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The Faculty Council of Community Colleges

The primary purpose of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges is to serve as the official agency through which the SUNY community college faculty engages in the governance of the University. The Faculty Council is composed of faculty from the 30 community colleges of the State University of New York. The Faculty Council is part of the SUNY shared governance structure. The other bodies that form the SUNY shared governance structure are the:

- SUNY Board of Trustees
- SUNY Community Colleges’ local boards of trustees
- University Faculty Senate (representative body for faculty at state-operated campuses)
- Student Assembly
- SUNY System Administration

The Faculty Council meets once per semester at a community college in New York to discuss issues of importance and serve as an active voice for academic issues at community colleges. The Faculty Council’s plenaries are culminating events that bring together all the work of the previous months while planning for the months ahead. At our plenaries,

- Faculty Council delegates have the opportunity to represent the perspectives of their local faculty AND collaborate with delegates from all of SUNY’s community colleges.
- Delegates interact with SUNY’s Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges, and several representatives from System Administration as well as liaisons representing other groups.

- Delegates receive updates on local, state and national matters concerning higher education and engage in the governance of SUNY through participation in committees and business meetings.

Charges

The Faculty Council focuses on matters relating to community college faculty and system-wide educational policies. In all other professional matters, the Faculty Council will

- Study, advise and make recommendations regarding academic concerns, issues, policies and programs;
- Provide opportunity and structure for the faculty to formulate positions on policy of common interest to community college faculty, presidents, trustees and sponsors;
- Provide an opportunity for faculty to act in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor of SUNY;
- Provide a forum for the consideration of matters common to the faculty of the community colleges;
- Provide a means for interchange of ideas among the faculty of the community colleges and among the faculty and administration of the community colleges.

History

- September, 1966—First meeting of faculty representatives
- April 13, 1967—SUNY Board approved resolution creating the FCCC and approving our Articles of Organization (Part 606 of the Code)
- First meeting of FCCC—October 2, 1967
- FCCC president joins SUNY Board of Trustees- July 1, 2011
Faculty Council Commitments

- Shared Governance
- Academic Freedom
- Academic Excellence
- Community Colleges as Democracy’s Colleges

Membership

The faculty of each community college shall elect a delegate and an alternate delegate, as established by local faculty bylaws. Delegates shall serve for 3-year terms.

WHAT IS A PLENARY?

Two plenaries are held each academic year and each one is hosted by a community college. Each plenary is the primary forum for delegates to conduct business.

WHAT DO WE DO AT PLENARY MEETINGS?

- We communicate to the SUNY system, to the SUNY Board of Trustees and to other governance bodies by passing resolutions that are generated by our committees.
- We listen to reports from the liaisons that represent other governance bodies, such as SUNY’s University Faculty Senate, New York’s Community College Association of Presidents and Community College Trustees.
- We raise questions and concerns to those liaisons regarding our own campus and faculty perspectives.
- We discuss and learn about issues of importance to community colleges.
- We meet in committees to accomplish annual goals and initiatives.
- We deal with national and state educational issues.
- We develop and follow-up on annual initiatives.

WHAT DO DELEGATES DO? Delegates serve a dual role:

- They represent their campus faculty to the Faculty Council. Delegates should actively seek out the multiple perspectives of the faculty they represent as well as the positions of the local faculty governance bodies on academic matters.
- They report to their campus leaders on the deliberations and actions taken by the Faculty Council. Many delegates make a regular report to their senates or faculty-at-large.

In representing and reporting, Delegates should attempt to practice the ideals of DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY (from the Suffolk County Community College’s Ammerman Faculty Senate Senatorial Guide & Handbook, pp. 8-9):

- Embody democratic principles in our governance, which include: acting with full information; making decisions transparently and inclusively.
- Promote democratic engagement on our campuses and in our Faculty Council decisions.
- Encourage multiple perspectives.
- Provide an appropriate venue and structure for managing conflicting opinions.
o Create conditions conducive to informed, reflective, and respectful dialogue.

o Inform individual faculty members regarding governance issues and decisions.

o Solicit ideas from faculty members about issues that concern them so they can be addressed by their respective governance bodies.

o Model a democratic community for our students.

**BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE DELEGATE**

At the Plenary, listen, and ask thoughtful questions.

- Stay for the duration of the plenary. Beginning meetings provide information and committee meeting time necessary to prepare for the business meeting that concludes the plenary.
- Your voice and your vote are especially important at the business meeting on the last day. This is when we vote on resolutions that represent the Faculty Council’s formal statements on issues.
- Be an active participant in your committee’s meetings.
- Volunteer to work on Committee goals and initiatives. This is where the real work of the Faculty Council gets done.

On your home campus, work to ensure that:

- the Faculty Council delegate has a three year term;
- the Faculty Council delegate is a member of the faculty governance executive body;
- information from the Faculty Council is shared with campus faculty formally through formal reports to the faculty and informally through campus communications, as appropriate.
- brief surveys from other delegates or the Executive Committee are answered in a timely manner.
- the FCCC delegate reports to campus faculty, college president, CGL and local trustees. Consider sponsoring a faculty meeting devoted entirely to Faculty Council issues.
- the FCCC delegate instructs campus governance bodies on the purpose and value of using resolutions as formal tools of campus communication.
- if there is a change in Delegate, Alternate, or Campus Governance Leader that the appropriate Membership Form is completed and submitted online.

As a Faculty Council Committee member, be aware that there will be some tasks to accomplish between plenaries.

- Participate in Faculty Council committee conference calls and other electronic communication which requires some time, input, and effort.
- Help in committee work, which may entail: writing brief surveys or position papers; summarizing survey results; making follow-up emails or calls for more information; drafting resolutions; or planning and participating in visits with state legislators.

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FACULTY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

• The **Executive Committee** consists of the Faculty Council’s officers including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Information Officer, Past President, Press Officer and committee chairs. The Executive Committee functions as a Steering Committee for Faculty Council activities and has the authority to act on behalf of the Faculty Council between plenaries.

• The **Academic and Student Affairs Committee** focuses its activities on academic and student affairs throughout SUNY and specific to community colleges. Some of these include, but are not limited to Assessment, General Education, Seamless Transfer/Mobility, and Remedial Education.

• The **Governance Committee** tends to the governance of the Faculty Council and throughout SUNY and the state. Initiatives focus on strengthening shared governance and improving communication among campus governance leaders, lobbying state officials on community college needs, reviewing by-laws and conducting elections.

• The **Awards Committee** seeks to celebrate the accomplishments of community college faculty and honor outstanding contributions to higher education. Initiatives include, but are not limited to generating interest and participation among the community colleges in the SUNY Chancellor’s Awards, Distinguished Professorships, and Conversations in the Disciplines program. The Awards Committee also selects FCCC Distinguished Service Award recipient.

• **Ad hoc Communications and Professional Development Committee** is coordinated with the Governance Committee. It is charged with developing and facilitating effective communication among the delegates and campus governance leaders, including, but not limited to mentoring of new delegates, and professional development. This ad hoc Committee will also facilitate internal communication of information necessary for delegates and campus governance leaders to consult effectively with their constituents.

• **Ad hoc Education Initiatives Committee** is coordinated with the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. It will serve as a source of professional advice and guidance to the Faculty Council on matters relating to emerging academic issues related, but not limited to the concept currently branded as "the education pipeline." This includes issues as early college high schools, cooperative education, concurrent enrollment, College and K-12 alignment, and remediation.

COMMUNICATIONS AMONG FACULTY COUNCIL DELEGATES

There are five ways in which the Faculty Council members communicate:

• The **Faculty Council Website** at [http://www.fccc.suny.edu](http://www.fccc.suny.edu) provides public access to information about the Faculty Council of Community Colleges; Faculty Council membership, position statements, resolutions, and plenary information; and
useful resources for SUNY’s community colleges and faculty governance groups.

- The **Faculty Council Listservs** for communicating with Delegates, Alternates, Campus Governance Leaders, and committee members through email and for soliciting responses to short surveys.

- The **Faculty Council ANGEL Group** at [http://support74.sln.suny.edu](http://support74.sln.suny.edu) is a repository for information on the Faculty Council and its issues. It is used for private communication within the Faculty Council and campus governance leaders, and for electronic voting, when necessary.

- The **Faculty Council Facebook Page** at [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faculty-Council-of-Community-Colleges/335928129838](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faculty-Council-of-Community-Colleges/335928129838) is used to celebrate community college faculty, to publicly discuss academic issues, and for community building within the Faculty Council and throughout SUNY’s community college faculty.

- **Survey Monkey** for soliciting responses to long surveys, for plenary registration forms, and for membership information forms.

- **Changes in FCCC Membership should be made by completing these online forms:**
  - Campus Governance Leader: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ccgov](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ccgov)