INTRODUCTION

Final decision making authority rests with the YCCD Board of Trustees as defined by applicable legal requirements. YCCD Board Policy 7430 describes the delegation of authority from the Board to the Chancellor and Board Policy 7430.1 describes the delegation of authority to the College President. The college encourages employees and students to become knowledgeable and involved with decision-making processes. Issues, concerns and ideas for institutional improvement can be brought forward through a variety of venues including but not limited to:

- supervisors and administrative staff
- representatives to college governance councils
- representatives to college committees, workgroups, and taskforces
- college leaders of Academic Senate, Student Senate, California School Employee Association (CSEA), Leadership Team Advisory Council (LTAC), and Yosemite Faculty Association (YFA)

The decision-making structure at Modesto Junior College is comprised of college governance councils which include representatives of each constituency. College Council is the principle participatory governance body which makes recommendation to the President on college policy and procedural matters. College Council advises the President to advocate at the district level on college wide issues. College Council receives recommendations from the five supporting councils; Accreditation Council, Facilities Council, Instruction Council, Resource Allocation Council, and Student Services Council. Each council will establish committees, workgroups, and taskforces as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the council within the established timelines.

Each college governance council has a specified charge and membership. Minutes from the meetings of each council are posted in a central location on the Modesto Junior College web site. College wide recommendations from each committee are submitted to the College Council for discussion and recommendation to the college president for action. Recommendations from the College Council requiring formal district approval are submitted through the college president to the chancellor and the Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees. Governance councils encourage all participants to work within the system, act cooperatively and responsibly, know and seek to follow and respect the law and regulations, and focus on meeting student needs.

Modesto Junior College governance councils provide a formally established forum for collegial dialogue inclusive of all constituencies. The councils meet regularly to determine best ways to implement policies and responsibilities. The governance council structure ensures operational efforts are aligned and that communication occurs throughout the campus community. The councils are organized in a manner that supports decision-making and continual improvement of college processes in support of student learning and institutional effectiveness.

Constituent groups include faculty, staff, students, and administration. Each council includes representatives from each constituent group who serve terms of two years. The College Council includes representatives from Yosemite Faculty Association (YFA), MJC Academic Senate, Student Senate, California School Employees Association (CSEA), and Classified Staff Advisory Council (CSAC), and administrators.
Modesto Junior College has adopted the following definitions in relation to participatory governance:

**Committee**—a group established to support fulfilling the college mission, meeting college goals, and carrying out strategic initiatives by making recommendations to the college governance councils on those areas of responsibility as designated, also referred to as standing committee.

**Council (college governance council)**—a participatory governance group of MJC which includes representation of all constituencies that serves to make recommendations as part of the decision-making process of the college.

**Task force**—a micro-group of a committee charged with a study, or to complete a specific short-term task on a particular issue within the committee’s charge.

**Workgroup**—a sub-group of a committee charged with a long-term project with college-wide impact on a subject within the committee’s charge.
Participatory Decision-Making and Shared Governance at Modesto Junior College

On Academic and Professional matters, the Academic Senate is the primary recommending participatory governance body "to the administration of [the] college and to the governing board of [the] district" (Title 5, section 53200(b)). When considering Academic and Professional matters the "governing board or its constituents or its designees" will "rely primarily" or "mutually agree" with the Academic Senate (Title 5, section 53203(a)). Faculty representatives to governance groups and the administration share joint responsibility for ensuring appropriate lead time for Academic Senate consideration and the process of collegial consultation (also see YCCD BP-7-8049 and Title 5, section 53200).