The CSU Academic Senate is the “principal academic body of the University”. It is the custodian of the traditional values of academia in the areas of scholarship, academic discourse, collegiality and scholarly debate and is a key place “where issues affecting academic life can be discussed, and, if necessary, challenged”.

It provides an important venue for both staff and student involvement in academic decision-making and upholds the voice and the interests of the Academy in a tripartite relationship of Senate and Council; the Vice-Chancellor and Senior Executive.

The Academic Senate has four functions:
- Governance — providing a framework for carrying out the functions of the Academy;
- Management and Maintenance of Academic Regulations — the authority to develop, implement, monitor and review the administration of academic processes in the University;
- Maintenance of Academic Standards — responsibility for assuring the quality of academic activities; and
- Communication within the Institution — it is the body that is responsible for facilitating debate of academic issues within the University.

It is the policy-maker, gate-keeper/QA and academic voice of the institution.

Many of you may feel that you have little direct contact with Academic Senate but Committees such as the Board of Graduate Studies, Learning and Teaching, Research Management, Academic Programs Committee, Faculty Boards, School Boards and Faculty and School Assessment Committees are all part of Senate.

Senate is keen to take a more pro-active role as the agenda-setter in the academic sphere. To achieve this outcome we need to hear from you.

How can you do this? Firstly, ensure that your representatives on Senate, Faculty and School Boards are bringing information back to you. Secondly, provide feedback to those representatives and most importantly, tell us your ideas via your School or Faculty Boards etc.

For too long we have responded to external agendas. Academic Senate must lead the academic agenda and this can only be achieved via YOUR input.
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

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