

How will shared governance work?

In order to help the HCC Community better understand how the proposed governance structure will hopefully work, the Shared Governance Committee has developed the following hypothetical scenarios. These are designed to suggest various pathways decision-making might follow through the structure under discussion.

New Schedule of Classes:

After a series of meetings, the Academic Affairs Council (a management group outside the governance structure that advises the Academic VP) decides that the Community should rethink the current class schedule at HCC and make changes to better serve our mission and objectives.

That proposal is sent to the Coordinating Committee, which, after discussion of how it can best be evaluated, refers it to the Academic Standards Committee.

The Academic Standards Committee charges a “Calendar and Scheduling Committee” to undertake a comprehensive assessment of possible schedule patterns. Part of the charge to the Calendar and Scheduling Committee is a mandate that there be extensive opportunities for input.

After a report is made back to Academic Standards for its comment and approval, a “final” proposal is sent to the Coordinating Committee to be endorsed and recommended to the President.

The President (or his designees) may accept the proposal, make modifications and return it for reconsideration, or reject it outright.

The proposal also attracts considerable discussion at any Town Meeting held during the period the new schedule is under consideration.

Proposal for a new interdisciplinary curriculum:

The Critical Cultural Studies Department develops and proposes a new interdisciplinary curriculum in Gender Studies.

That proposal is approved by all the Academic Divisions involved and is then sent to the Curriculum Committee.

The Curriculum Committee approves the proposal and sends it on to the Coordinating Committee.

The Coordinating Committee endorses the new curriculum and sends it on to the President.

Proposal for additional student lounge space:

Concerned by the lack of student lounge space on Campus, the Student Senate sends representative to a Town Meeting, where they make a case from the floor that more student lounge space is needed.

The Town Meeting votes to direct the Coordinating Committee to take up this issue.

At its next meeting, the Coordinating Committee refers the issue to the Education Resources Committee, charging them with assessing the situation and developing any necessary proposals for action.

The Educational Resources Committee contacts the Student Senate and engages with them in discussion. From that dialogue a proposal emerges.

The proposal is circulated to Divisions and impacted work areas for comment; comments are incorporated.

The final proposal is taken up by the Coordinating Committee, endorsed, and sent on to the President.

At a subsequent Town Meeting, several audience members question the Vice Presidents of Student Affairs and of Administration and Finance as to the status of the proposal.

Concerns about fees charged faculty and staff using the Bartley Center.

A staff member, feeling such fees are unfair and do nothing to encourage faculty/staff wellness, attends a Coordinating Committee meeting and voices her concerns.

After discussion, the Coordinating Committee forwards those concern to the Wellness Committee, asking that group to examine the issue and make recommendations back to the Coordinating Committee.

A proposal is made by the Wellness Committee to abolish those fees; it's endorsed by the Coordinating Committee and sent to the President.

At a subsequent Coordinating Committee, the President (or an appropriate designee) is asked to report on the disposition of the proposal.