

PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of participatory governance at Oxnard College is to achieve effective participation by all constituencies where all participants are trained in meeting processes and collegial and civil behavior is assured. Governance offers a transparent process by which equity-minded and student-focused decision-making takes place by shared leadership actively seeking recommendations on the best way forward with any given issue or opportunity. By doing so, a decision made by the college president will be one that participants can trust was made in full consideration of the opinions expressed by the college's area experts and constituencies.

As a state-funded institution, Oxnard College also has a duty to serve the public good and to be judicious in spending public funds. Effective participation by all constituencies in participatory governance serves this purpose by ensuring good planning and transparency.

Effective participatory governance will allow the college to formulate strategic decisions by the effective participation of all constituency groups (faculty members, classified professionals, students, and administrators). Through participatory governance, the college can maximize institutional effectiveness with a student-focused, equity-based process that creates a culture of participatory and broad leadership. Effective governance requires participation, dialogue, and equity.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **PARTICIPATION:** Constituency representation and active and effective participation in the assigned governance process will ensure Oxnard College will develop and implement policies and practices that produce shared benefit to the college community. All participatory governance meetings are open to guests and have time allotted for public comments. To encourage consistent participation, meeting chairs are discouraged from rescheduling meetings, as this affects the ability of members and guests to attend, especially students and faculty members.
2. **DIALOGUE:** At Oxnard College, governance dialogue is the process of individuals exchanging ideas through civil discussions designed to achieve mutual understanding. A commitment to transparency, equity, civility, mutual respect, and collegial behavior by all participants is essential to achieving consensus.
3. **EQUITY:** Governance achieves purpose when the process leads to identification of data-informed strategies, solutions, and/or recommendations that advance Oxnard College in the direction of equity-minded, student-centered goals. In this context, equity is achieved through active participation by constituency representatives in dialogue that produces meaningful consensus and a way forward.