

Participatory Governance Evaluation

During the 2006 Accreditation process, the college established some planning agendas related to participatory governance, and the visiting team made both a commendation and a recommendation related to participatory governance. Both are listed below:

- Commendation #3 - The team commends the college's very high level of trust, collegiality and participative governance that results in a college atmosphere marked by institutional pride, enthusiastic collaboration among constituency groups, and sincere aspirations for a bright future for Skyline College.
- Recommendation #8 - The team recommends that the college develop and implement a policy that specifically evaluates the institution's governance and Accreditation process.

In response to this recommendation, the bylaws of the College Governance Council were amended to include a plan to undertake a review of the college's governance and decision-making structures at least once every six years, as part of the accreditation self-study process (College Planning Agenda (IVA3)). The first review has been completed and participatory with the campus, and recommendations have been forwarded to the appropriate participatory governance bodies. Once the data is compiled from each review, it is presented to the College Governance Council with recommendations, and made available to the campus and community. One outcome of the last evaluation was to streamline some of the committees and initiatives by combining some committees and clarifying the distinctions between councils, committees, task forces and operational committees (Compendium of Committees, accessible online through the Participatory Governance Website).

Additionally, communication procedures were improved by amending the College Governance Council bylaws to add two charges to the College Planning Agenda: Develop strategies to better communicate the planning and budget processes (IVA1); and Develop streamlined communication processes to keep college constituents informed (IVA3). The council summary notes have been incorporated in the weekly Skyline Shines publication, and the Participatory Governance website has been expanded. Information is updated regularly, and channels of communication are clear.

The process for evaluating participatory governance at Skyline College is developed by the College Governance Council.

The process includes three components:

1. A college forum where the leadership of the constituents invite additional members to participate in a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats and Trends Analysis of participatory governance.
2. A college wide survey.
3. Incorporation of participatory governance evaluation questions in the employee voice survey, if aligned with the administration of the survey.