Faculty Senate Constitution

PREAMBLE
We, the faculty of Central Arizona College, in order to provide quality academics, opportunities for student success, shared governance, communication, and understanding amongst the college community do hereby:

- support a Faculty Senate whose mission is to advocate for academics, scholarship, and faculty voice,
- promote fairness and equity in the decision-making process of the college.

Our vision for the Senate is a place for all faculty to feel welcome and supported, and to promote civility among all constituents of the College. The purpose and function of the Central Arizona College Faculty Senate shall be to address the following areas:

Article I. Purpose and Function of the Central Arizona Faculty Senate

INSTITUTIONAL
A. Serve as the representative body of the Central Arizona College faculty regarding academic matters and policy development in the spirit of shared governance;
B. Share in the determination of the goals of the college and the fulfillment of these goals;
C. Advise the College President on matters of importance to the college and faculty.

ORGANIZATIONAL
A. Promote communication, collaboration, and education among the faculty and between the faculty and other groups;
B. Promote the welfare of the faculty and represent the faculty and its academic and professional relations within the district;
C. Provide an open, welcoming, and proactive forum for the discussion of systemic professional matters;
D. Advocate for and promote the Declaration of Civility among all constituents of the College.
E. Assess and monitor student issues relevant to faculty.

ACADEMIC
A. Develop, promote, and maintain the high standards, ideals, and values of teaching and education;
B. Advocate, promote, defend, pursue, and articulate all aspects of academic freedom;
C. Provide an open forum for the free discussion of academic and professional issues.

Article II: Privileges and Responsibilities

A. Communicating with all stakeholders in culturally positive ways by means of Recommendations, Proposals, and Resolutions as defined and described in the bylaws.
B. Promoting mutual accountability and reporting between the College faculty and the faculty representatives to any College committee.
C. Promoting a working dialogue between faculty and the Governing Board, the President, and other Administrators of the College.
E. Advising the Governing Board, the President, and other Administrators of the College regarding all Board Policies and those Regulations and Standard Practice Guides that pertain to faculty, faculty areas of expertise, and the learning environment.
F. Promoting the involvement of all faculty members in the establishing, staffing, and functioning of College committees, task forces, or other initiatives.

Article III: Procedure for Bringing Issues to the Senate

A. Agenda items, topics, issues, and concerns are brought to the Senate by the following methods: to be sent to the Senate Secretary, via an electronic submittal form (“CAC Agenda Request Form”) at least two weeks prior to the Senate meeting or communicated directly to a Senator who will then complete the CAC Agenda Request Form and submit it to the Senate Secretary for formal processing.

1. Action or discussion agenda items may be requested from any current employee.
   a. Non-faculty employees with concerns should contact a faculty member for assistance in bringing the concern to the Senate.
2. The Secretary will organize and distribute the items for the officers to prioritize and create the Senate agenda.
B. All Senate actions will be in compliance with college policy and procedures.
   1. Agenda Requests will be posted on the CAC Faculty Senate Virtual Meeting Place.
   2. The Senate will determine the proper venue for discussion and processing of submitted agenda requests.
   3. The Senate reserves the right to reroute any concerns that are not under purview of the Senate (please refer to Article I).

Article IV: Procedure for Responding to Issues Brought to the Senate

A. Follow procedures outlined in the Bylaws: VII. Commendations, Recommendations, Proposals, and Resolutions

Article V: Limitations to Faculty Senate Authority

1. The Senate is a recommending and research body, which does not have the authority to rule on an issue; however, the Senate may choose by vote of the Senators to advocate/support faculty members and faculty-at-large through recommendations, proposals, and resolutions.
2. The Senate recognizes that its recommendations, proposals, and resolutions do not constitute policy.
3. A majority vote of all-faculty (participating in the vote) is required to move a significant issue to the appropriate area of the college. (Please refer to the Bylaws, Section 6, B.)
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