I. Collegial Governance and Participation in Local Decision Making

MiraCosta Community College District (MCCD) has a long and rich history of collegial governance with broad participation across all constituent groups. The collegial culture at MCCD rests on a partnership in which faculty, staff, administration, and students participate in the decision-making process. This partnership flourishes when each group understands its own role and respects the roles of other constituent groups. Members of the district community have the authority and responsibility to make recommendations in matters appropriate in scope to their roles in the district. The level of involvement and the process for decision-making depends on the type of issue facing the college.

MCCD uses both formal assessment and informal feedback to make improvements. The governance structure is regularly evaluated as a whole, while committees annually review and assess their charge, composition, and meeting schedules. The groups discuss modifications needed and make recommendations for change to College Council, which is ultimately responsible for the effectiveness of the governance function of the college.

There are three basic categories of issues:

A. **Governance:** A district governance issue is a policy, procedure, plan, or project that has an impact on the district as a whole. These include board policies, administrative procedures, strategic and master plans, and program review processes.

B. **Operational:** Operational issues are those that involve the implementation of approved policies, procedures, plans, and programs. Administrative and other procedures frequently designate the division head, or the committee or individual that advises the division head, as responsible for operational decision-making within the parameters of the policy, procedure, plan, or program. Procedures that pertain to the internal functioning of a division and do not have districtwide impact may also be designated as operational.

C. **Working Conditions:** Working conditions are those issues that affect employee groups related to wages, benefits, workload, and other terms and conditions of employment.

This manual focuses on the structure of governance within the district. Operational policies and procedures are maintained by the specific divisions or departments. Working condition issues are referred to the appropriate collective bargaining unit or employee group and are addressed as outlined in their respective collective bargaining agreements or employee handbooks.