

CSU STATEMENT ON COLLEGIALITY

To set the standard for the proper relationship among the various constituencies of The California State University, the Board of Trustees adopted the following statement September 18, 1985 after wide consultation with the CSU Academic Senate, university presidents, the California State Student Association, and Chancellor's staff.

Academic governance is a complex web of decision making and responsibility that translates academic goals and values into university policy or action. Authority in the modern public university derives from two quite different sources: (a) from the power vested by law and administrative code in governing boards and administrators and (b) from the knowledge of the subject matter and from the pedagogic expertise of the faculty.

Collegiality consists of a shared decision making process and a set of values which regard the members of the various university constituencies as essential for the success of the academic enterprise. It incorporates mutual respect for similarities and for differences-in background, expertise, judgments, and assigned responsibilities; and involves mutual trust based on experience.

Collegial governance allows the academic community to work together to find the best answers to issues facing the university. Collegial governance assigns primary responsibility to the faculty for the educational functions of the institution in accordance with basic policy as determined by the Board of Trustees. This includes admission and degree requirements, the curriculum and methods of teaching, academic and professional standards, and the conduct of creative and scholarly activities. Collegiality rests on a network of interlinked procedures jointly devised, whose aim is to assure the opportunity for timely advice pertinent to decisions about curricular and academic personnel matters.

The governing board, through its administrative officers, makes sure that there is continual consultation with appropriate faculty representatives on these matters. Faculty recommendations are normally accepted, except in rare instances and for compelling reasons. The collegial process also recognizes the value of participation by the faculty in budgetary matters, particularly those directly affecting the areas for which the faculty has primary responsibility.

Central to collegiality and shared decision making is respect for differing opinions and points of view which welcomes diversity and actively sponsors its opinions. The collegium must be the last public bastion of respect for individuals, whether they are members of the faculty, students, staff, alumni, administration, or Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees wishes to maintain the statewide Academic Senate and campus senates/councils separate and apart from collective bargaining. It is the intention of the Board to maintain its efforts to promote collegiality and to support the continuing efforts of the Academic Senate to preserve collegiality in the CSU.

NB: This statement is intended to apply to campus academic personnel matters in general and not to apply to individual personnel decisions. Specific cases involving appointment, promotion, and tenure decisions must be decided on their own merits and are not subject to normative statements such as that contained in paragraph 4. The statement should in no way be used in the grievance process as a limitation on the good judgment of a president in any specific case.