

# ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## RESIDENTIAL FACULTY SENATE

# CONSTITUTION

September 4, 1996

Revision: May 21, 2021

### Preamble

We hold that the governing of Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) is the joint responsibility of the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Governing Board and the Administration, staff, Adjunct Faculty, and Residential Faculty of Estrella Mountain Community College. In order to assure the full participation of the Residential Faculty in the determination of educational policy, the adoption of this Constitution establishing a Residential Faculty Senate at Estrella Mountain Community College is hereby ordained.

### Article I: Title

The name of this organization shall be the **Estrella Mountain Community College Residential Faculty Senate**, hereafter referred to as the Senate.

### Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Residential Faculty Senate shall be to:

- Serve as the voice of the Residential Faculty in shared governance;
- Maintain and promote the standards and ideals of the profession;
- Advise the College President on matters of importance to the college and Residential Faculty;
- Promote communication, collaboration, and education among Residential Faculty and between Residential Faculty and other groups.
- Protect and preserve academic freedom;
- Provide an open forum for the free discussion of academic and professional issues;
- Participate in the formation and implementation of policies affecting education and professional working conditions, or relationships for Estrella Mountain Community College and the Maricopa County Community College District.
- Assure the opportunity for Residential Faculty participation in fiscal planning and decision-making.
- Champion a culture of inclusion by ensuring all employees are respected, listened to, supported, and actively included in shared governance creating a cohesive college-wide team.

### **Article III: Membership**

The Senate will be composed of the President, President-Elect, Past-President, Secretary, and elected Senators.

All Residential Faculty members, as defined in the MCCCC Faculty Agreement are eligible to be elected to serve in the Senate. Membership in the Maricopa Community Colleges Faculty Association (MCCFA) is not required to serve in the Senate or the District Faculty Executive Council. Every Residential Faculty member is entitled to: an equal vote on issues presented to all Residential Faculty; representation in the Senate; elect Senators within their Divisions and at-large; attend all official meetings; serve as a Senate officer.

### **Article IV: Senate**

#### **Section A: Privileges and Responsibilities**

1. The Senate shall of its own determination concern itself with any academic and professional matters which it deems important to the welfare of the college or student body.
2. The Senate shall be the exclusive negotiating representative of the Residential Faculty to the Estrella Mountain Community College Administration with respect to all academic and professional matters in congruence with the Faculty Agreement.
3. The Senate is charged with determining the processes for implementing shared governance and upholding academic freedom within the Residential Faculty ranks. Residential Faculty have primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, Residential Faculty status, and those aspects of integrated student support which relate to the educational process.
4. The Senate may formulate recommendations on the selection of administrators of the college after due diligence has been conducted. On behalf of the Residential Faculty, the Senate may forward its recommendations to the College President as well as the Chancellor and the Governing Board of MCCCC.
5. The Senate shall work jointly with administration officials on the appointment of Residential Faculty members to all College, Academic, and Ad Hoc committees and to other extracurricular offices and responsibilities.
6. The Senate may request the College President to call a Residential Faculty meeting for consideration of matters of Faculty interest.
7. The Senate may request the advice of the Residential Faculty through ballots or other communication.

### **Section B: Meetings**

Unless otherwise determined, the Senate shall meet at least twice per month during the academic year. Estrella Mountain Community College Residential Faculty shall be notified of meetings as determined in the Bylaws.

### **Section C: Procedures**

In all matters of internal functioning not otherwise covered by the Constitution, the Senate shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

## **Article V: Officers**

Officers of the senate must be Residential Faculty members. The officers of the Senate shall be the President, President-Elect, Past President, and Secretary.

1. **President:** The President shall be the elected President-Elect from the preceding year and shall, in general, supervise all governance affairs of the Estrella Mountain Community College Residential Faculty. The President shall be the official spokesperson for the Senate.
2. **President-Elect:** The President-Elect shall assist the President and substitute for the President when required. The President-Elect shall be elected by a vote of the Residential Faculty.
3. **Past President:** The Past President shall assist the President and President-Elect as requested.
4. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Senate. They shall be responsible for the correspondence files, file management, Senate website updates, and oversee communications between the Senate and any other person or organizations.

## **Article VI: Executive Committee**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall consist of the EMCC Faculty Senate Officers.

## **Article VII: Standing Committees**

There are three Standing Committees of the Senate: Executive Committee, Faculty Staffing Committee, and Peer Assistance and Review Committee.

## **Article VIII: Amendments, Ratification, and Revisions**

Any member of Senate may propose an amendment to this constitution through the following procedure:

1. For a proposal to amend the constitution to be initially considered, it first requires a vote of the Senate to form a Constitutional Amendment Committee (CAC). To be approved, the Senate vote requires a quorum of the Senate as established per the

Bylaws with a simple majority approval. If approved, the proposal will go to an All Residential Faculty vote for approval.

2. To be approved, the subsequent Residential Faculty vote on the formation of the CAC requires at least half of the Residential Faculty voting with a two-thirds majority approval.
3. Once the CAC formation has been approved, the Faculty Senate President will appoint a minimum of three Residential Faculty members to be on the CAC. The CAC will write a proposed amended Constitution.
4. The proposed amended Constitution shall be submitted to the Senate for approval. To be approved, the subsequent Senate vote requires a quorum of the Senate as established per the Bylaws with a two-thirds majority approval. If approved, the amended Constitution will go to an All Residential Faculty vote for approval.
5. To be approved, the subsequent Residential Faculty vote on the proposed amended Constitution requires at least half of the Residential Faculty voting with a two-thirds majority approval.
6. This constitution shall become effective by a simple majority vote of the Senate taken electronically and anonymously.