



Procedure: 5.1.3p.L1

WGTC Faculty Role in Governance Matters

Revised: May 12, 2025; February 7, 2022

Last Reviewed: April 23, 2025

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.

Procedure

WGTC 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 Presidential Leadership team is essential for effective communication between the administration, faculty, and staff who are stakeholders in the educational process. Presidential Leadership team serves 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 Advisory Council

Faculty members also comprise the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), which serves as the official representative body of the faculty and serves in an advisory capacity to the President and Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The FAC has no policy making power. Examples of functions performed by the FAC are to:

- Research, review, and recommend general faculty professional development activities
- Review/recommend changes to college processes and procedures related to academic affairs to ensure adherence to principles of good educational practice
- Provide input and recommendations on procedures and questionnaire instruments for student surveys
- Recommend procedures and processes to assure quality and rigor of academic programs and courses
- Recommending procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom
- Make recommendations for orientation and mentoring of adjunct and new full-time faculty

Members of the FAC equally represent all college campuses. The term of membership is revolving such that members rotate off the council every three years. In addition, two members are selected as vice chair and secretary. Faculty members are encouraged to self-nominate to serve as council members, and the Academic Affairs Administration selects from the nominations. The VPAA has final approval of membership. The FAC membership is comprised of representatives from each of the following departments:

Membership will include:

- One Program Instructor at Large, serves as chair of council
- Two Arts & Science Department Full-Time Instructors
- Two Health Sciences Department Full-Time Instructors
- Two Professional Services Department Full-Time Instructors
- Two Technical/Industrial Department Full-Time Instructors
- Two Business Program Department Full-Time Instructors
- Vice-President for Academic Affairs, ex officio member

Faculty Role in Governance Matters

The primary role of the faculty in governance of the college is to develop, revise, and implement educational goals and objectives, including curricula, academic standards, faculty work environment, and professional development. They also have a major role in identifying, evaluating, and improving student learning outcomes, as well as 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 TCSG are members of an IFCC and serve on instructional faculty consortium committees for all program areas, except in program areas for which a statewide committee has been authorized as a substitute. Through this process, the faculty establishes, reviews, and evaluates curricula. Faculty program meetings are held locally 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.

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 operational effectiveness. Faculty members submit a prioritized list of equipment and other resources to be included in the yearly 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.