

Participatory Governance at Porterville College

Porterville College Mission:

With students as our focus, Porterville College provides our local and diverse communities an excellent educational experience that fosters intellectual curiosity and growth, lifelong learning, and prepares our students for personal and academic success.

In support of our values and philosophy, Porterville College will:

- Provide quality academic programs to all students who are capable of benefiting from community college instruction.
- Provide comprehensive support services to help students achieve their personal, vocational and academic potential.
- Prepare students for transfer and success at four-year institutions.
- Provide courses and training to prepare students for employment or to enhance skills within their current careers.
- Provide developmental education to students who need to enhance their knowledge and understanding of basic skills.
- Recognize student achievement through awarding degrees, certificates, grants, and scholarships.

Philosophy of Participatory Governance

Participatory governance at Porterville College takes place on multiple levels. It is a process that ensures the students, staff, faculty and administration the right to participate effectively in the governance of the college, providing the opportunity for input and ensuring this input is given every reasonable consideration and that all decisions are well informed. Through the participatory process, the campus community engages in ongoing dialogue about quality, learning assessment and implementation of institutional changes that improve student success. This dialogue promotes trust and broadens the sense of participation within the campus community. While many of the campus decisions result from this collegial process, it is recognized that the determinations reached through the participatory process are advisory to the College President who is the institution's chief executive officer.

Representation

All members of the Porterville College Community have the opportunity to belong to, and be represented by several committees on campus. The two main bodies of representation are the

Faculty Academic Senate and the College Learning Council. The Faculty Academic Senate has membership representing all divisions on campus as well as CCA (faculty bargaining unit) and adjunct faculty. The Faculty Senate represents the academic and professional interests of the faculty, sets the academic calendar and makes decisions regarding curriculum. These meetings are open to all members of the college community.

The College Learning Council is an advisory body that is made up of all college administrators, all faculty chairs, program directors and representatives from the Associated Students at Porterville College and the bargaining units (CCA, CSEA). This body is responsible for coordinating and communicating college-wide planning, budgeting and reporting.

Both of these bodies are supported by a variety of campus-wide committees that have membership from all areas of the campus community; administration, faculty, classified and students. All meetings are open and open dialogue with all in attendance is encouraged. This open dialogue allows the presentation of opinions, concerns, problems and questions regarding all issues concerning the college community.

This philosophy of participatory governance allows everyone in the college community to have input in the decisions and implementation of those decisions that impact the institution. Participatory governance, as practiced at Porterville College, has evolved over several years. Given the fluidity of the process, this evolution may continue as the needs of the college community change. Regardless of any modifications, this philosophy will always affirm those values that result in effective governance; innovation, respect, collaboration and collegiality.

Approved by College Learning Council—March 24, 2008