



COLLEGE SENATE

Our Mission

We serve our community by meeting educational needs, creating an environment for student success, and preparing our students and ourselves for citizenship in a global society.

Our Vision

To see strengths and unique potential in every person. To inspire people to make the courageous choice to learn, grow, and serve.

Our Values

Learning

Learning is the most important outcome of our work. We are all learners and we know that teaching and learning happen both inside and outside the classroom. Each of us is responsible for our own learning and for supporting the learning of others.

Excellence

Exceptional teaching, programs, and service are critical to our success. We believe that excellence must be built on a foundation of integrity, honesty, and academic freedom. We achieve it by focusing on strengths, learning from experiences, and assessing our work.

Opportunity

Education transforms lives. We value access to education as a fundamental right. Our students can start here and go anywhere.

Innovation

Change creates vitality. We value active pursuit of thoughtful innovation and continuous improvement. We empower and challenge ourselves to create, innovate, take risks, and nurture an environment of trust.

Relationships

Relationships are the heart of our work. We value a caring, supportive community built on integrity, openness, honesty, and respect. Our internal and external relationships are flexible, collaborative, and interdependent.

Diversity

Diversity enriches our learning. We embrace diversity in all of its contexts, including strengths, perspectives, and people. We seek to increase our capacity to understand issues of differences, power, and privilege and to constructively resolve conflict.



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What is the College Senate?

The College Senate is the shared governance model for Tompkins Cortland Community College. The College Senate was created in accordance with the Mission, Vision, Values and Goals developed at Tompkins Cortland Community College, and with the approval of the Board of Trustees, the President, and the College staff.

The College Senate meets seven times per semester (fall and spring). Meetings are open to all members of the College community.

The College Senate's purpose is to:

1. provide a structure for
 - a. recommending and influencing policy matters
 - b. discussing and influencing proposed operational decisions

2. provide a forum for
 - a. communication and the interchange of ideas among all individuals of the College
 - b. recommendations to the President regarding policy and establishment of committees of the College

All issues that come before the Senate are analyzed in terms of possible impact upon the College's identified Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals.

Membership

The College Senate consists of a maximum of nineteen (19) voting members from identified groups within the College community.

- Three (3) members shall be elected from the Teaching Faculty
- Three (3) members shall be elected from the Classified Staff
- Three (3) members shall be elected from the Non-Teaching Faculty and Administrative Staff
- Three (3) members shall be elected from the Faculty Student Association
- Three (3) members shall be elected at-large from the above-named employee groups
- Two (2) members shall be elected from the adjunct/contract employee representatives
- Two (2) members shall be student representatives
- Ex-Officio, non-voting members shall include a representative from the President's Cabinet or Executive Leadership Team

Faculty and staff are elected to two-year terms, while student and adjunct terms of membership are for one year. No one can serve on the College Senate for more than two consecutive terms.

From the membership, one or more chairs will be elected by the College Senate members to serve a one-year term. A secretary will also be elected for a one-year term. Officer terms are renewable.



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How to Bring Issues to the College Senate

The College Senate reviews many of the activities and issues under debate among any committee formed on campus. If policy or any major operational implications are apparent in any group functioning outside of the College Senate, the Chair meets with that group to include that work as part of the College Senate, or a representative of the group is invited to make a presentation to the College Senate at either a regular meeting or, in some cases, at a special college-wide meeting. Any member of the College community may request that an issue be considered by the College Senate. The request needs to be submitted to the Chair at least two weeks before the scheduled discussion. Materials regarding the issue are then distributed to the College Senate members in advance of the meeting, to aid informed discussion.

Process of Recommendations

The Chair(s) of the College Senate write(s) a report or attends meetings of the Board of Trustees, and shares information related to the issues currently under consideration of the College Senate. Policy and operational decision recommendations from the College Senate go directly to the President. The President may return a recommendation with suggestions for modification or, if rejecting the recommendation, must provide the College Senate with a rationale for that rejection. Even in cases when the President disagrees with the recommendations of the College Senate, the recommendations are forwarded to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval. Policy changes do not become final until approved by the Board of Trustees.

How Can I Get Involved in the College Senate?

Attending meetings is a great way to learn more about the College Senate and what is happening at the College. Meeting announcements, including special college-wide meetings, are sent via email and posted on employee group bulletin boards. All meeting agendas, minutes, and material are also posted to the myTC3 Portal. You can find the bylaws on Tompkins Cortland's website: www.tompkinscortland.edu (click on "College Information" along the top bar, then from the "About Tompkins Cortland" drop down, choose "The College Senate"). Consider serving on the College Senate! Each spring, the College Senate canvasses for faculty and staff to run for Senate seats. Feel free to contact the Chair(s) with questions or concerns, including interest in serving as a member.

College Senate Officers for 2012-2023:

Casey Goodwin, Co-Chair, CG069@tompkinscortland.edu

Sayre Paradiso, Co-Chair, SEP011@tompkinscortland.edu

Michele Lopez, Secretary, lopezm@tompkinscortland.edu