

Standing Committee vs. Governance Committee in the Decision Making Document

Why is there confusion over “Governance Committee” vs. “Standing Committee”? Probably because even the Decision-Making Document distinguishes them from each other in one part and then conflates them in another part. The DMD is at:

Original 2010 PDF document: https://committees.kccd.edu/sites/committees.kccd.edu/files/DMTF_0.pdf

and

the web version at: <https://committees.kccd.edu/node/557> [Committees home -> Bakersfield College (top left corner only!) -> Strategic Planning -> Decision Making Document]

On page 8 of the PDF and at <https://committees.kccd.edu/content/decision-making-document-decision-making-process> of the web version, governance vs. standing committees is distinguished as follows:

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- A number of governance/constituency representative groups have responsibilities to make recommendations to the President through College Council or through direct lines of communication. These groups take their authority from various sections of Education Code, Assembly Bill 1725 (AB1725), Senate Bill 235 (SB235), and Title 5. Those groups are:
 - Academic Senate
 - College Administration
 - California School Employees Association (CSEA)
 - Student Government Association (SGA)
- Standing committees make recommendations and provide input on relevant issues through their representatives on the following or directly to the President: Accreditation, Administrative Council, Assessment, Budget, College Council, Commencement, Committee on Committees, Curriculum, Extended Learning, EAC, Enrollment Management, EODAC, Equivalence, Facilities Planning, General Education, ISIT, IEC, Levan, Matriculation, President’s Cabinet, Scholarship, SDCC, and Student Conduct Hearing.

There are three formal employee groups that may provide input on issues affecting working conditions. The KCCD Community College Association (CCA) represents faculty members, CSEA represents classified staff and the Management Association represents managers.

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So this says just 4 groups are governance groups and standing committees includes groups that are not all-college such as Levan Lifelong Learning Institute Comm (or Levan Center Advisory), President’s Cabinet, and Student Conduct Hearing.

HOWEVER...

HOWEVER, in the Understanding Committees section, there is nothing about standing committees. See page 14 of the PDF and at <https://committees.kccd.edu/content/decision-making-document-committees> of the web version.

Groups that were distinguished as “Standing committees” in contrast to “Governance groups” in the earlier section are now listed as Governance committees. The part starting on page 14 is just as valid/binding as the flow chart on page 9. (It is clear that the DMD was created by a committee without a central editor!)

In this section, a governance committee is defined as “Have prescribed numbers of representatives from academic, classified and/or administrative staff as well as students. Recommend to College President. Attention to 10 plus 1 items that are to ‘rely primarily on’ the Academic Senate.”

In this section Academic Senate, AIQ, Assessment, Budget, College Council, CSEA, Curriculum, Enrollment Management, EODAC, Distance Education, Facilities & Sustainability, Professional Development, Program Review, SGA are all listed as Governance Committees (they have a “G” in the Type column).

Curriculum Committee: Governance or Senate Committee?

The DMD does note the special case of the Curriculum Committee. The DMD includes a glossary of terms for the types of groups at BC in the Understanding Committees section. One group is “Arm of the Senate (Curriculum Committee)” with a stated function: “A standing committee of the Academic Senate that assumes the role and responsibility for a particular portion of the 10 + 1 academic and professional matters. Informs the Senate but recommends and communicates directly with the President or a Vice President of the college.”

A little further down on the page/webpage, the DMD denotes Curriculum Committee with a “G,S” meaning “governance and subcommittee”, even though Curriculum is faculty only and an arm of the Academic Senate.

The Senate By-Laws have long listed Curriculum as a governance committee instead of as a standing committee *of the Academic Senate*, probably because, unlike the other standing committee *of the Academic Senate*—Equivalency, Curriculum has representatives from all academic departments. The By-Laws will be clarified to list Curriculum with Equivalency in the Academic Senate Standing Committees section (Article VIII, Section 5).