



#### Standard 2.A.4

The institution's decision-making structures and processes, which are documented and publicly available, must include provisions for the consideration of the views of faculty, staff, administrators, and students on matters in which each has a direct and reasonable interest.

**Team Verification: Compliant**

**Evidence:**

- Institutional governance policies and procedures (see 2.A.1) **\_Y\_**

**Rationale:**

The institution's constitution specifies representation in the University Senate for statutory faculty, non-tenure track research faculty, classified staff, officers of administration, students, and librarians. While the institution is in compliance with this standard, the panel raised concerns about the adequacy of representation in the University Senate—especially with regard to student representation. Undergraduates have five senators, but graduate and law students appeared to have none.

#### Standard 2.B.1

Within the context of its mission and values, the institution adheres to the principles of academic freedom and independence that protect its constituencies from inappropriate internal and external influences, pressures, and harassment.

**Team Verification: Needs Improvement**

**Evidence:**

- Academic freedom policies and procedures (evidence could include samples of negotiated agreements with faculty and/or staff, where appropriate) **\_Y\_**
- Evidence that the students also have academic freedom **\_N\_**

**Rationale:**

The institution provided its Academic Freedom policy for faculty; Article 5 from its collective bargaining agreement for faculty which details academic freedom, free speech, and responsibilities of faculty; and a 2021 statement from academic leadership reiterating the importance of academic freedom for faculty. The institution also provided its 2010 Freedom of Inquiry and Free Speech policy which applies to faculty, staff, students, and visitors. The academic freedom policies and statements are more recent than the 2010 policy, and the academic freedom policies explicitly apply to faculty, but their application to students is unclear.

#### Standard 2.B.2

Within the context of its mission and values, the institution defines and actively promotes an environment that supports independent thought in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. It affirms the freedom of faculty, staff, administrators, and students to share their scholarship and reasoned conclusions with others. While the institution and individuals within the institution may hold to a particular personal, social, or religious philosophy, its constituencies are intellectually free to test and examine all knowledge and theories, thought, reason, and perspectives of truth. Individuals within the institution allow others the freedom to do the same.

**Team Verification: Compliant**

**Rationale:**

In addition to the documentation provided for 2.B.1., the institution provided its policy on Community Standards which affirms the institution's commitment to advance knowledge in an environment of respect that honors the rights, safety, and dignity of each person. The policy also reaffirms that institution's commitment to freedom of thought and expression.

#### Standard 2.C.1

The institution's transfer-of-credit policy maintains the integrity of its programs and facilitates the efficient mobility of students desirous of the completion of their educational credits, credentials, or degrees in furtherance of their academic goals.

**Team Verification: Compliant**

**Evidence:**

- Transfer of credit policies and procedures **\_Y\_**

**Rationale:**

The institution provided policies related to transfer of postsecondary credit earned during high school, credit hours earned in community colleges, and through alternative methods (e.g., AP, IB, and CLEP among others). The institution maintains a webpage with useful information about transferring credit to (and from) the institution. For example, the page includes the transfer equivalency database, so students seeking to transfer can understand what institutional courses their previous coursework can satisfy as well as information about reverse transfer, so students can transfer institutional credit to one of four community colleges in fulfillment of associate's degree requirements.

#### Standard 2.C.2

The institution's policies and procedures related to student rights and responsibilities should include, but not be limited to, provisions related to academic honesty, conduct, appeals, grievances, and accommodations for persons with disabilities.