

Academic Senate Grossmont College

**Monday, October 16, 2006
11:00am – 12:20pm in Griffin Gate**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Approval of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2006**

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Hiring Committee for College President**

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. ICC/Instructional Computing Committee – Diane Mayne-Stafford**

IV. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Election of Replacement Senate Officer at Large**
- B. Plus/Minus Grading Proposal – Attachment(s) #1 & #2**
- C. Program Review Articulation Questions – Attachment #3**

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Smoking Policy Update – Attachment #4**
- B. Institutional Values – Chuck Passentino – Attachment #5**
- C. Associate Degree Information – Attachment #6**
- D. Review of Senate Constitution and By-Laws – Attachment #7 & #8**

Action Item – Attachment #1
October 16, 2006

From: Jim Fenningham
Sent: Monday, October 09, 2006 2:44 PM
To: Beth Smith
Cc: John Colson; Bonnie Schmiede
Subject: Proposal for +/- Grading

Beth-

At the last Student Services Council meeting, we discussed the proposal to adopt a plus/minus grading system. The discussion raised a number of questions that we would like to forward to you and the Academic Senate. It is unknown to us if the Senate has considered all the ramifications of this grading system and weighed the pros and cons of this change. Here are the issues we brought up at our meeting:

1. What is the net effect of this proposal on student GPAs? Will it affect graduation rates or probation/disqualification numbers?
2. What are the practices of four-year institutions when receiving plus/minus grades? Will these practices help or harm our students when they apply for transfer?
3. How widespread is this grading system? Has anyone contacted other community colleges that have made this transition?
4. Has anyone brought this question to the ASGC? What is the student reaction?
5. How will this change effect student eligibility for financial aid, athletics, or other programs with minimum GPA requirements?

We hope the Senate will take the time to gather the answers to these questions. Perhaps the final product will be a paper that lists all the advantages and disadvantages from both a faculty and student perspective. Thanks.

Jim

Action Item – Attachment #2

October 16, 2006

Proposal to the Grossmont/Cuyamaca Joint Academic Senate Implementation of “Plus” and “Minus” Grades starting Fall 2007

Philip Blanco, Physics Instructor, Grossmont College

Clifton Quinn, Computer Science & Information Systems Instructor, Grossmont College

WHEREAS:

1. Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges are institutions of higher learning committed to the goal of academic excellence for its students and faculty
2. it is the fundamental right and responsibility of individual faculty members to assign grades which best represent their students' performance in courses they teach
3. a significant fraction of the Grossmont/Cuyamaca faculty believe that the current “plain letter” grading scheme (ABCDF) does not provide them with the necessary accuracy to achieve this purpose
4. the District's transition to a computerized course management and grading system in Fall 2007 provides us with an opportunity to institute the best possible district-wide grading policy for our courses, with minimal additional disruption or cost
5. the local universities to which many GCCCD students transfer to complete their undergraduate education are San Diego State University, the University of California, San Diego, California State University San Marcos, and the University of San Diego. ALL of these universities employ a course grading scheme which includes “+” and “-” grades
6. numerous colleges and universities have transitioned successfully to a “+/-” grading scheme with significant advantages to students and faculty, and no significant problems reported, and few (if any) institutions have reverted to a grading scheme which does not include “+” or “-” grades

WE PROPOSE on behalf of many of our faculty colleagues that, starting in Fall 2007, instructors may assign the following letter grades to their students' work at the completion of a course of study (listed together with the equivalent point score for the purpose of calculating Grade Point Averages):

A+	4.0	A	4.0	A-	3.7
B+	3.3	B	3.0	B-	2.7
C+	2.3	C	2.0		
		D	1.0		
		F	0.0		

(Explanatory notes overleaf)

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. Individual faculty shall retain the academic freedom to assign "plain letter" grades only, or a subset of the grades listed above (see point 2 of the proposal) in any section of a course. However, the Academic Senate encourages instructors to ensure that their students are made aware of their grading scheme at an early stage in the course.
2. The "minimum passing letter grade" for a course administered by the GCCCD shall remain a "C". Therefore, the academic requirements for "Credit/No Credit" grades shall remain unchanged.
3. In compliance with *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5, section 55758:
 - Grade points shall be assigned to each letter grade according to the scheme presented above
 - There shall be no assignment of the grade of "C-".
 - The grade of "A+" may be awarded to outstanding students whose academic performance merits such a distinction. However, this grade shall be equivalent to an "A", or 4.0 points, for the purpose of calculating Grade Point Averages (GPAs).
 - Each college shall publish in every edition of the college catalog a detailed explanation of this grading system including the grade points assigned for each grade.
4. Furthermore, there shall be no assignments of D+, D-, F+, or F- in this proposed scheme.
5. Given the increased precision afforded by this grading scheme, Grade Point Averages (GPAs) shall be reported on student transcripts to 2 (TWO) decimal places, with conventional rounding up or down of the last decimal place.

PROPOSED PROGRAM REVIEW ARTICULATION QUESTIONS

Current questions:

- 2.16 List courses that have been formally articulated with the high schools and/or four-year universities.
- 2.17 Describe the status of articulation with the CSU and UC systems as well as with regional private universities and other entities. Describe how the department/program ensure that transferable courses are current and articulate with four-year institutions.

Proposed questions:

- 2.16 List courses that have been formally articulated with high schools. Describe any articulation and collaboration efforts with K-12 schools.
- 2.17 After reviewing ASSIST.org and the Grossmont College articulation website, describe the status of articulation with CSU and UC systems as well as private universities. Identify concerns or additional needs your department has related to articulation with four- year institutions. Describe how the department ensures that articulations with four-year universities are current.

Information Item - #4
October 16, 2006

BP 6810 Smoking Ordinance

Government Code §§ 7596-7598

Reference:

Adoption Date: February 16, 1988

Updated: June 18, 1996

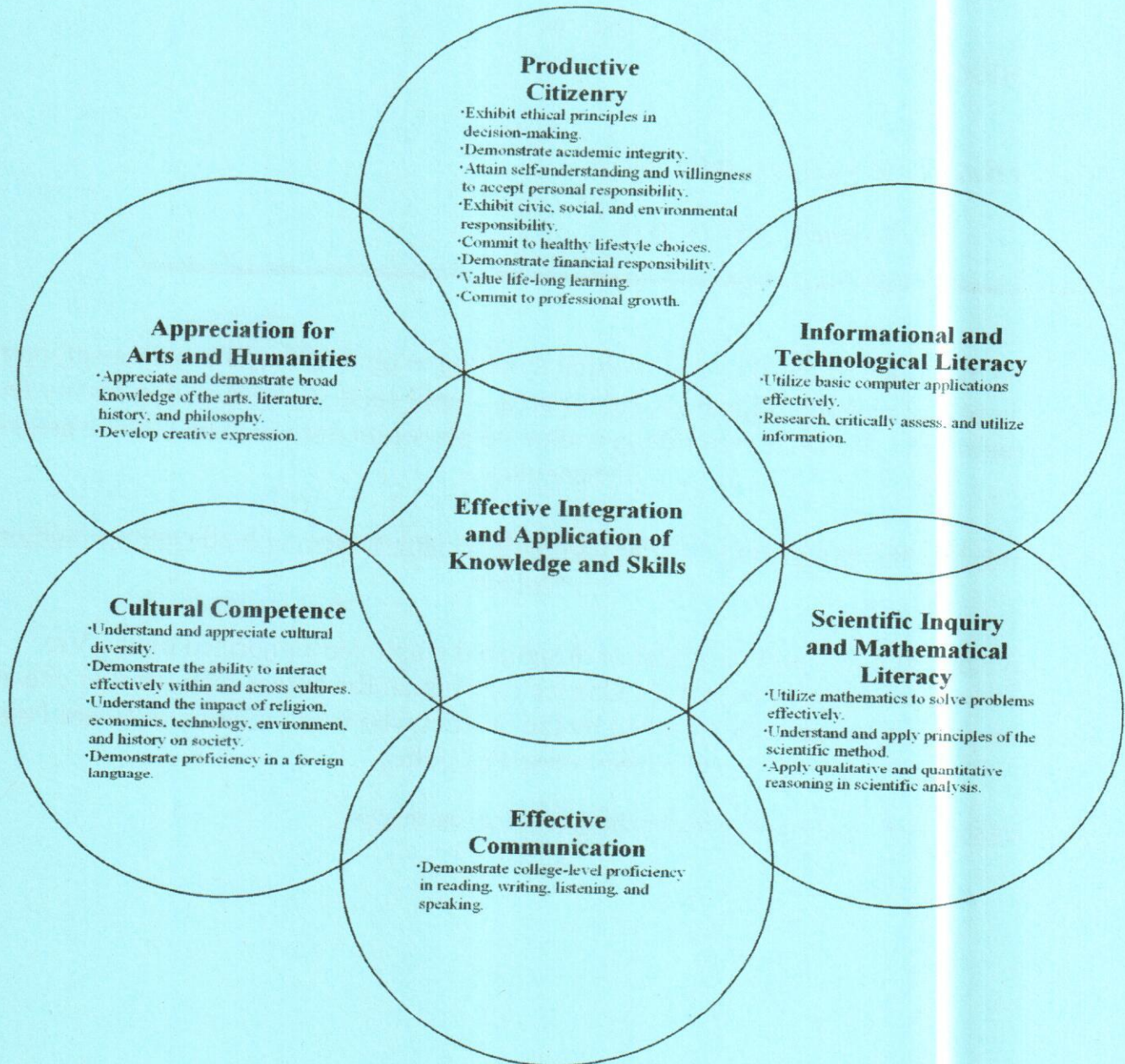
It shall be the policy of the Board to prohibit smoking ~~in~~ on all District ~~buildings property,~~
~~except in posted and predesignated outdoor areas., until June 30, 2007. within twenty feet~~
of any entrance to any District building, and in the physical education and athletic areas of
the campuses.

After July 1, 2007, smoking in all District buildings and outdoors on all campus facilities
is forbidden.

Any District public safety officer or designated employee authorized by the Vice
Chancellor-Business Services or Vice Chancellor-Human Resources may warn or cite any
person on property owned or controlled by the District who is in violation of ~~Board Policy~~
~~6810, Smoking~~ this policy.

This policy shall be reviewed one year after the date of implementation.

Grossmont College
Institutional Student Learning Outcomes



Information Item – Attachment #6
October 16, 2006

A. Single Degree Title for the Associate Degree

Whereas, The historical use of the terms “arts” and “science” in universities pertains to the separate disciplines under the Arts and under the Sciences;

Whereas, The use of the terms “associate of arts” and “associate of science” is inconsistent across the community college system; and community colleges, because of their mission, have found it necessary to include occupational programs under either the associate of arts or associate of science; and

Whereas, Title 5 language does not define the associate degree as either the associate of arts or associate of science;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommend to the Board of Governors a change to Title 5 to specify a single degree title for the associate degree, which shall be the sole designation for degrees offered by the California community colleges.

B. Defining Associate of Arts and Associate of Science

Whereas, The historical use of the terms “arts” and “science” in universities pertains to the separate disciplines under the Arts and under the Sciences;

Whereas, The use of the terms “associate of arts” and “associate of science” is inconsistent across the community college system; and community colleges, because of their mission, have found it necessary to include occupational programs under either the associate of arts or associate of science;

Whereas, Title 5 language does not define the associate degree as either the associate of arts or associate of science and the result is a lack of meaningful distinction between the two; and

Whereas, Students and others are ill-served by the unpredictability as to the nature of a degree title;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommend to the Board of Governors a change to Title 5 to add language defining both the associate of arts and associate of science.

C. Associate Degree Title for Occupational Programs

Whereas, The historical use of the terms “arts” and “science” in universities pertains to the separate disciplines under the Arts and under the Sciences;

Whereas, The use of the terms “associate of arts” and “associate of science” is inconsistent across the community college system; and community colleges, because of their mission, have found it necessary to include occupational programs under either the associate of arts or associate of science;

Whereas, There is no degree title specifically designating occupational programs; and

Whereas, the lack of a degree designation specifically for occupational preparation results in confusing to the meaning of the degree for students and the general public;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recommend to the Board of Governors a change to Title 5 to create a degree title specifically for occupational programs.

D. Support for Associate Degrees Based Solely on IGETC and CSU GE Breadth

Whereas, The associate degree has intrinsic value in its fostering of critical thinking, clear and precise expression, and an understanding of how societies operate, skills vital for personal achievement and economic opportunity;

Whereas, An associate degree based solely on IGETC and/or CSU GE Breadth provides these skills through the completion of these general education patterns;

Whereas, Completion of IGETC and/or CSU GE Breadth fulfills the requirement for a "discernable focus" for the associate degree specified in System Legal Advisory 05-05; and

Whereas, The use of IGETC and/or CSU GE Breadth in fulfillment of local general education requirements together with necessary units in an area of focus is clearly consistent with Title 5 and is not the issue under consideration here;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support interpretation of Title 5 allowing use of IGETC and/or CSU GE Breadth to serve as the area of emphasis required by Title 5 for an associate degree.

E. Opposition to Associate Degrees based Solely on IGETC and CSU GE Breadth

Whereas, Title 5 requires "At least 18 semester or 27 quarter units of study taken in a single discipline or related disciplines (section 55806) to provide an area of emphasis for the associate degree, and an associate degree without this area of emphasis devalues the concept of the associate degree;

Whereas, Many in the field have expressed that the associate degree needs to be used to capture numbers, further devaluing the degree;

Whereas, The use of IGETC and/or CSU GE Breadth as the sole basis for the associate degree reduces local control and subjects the associate degree to determination by groups external to the community colleges; and

Whereas, The use of IGETC and/or CSU GE Breadth in fulfillment of local general education requirements together with necessary units in an area of focus is clearly consistent with Title 5 and is not the issue under consideration here;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges oppose the use of IGETC and/or CSU GE Breadth as the sole basis for the associate degree; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support interpretation of Title 5 that prohibits the use of IGETC and/or CSU GE Breadth as the sole basis for the associate degree.

Action Item – Attachment #7
October 16, 2006

Articles of the Constitution of the Grossmont Academic Senate	Current	Proposed Changes Fall 2006
I. Name	The name of this body shall be the Grossmont College Academic Senate	
II. Goals and purposes	<p>The goals and purposes for which this organization is formed are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To represent the faculty in the formation of policy in academic and professional matters. 2. To make recommendations to the college administration and to the Governing Board. 3. To facilitate communication among the faculty, the college administration, the classified staff, the students and the Governing Board. 4. To promote the development and maintenance of teaching excellence within the framework of academic freedom and professional responsibilities and ethics. 	
III. Scope and Representation	The Academic Senate represents all nonmanagement certified personnel employed at Grossmont College.	
IV. Membership and Organization	<p>1. The Senate shall consist of :</p> <p>a. A Senate Officers Committee consisting of the President, Vice President, two Officers-at-large and the President-elect or Past President. The President shall be elected at large to a four year term in include one year as President-elect, two years as President, and one year as Past President. All other officers shall be elected at large to two-year terms. Officers shall begin their terms on the last day of the spring semester and may succeed themselves for as many terms as elected.</p>	<p>1. The Senate shall consist of:</p> <p>a. A Senate Officers Committee consisting of the President, Vice President, and two Officers-at-large. All officers shall be elected to two-year terms. Officers shall begin their terms on the last day of the spring semester and may succeed themselves for as many terms as elected. The President shall not be concurrently elected or appointed as a department chair or coordinator.</p>

	<p>b. Designated Senators as described in Section 3 of the By-Laws.</p> <p>c. Two at large part-time instructors, elected at large by part-time instructors to terms of two years, with each representative elected in an alternate year.</p> <p>2. Units represented by Senators are departments or combinations of disciplines for purposes of Senate representation. These units shall be referred to as departments throughout this Constitution. The current alignments of unit representation will be listed as Appendix A to this Constitution. Adjustments to Appendix A will be made by the third Senate meeting of each Fall semester based on each department's current FTEF.</p>	<p>b. <i>Same</i> c. <i>Same</i> 2. <i>Same</i></p>
V. Meetings	<p>1. There shall be at least one regular meeting each month of the fall and spring semesters.</p> <p>2. Special meetings shall be called by the Senate President, by a majority of the Senate Officers, by a petition signed by twenty percent of the Senate members, or by a petition signed by twenty percent of the faculty.</p> <p>3. All meetings will be open to the general faculty and are subject to the Rules of the Brown Act.</p>	
VI. Amendments	<p>This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the faculty, as previously defined (Article III), provided that the faculty has been notified in writing of the text of the amendment at least one week prior to the vote, and providing that the amendment has previously been approved by two-thirds of the Academic Senate, or that twenty percent of the total faculty had signed a petition supporting the proposed amendment.</p>	
VII. Ratification	<p>This constitution when ratified by a majority of all</p>	

	<p>members present and voting, assuming a quorum of the Grossmont College Academic Senate, shall supercede the previous Constitution and become binding on all present and future members of the Senate as soon as the officers and members of the Senate have been elected.</p>	
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Action Item – Attachment #8
October 16, 2006

By-Laws Section	Current	Proposed Changes Fall 2006
1. Duties of the officers	<p>1. The President. It shall be the duty of the President:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to preside at all meetings of the Senate. b. to insure that regular meetings of the Senate are held, and that the membership and faculty are adequately informed as to the time and place of each meeting. c. to call special meetings when necessary or when required by other provisions of this Constitution, and to insure that the membership and faculty are adequately informed as to the time and place of each meeting. d. to appoint special committees when necessary or when so directed by the membership. e. to serve or to appoint a designee to serve as an ex-officio member of all committees for which senate representation is required. f. to be responsible for all correspondence to and from the Senate. g. to serve as the official representative of the Senate when so authorized. h. to arrange for representation of the Senate at scheduled meetings of such professional organizations as directed by the membership. i. to prepare and distribute at the appropriate time, meeting agenda and proposed amendments. j. to supervise clerical staff assigned to the Senate, who will assist the President as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Keeping complete records of proceedings of the Senate meetings, ii. Distributing minutes of these to each faculty member who requests them, iii. Brining to each meeting a complete record of the proceedings of the current year, a copy of the Constitution, and the latest copy of <i>Robert's Rules</i> 	3. Delete

of Order.

k. to appoint a Parliamentarian.

l. to perform such additional duties not in conflict with any provisions of this Constitution as the membership shall direct.

m. to maintain and operate an Academic Senate office, including all records, files data bases, and appropriate physical assets.

2. The Vice-President. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President:

a. to assist the President and assume the duties in the absence of the President.

b. to perform such additional duties not in conflict with any provisions of this Constitution as the membership shall direct.

3. The President Elect/Immediate Past President. It shall be the duty of the President Elect/Past President :

a. to attend budget, planning and other committees as agreed upon in discussion with the Academic Senate President.

b. to recommend appointments to any committee formed by the Senate and to assist in staffing institutional committees as directed by the Senate.

c. to serve as a liason between the Senate and committees and the Senate.

d. to provide communication with the faculty concerning work of the committees.

4. The Senate Officers Committee, consisting of the four officers and the President Elect or Immediate Past President, will be responsible for:

a. preparing and distributing the agenda.

b. acting on behalf of the Senate in emergencies when the Senate cannot be convened.

4. The Senate Officers Committee, consisting of the four officers, will be responsible for

a. same

b. same

c. same

	<p>c. monitoring the budget of the Senate.</p> <p>d. maintaining an accurate list of Senate members.</p>	<p>d. same</p> <p>e. And other duties as necessary to facilitate the work of the senate committees.</p>
2. Election of Officers	<p>1. Officers shall be elected by secret ballot vote of the faculty, as defined in Article III, on the last day of the spring semester.</p> <p>2. Officers will be elected by a simple majority of the votes cast. If for any office no one receives a majority, a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the most votes will be held the following week.</p> <p>3. Nominations for Senate officers shall be made from a list prepared by the Nominations and Elections Committee. Any member of the faculty is eligible for nomination before the election.</p> <p>4. At the Senate meeting when the Nominations/Elections Committee presents its list of recommended candidates, nominations for officers may be received from the members of the Senate and faculty at large. This meeting is to be held at a reasonable time before the election.</p> <p>5. The Nominations/Elections Committee shall make all other necessary rules for carrying out the election of the officers.</p>	<p>1. Officers shall be elected by secret ballot vote of the faculty, as defined in Article III.</p> <p>3. Nominations for Senate Officers shall be made from a list prepared by the Nominations and Elections Committee. Any member of the full-time faculty is eligible for nomination before the election.</p>
3. Designation of Senators other than officers	<p>1. Senate representatives shall consist of:</p> <p>a. The chair or coordinator of each department.</p> <p>b. In addition to the chair or coordinator, each department with more than four but less than ten Full Time Equivalent Faculty (FTEF) may be represented by one senator selected by the department faculty.</p> <p>c. For each additional ten FTEF, or fraction thereof, a department may select one additional senator.</p>	

	<p>2. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty within each department to ensure timely designation of their representative and to determine the method of selection.</p> <p>3. Selection of part-time representatives shall follow the same procedures as those specified for election of officers in Section 2 of the By-Laws, except that they shall be nominated by and elected by a vote of the part-time faculty only.</p>	
4. Vacancies	<p>1. President. In case of the continued disability or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall fill the unexpired term of the President until a special election can be held.</p> <p>2. Other Officers. In case of the resignation or disability of any elected officer other than the President, the Senate shall designate one of its members to fill the remainder of the of the unexpired term by a simple majority vote.</p> <p>3. Department representatives. In case of the resignation or disability or continual non-attendance of any Senate member other than an offider, the department, which the Senator represents will conduct a special election to fill the vacancy, in accordance with the provisions of By-Laws Section 3, part 2.</p>	
5. Quorum	<p>A simple majority of Senators including Senator designees recognized by the Chair at the openings of meetings shall constitute a quorum. Senator positions not filled by departments will be not be included in quorum determinations.</p>	
6. Assessments	<p>1. Dues. There shall be no Academic Senate dues.</p> <p>2. Special Assessments. The Senate may solicit contributions from the faculty when it deems such action advisable.</p>	
7. Parliamentary Procedure	<p>All meetings of the Senate shall be conducted according to</p>	

	parliamentary law as set forth in the latest edition of <i>Robert's Rules of Order</i> .	
8. Recall and Referendum	<p>1. If a referendum petition protesting an action by the Academic Senate, signed by ten percent of the faculty, is presented to the Senate President, the President shall suspend such action until a referendum election is held. Prior to such an election, the faculty shall be notified in writing of special meeting to discuss alternate views on the issue. The election, by secret ballot, administered by the Nominations/Elections Committee, shall then be held, in no case more than thirty days following submission of the petition. A simple majority shall determine the outcome.</p> <p>2. If a recall petition asking for the recall of any officer, signed by ten percent of the general faculty, is presented to the Nominations/Elections Committee, this committee shall notify, in writing, all faculty of a special meeting to present alternate views on the matter. The election, by secret ballot, administered by the Nominations/Elections Committee, shall then be held, in no case more than thirty days following submission of the petition. A simple majority shall determine the outcome. Any position vacated by recall shall be filled by a special election, by a secret ballot, with nominations and elections supervised by the Nominations/Elections Committee. This election shall be held within two weeks of the successful recall.</p>	
9. Committees	<p>The Senate shall have the following standing committees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Curriculum Committee 2. The General Education Committee 3. Program Review Committee 4. Professional Development Committee 	

	<p>5. Instructional Computing Committee</p> <p>6. The Nominations/Elections Committee, consisting of at least three Senators, shall direct the nomination and election of Senate officers, and supervise special elections as needed. Further, this committee shall accept recall petitions and process them in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (By-Laws, Section 8, Part 2).</p> <p>7. The Professional Relations Committee, consisting of a chairperson selected by the Academic Senate, and at least five additional persons selected by the Senate Officers Committee to be assigned as needed, shall serve to mediate personal difficulties of the professional nature not covered by contract grievance procedures.</p>	<p>8. Academic Rank Committee</p> <p>9. Part Time Faculty Issues Committee</p>
<p>10. By-Laws</p>	<p>By-Laws to this Constitution may be adopted by amended by a simple majority of the Senators present and voting (quorum defined in Section 5), provided that the proposal has been introduced at a previous meeting, and provided that the general faculty has been notified in writing of the test of the amendment at least a week prior to the Senate meeting at which the vote on the amendment will be taken.</p>	