

ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Proposal for Committees Under Academic Senate

Last Update 26 Jan 2026

Expected Timeline

4 Feb 2026, 1st Read Senate Meeting

18 Feb 2026, 2nd Read Senate Meeting

25 Feb 2026, Expected Information Item, College Council

The Academic Senate must adapt its committee structure to effectively fulfill 10+1 responsibilities in response to evolving institutional, state, and federal demands. This proposal restructures committees reporting directly to the Senate to ensure systematic faculty oversight of academic and professional matters while improving operational efficiency.

Intended Outcomes:

- Consistent faculty oversight of major educational initiatives.
- Streamlined decision-making pathways between committees and the Senate.
- Clarified committee responsibilities and accountability.
- Cyclical evaluation processes to assess committee effectiveness and relevance.
- Adaptive structure responsive to faculty and student needs.

Importantly, the goal of this framework is to restore regular committee evaluation as foundational to Senate governance, re-establishing a culture of continuous improvement that ensures responsive structures.

This proposal addresses standing committees only. Subcommittees and the Executive Committee will be addressed in subsequent restructuring phases.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

A. Title 5 Mandated Committees (Affirmed)

1. Curriculum Committee (CC)

Focus Areas (10+1): Curriculum (including course, degree, and certificate requirements), grading policies, prerequisites/co-requisites, and articulation. Promote IDEAA in curriculum.

2. Program Review Committee (PRC)

Focus Areas (10+1): Coordination and oversight of the college's cyclical Program Review/ASPIRE, ensuring the process is driven by data-based decision making and aligned with institutional mission.

B. Committees Reallocated to Academic Senate Reporting Structure

3. Faculty Learning & Innovation Committee (FLIC)

Rationale: Faculty learning and innovation are core academic and professional matters under 10+1.

Reallocating this committee from College Council to Academic Senate reporting ensures faculty leadership over faculty learning priorities, andragogical innovation, and learning resources. This shift positions FLIC to support faculty excellence and faculty scholarly growth. Direct reporting to Academic Senate aligns oversight with the body responsible for academic quality and expertise.

4. Distance Education (DE)

Rationale: Distance education involves curriculum development, instructional methodology, and academic standards, all 10+1 responsibilities requiring faculty primacy. Direct reporting to Academic Senate ensures faculty oversight of online course quality, accessibility standards, and andragogical practices while maintaining alignment with the Curriculum Committee's work.

5. Chairs' Council

Rationale: The committee serves as a faculty consultative group that facilitates communication and coordination among instructional and non-instructional faculty leaders, including library and counseling. It provides a structured venue for dialogue, information-sharing, and feedback to the Academic Senate and administration on academic and operational matters. This consultative body strengthens faculty voice and cross-program alignment while preserving the Academic Senate's primary role in governance and academic policy.

C. Newly Formed Groups Addressing Current Institutional Needs

6. Dual Enrollment Task Force (DETF)

Rationale: Strengthening and expanding dual enrollment partnerships with K-12 districts requires systematic faculty oversight of curriculum alignment, student readiness standards, instructor qualifications, and assessment practices. This task force will develop policies and best practices that ensure SBVC maintains academic rigor and equity in dual enrollment offerings while responding to AB 288 requirements and regional workforce development needs.

Upon completion, the task force will sunset, and the Senate will determine ongoing oversight structure based on the task force's recommendations.

7. Honors Program Task Force (HPCTF)

Rationale: Following the College Council-approved Honors Program reorganization (December 2025), Academic Senate oversight ensures faculty primacy over curriculum, academic standards, and program direction. The Honors Program Task Force provides a faculty-led, collaborative structure to develop sustainable infrastructure, advance equity and access, and align honors offerings with transfer pathways and student success goals while expanding program impact.

Upon completion, the task force will sunset, and the Senate will determine ongoing oversight structure based on the task force's recommendations.

D. Senate-approved Task Forces Addressing Current Institutional Needs

The following task forces remain active under their current charges and sunset provisions:

1. AB 1705 Task Force (sunset: Spring 2026) | Approved Senate Meeting:

Rationale: Addresses mandated compliance requirements through cross-divisional coordination to meet legal obligations while boosting educational equity goals.

2. AI Task Force (timeline TBD) | Approved Senate Meeting:

Rationale: [waiting for insight from Amy, Judy, Rangel]

NEXT STEPS

Following framework approval, these elements require faculty consultation and Senate approval:

- Committee charges with defined responsibilities and outcomes
- Membership composition and term structures
- Chair selection processes
- Cyclical evaluation mechanisms

Target implementation: Fall 2026-Spring 2028 | Except DETF & HPCTF; Needs in Spring'26