget issues, the Planning and Budget Committee, a standing committee of the Academic Senate, makes recommendations to the College President regarding the college's processes for institutional planning and budget development.

G. Academic Senate task forces may be created by resolution to carry out any function consistent with the Senate's mission not under the jurisdiction of any college standing committees. The resolution must define clearly the charge of the task force.

H. Academic Senate work groups may be created by resolution to carry out any function consistent with the Senate's mission not under the jurisdiction of any college standing committees, but which need continued involvement on an interval basis.

**VII. Amendments**

A. These Rules may be amended by a simple majority of those Senate members voting, provided notice in writing of a proposed amendment has been filed with the Senate Secretary and copies have been sent to the members of the Senate at least two weeks preceding balloting.

B. Proposed amendments may be initiated by any Senator or by petition signed by 50 faculty.

**VIII. Procedure**

In all proceedings of the Senate not covered by its Bylaws, the Senate shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).