

WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

BOARD POLICY 1340

The State of Washington grants authority to govern Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) to the WWCC Board of Trustees. The WWCC Board of Trustees in turn delegates to the college President the authority to conduct college operations in fulfillment of the College's mission. While final operations decision authority resides with the President, the Board of Trustees hereby directs the President to establish and maintain a participatory governance system through which college administrators will collaborate with a diverse set of stakeholders in conducting the business of WWCC. The President is authorized and directed by the Board to develop college administrative policies and procedures and to take action necessary to implement and operationalize this participatory governance board policy.

The WWCC participatory governance system is required to conform to Standard 2.A.1 of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), which requires:

- 1) a broad understanding of the governance system by the college community;
- 2) clearly defined authority, roles, and responsibility; and,
- 3) consideration of the views of faculty, staff, administrators, and students in decision-making processes on matters in which they have a direct and reasonable interest.

The WWCC participatory governance system will comprise a cohesive set of councils, committees, and task-forces with identified purposes/work-products, levels of authority, clear lines of communication, reporting relationships to other groups or administrators, and workflow guidelines. Collectively, this network is responsible for identifying, analyzing, developing, communicating, recommending action, referring issues to others, and otherwise addressing opportunities and challenges associated with WWCC mission fulfillment.

The governance structure at WWCC shall be guided by the following general principles:

- The ultimate measure of effective governance is student success.
- All decision-making at WWCC is based on a shared understanding of the mission, vision, and values of the college, and ties as directly as possible to the WWCC Strategic Plan.
- Recommendations and/or decisions are made at the appropriate level of the organization, by the appropriate individual(s) or group(s), with the requisite expertise.
- Councils, committees, task-forces, etc. will exercise authority appropriate for the role of the group—recommendation (most common); decision (in particular circumstances); or advise-and-consent.
- Whenever practicable, employees and students should select their representatives.
- Representatives of constituent groups involved in the participatory governance process are responsible for keeping their respective constituencies informed of the proceedings and recommendations of the various governance groups, as well as for the general dissemination of information, as appropriate.

- Members of the college community who are not part of the participatory governance system have the opportunity to provide feedback to their designated representatives and to seek insight from other decision-makers or authorities.

The WWCC participatory governance system is predicated upon the recognition of the role and authority of the President as being directly accountable and responsible to the Board of Trustees for the educational leadership and effective management of the college's employees, facilities, land, and fiscal resources. As such, robust engagement in the participatory governance system is actively encouraged so that final decisions made by the President, or the President's designee, will be informed by the diverse input and multiple perspectives that constitute one of WWCC's greatest strengths.

<p>Policy Contact: <u>President</u></p> <p>Approved by (Department/Body): <u>WWCC Board of Trustees</u></p> <p>Date Originally Approved: <u>October 26, 2022</u></p> <p>Last Reviewed/Revised on: _____</p>
