



## **Faculty Council of Community Colleges**

### **Resolution on Academic Freedom Protection for Faculty Participation in Shared Governance Resolution EC3: 2016-17**

Whereas the American Association of University Professors' 1994 statement "On the Relationship of Faculty Governance to Academic Freedom" states that "...a sound system of institutional governance is a necessary condition for the protection of faculty rights and thereby for the most productive exercise of essential faculty freedoms. Correspondingly, the protection of the academic freedom of faculty members in addressing issues of institutional governance is a prerequisite for the practice of governance unhampered by fear of retribution," and "it is...essential that faculty members have the academic freedom to express their professional opinions without fear of reprisal"; and

Whereas the Faculty Council of Community Colleges' 2014 "Position Statement on Academic Freedom" states that "Academic Freedom is a right of full-time and part-time faculty and staff that protects the following activities:...providing constructive criticism on academic and institutional policies and procedures and the ability to recommend such policies and procedures to their respective institution of higher learning" and "Faculty and staff are often required to serve on boards or committees of their colleges and in such capacity, they should be able to offer their opinions and recommendations about academic and institutional issues without fear of disciplinary action or censorship"; and

Whereas established shared governance organizations and processes should be used as the mechanisms for resolving problems and disputes involving shared governance; and

Whereas the bylaws of a shared governance organization should contain the organization's accepted reasons for the removal of officers and the only mechanisms by which the duly elected or chosen officers of the organization may be recalled or removed; therefore be it

Resolved that the college president and governing board, as the recipients of the shared governance organization's recommendations, should respect the will of the elected members of the shared governance organization and refrain from interfering with the established internal governance processes of the organization; and be it further

Resolved that the rights of faculty to participate fully in shared governance roles for which they have been duly elected or chosen in accordance with the organization's bylaws is an essential aspect of academic freedom and should not be abridged by the college's administration or governing board or by any agency outside the college, and be it further

Resolved that such officers, as long as they remain employees of the college, should not be removed or coerced into resigning from their offices by any agency outside the governance structure, whether it be college administration, governing boards, collective bargaining units, or other groups within or outside of the college, and be it further

Resolved that faculty who legitimately participate in shared governance organizations should be free of censorship, retaliation and coercion for speech and activities deemed protected by the AAUP statements on Academic Freedom and Tenure (1940), Government of Colleges and Universities (1966), and the Relationship of Faculty Governance to Academic Freedom (1994), and the Faculty Council of Community Colleges' "Position Statement on Academic Freedom" (2014).