



PROCEDURE:

WGTC Faculty Role in Governance Matters

Revised:

Last Reviewed:

Adopted: November 20, 2009

Purpose

At Wiregrass Georgia Technical College (WGTC), faculty members have a major responsibility in the achievement of outcomes for student learning and the quality of academic programs. To accomplish the mission of the college and to ensure a vibrant collegiate environment, participation by the faculty in academic and governance matters is encouraged and considered critical in the educational process. This policy statement is published in the WGTC Policy Manual and in the WGTC Faculty Handbook.

Faculty Governance

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College recognizes that the primary responsibility for the improvement of educational programs resides with the faculty. The responsibility for improvement of educational programs and services provided by the college resides with both the faculty and staff. A Senior Staff team is essential for effective communication between the administration and faculty and staff who are stakeholders in the educational process. Senior Staff serve to increase the effectiveness of the planning, research, problem solving, and decision-making processes through a participatory, pro-active approach. As shown in the WGTC team and committee structure, faculty members are represented and have a role in academic and governance matters throughout all areas of the institution.

Faculty members also represented on the WGTC Policies and Procedures Committee, which functions in an advisory capacity to the Vice President for Academic Affairs of the college. The role of the committee is to review and make recommendations and College policies related to academics and faculty matters.

The WGTC Policies and Procedures Committee membership equally represents all college campuses. Members are nominated by academic deans or by self-nomination, with the final selection by the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Officers of the council include a chairperson, vice-chair, and secretary. The committee is designed to meet each semester; however, more meetings may be called as needed. For each committee meeting, agendas are emailed to members prior to the meeting. Following the meeting, minutes are forwarded to all members and to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The primary role of the faculty in governance of the college is to develop, revise, and implement

educational goals and objectives, including curriculum, academic standards, and courses of study. In addition, program faculty members participate in decision-making activities involving academic policy such as degree requirements, curricula, faculty work environment, and professional development. They also have a major role in identifying, evaluating, and improving student learning outcomes, including planning and budgeting for expected outcomes.

The faculty develops and revises program curricula through the Instructional Faculty Consortium Committees (IFCC) established by the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). All instructors in the technical college system of Georgia are members of an IFCC. There are instructional faculty consortium committees for each program area in each of the eight consortium regions, except in program areas for which a statewide committee has been authorized as a substitute. Through this process, faculty members have opportunities to evaluate and make recommendations regarding revision of the curriculum. Locally, faculty program meetings are held to discuss curriculum including any changes at the state level.

Input from program advisory committees allows instructors to recognize and communicate needs related to academic and governance issues. Advisory committees define skills needed for entry-level employment and make recommendations for equipment to remain consistent with current industry standards. Faculty members utilize the knowledge and expertise of their advisory committee members not only to examine policies, equipment needs, and curricula, but also to review and provide input for validating the mission of the college.

At WGTC faculty members have opportunities to strengthen and enhance their programs through the operational planning and budgetary process. Each department submits an annual budget to request funding for program supplies, staff development, and other items required for effective operation. In addition to the yearly budget, faculty members submit a prioritized list of equipment and other resources to be included in the institutional budget. The school uses this priority list to dictate purchases when funds become available through other revenue streams outside the established program budget.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College continues to implement the same policies and procedures in encouraging all faculty and staff to participate in academic and governance of the college. The college will focus on integration and consolidation of teams and committees to broaden representation and improve input encompassing all physical and categorical dimensions of the institution.

Responsibility

The Vice President of Academic Affairs has the overall responsibility of ensuring this procedure is implemented.

References