

**MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE
ACADEMIC SENATE
RESOLUTION FA20-C:
REINFORCING THE FACULTY ROLE IN INSTRUCTION**

Proposed by Senate Executive

- Whereas,** Curriculum and grading policies are two areas that the Board of Trustees and their designees among the YCCD’s administration *shall rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senates*¹, and
- Whereas,** Typical texts and other readings are approved by both the Curriculum Committee and the Board of Trustees as part of the Course Outline of Record (COR), and
- Whereas,** *Faculty shall be free to recommend the selection of instructional materials*², and
- Whereas,** *Grading [m]istakes. . .will be repaired administratively based on the recommendation of the Petition Committee. In the case of fraud, bad faith, or incompetence, the final determination concerning removal or change of grade will be made by the Vice President of Instruction of record, then another faculty member may substitute for the instructor of record*³, (*emphasis added*) and
- Whereas,** College or district administrators who inform or demand that faculty should change the instructional materials in their courses are both overstepping their administrative jurisdictions and violating YCCD Board Policies 7-8049 and 4030, and
- Whereas,** Grade changes that neither follow the established processes outlined under the Petition Committee nor are done under another faculty member as the substitute instructor of record after Petition Committee approval is in violation of YCCD Policy and Administrative Procedure 4231, and
- Whereas,** Any such violations as described above could potentially generate accreditation recommendations against Modesto Junior College by ACCJC which states that, *The institution requires of all of its degree programs a component of general education based on a carefully considered philosophy for both associate and baccalaureate degrees that is clearly stated in its catalog. The institution, relying on faculty expertise,*

¹ YCCD BP 7-8049 (*Academic Senates*)

² YCCD BP 4030 (*Academic Freedom—Faculty*)

³ YCCD BP/AP 4231 (*Grade Changes*)

determines the appropriateness of each course for inclusion in the general education curriculum, based upon student learning outcomes and competencies appropriate to the degree level.

Whereas, *The learning outcomes include a student's preparation for and acceptance of responsible participation in civil society, skills for lifelong learning and application of learning, and a broad comprehension of the development of knowledge, practice, and interpretive approaches in the arts and humanities, the sciences, mathematics, and social sciences⁴ (emphasis added), and*

Whereas, Grade changes that violate our established processes harm the integrity of our institution, violate equal protection for other students who were not afforded the same special treatment in their pursuit of a grade change, and potentially risk unnecessary lawsuits against MJC and the YCCD if universities must be updated that such grade changes were placed on our former students' transcripts inappropriately.

Therefore, **Be it resolved,** that the MJC Academic Senate strongly reaffirms the faculty's role in both deciding instructional materials and assigning grades in the courses they teach, and

Therefore, **Be it further resolved,** that the MJC Academic Senate strongly reaffirms that grade changes must strictly adhere to the process for petitioning grade changes as established in YCCD Board and Administrative Policy 4231.

First Reading: November 5, 2020

Final Reading: November 19, 2020

Disposition: Carried

⁴ ACCJC Standard II-A-12 (Instructional Programs)