

**Board of Trustees
Resolution on Internal Governance
June 27, 2017**

Whereas

**Background and Context:
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Disruption of the governance and administrative functioning of the College during recent years was brought into sharper focus by two visiting teams of evaluators representing the institution's accrediting agency, the Middle States Commission (MSC). The reports by the MSC teams, in April and November 2016, determined that the College does not meet the standards for accreditation in the areas of Leadership and Governance (Standard 4) and Administration (Standard 5).

While the Board and the College have taken actions and set in place mechanisms to resolve most of the deficiencies identified by the evaluators, the following excerpts from the reports identify problems with governance that remain unresolved:

“Stemming from interviews, and following a review of the NCCFT faculty contract, the Academic Senate Bylaws, SUNY regulations, and College Policy, the team feels that the interpretation of these documents, now and over the past decade, serves as the source of confusion leading to the negative climate that now exists,” (April 2016, p.12)

“A review of documentation, and confirmed in interviews with administrators, faculty, the Board of Trustees, the President, the President’s Cabinet, the Academic Senate Executive Committee and students that the Academic Senate, through its 27 committees, is the driving entity for a large array of policy decisions,” (April 2016, p.12)

“This section of the NCCFT contract (Section 20) and the Academic Senate Bylaws appear to conflict with Article II: Procedure of the Academic Senate Bylaws,” (April 2016, p.13)

“These statements (from Article II of the Academic Senate Bylaws), along with the complex process for Presidential veto and Academic Senate veto override have coalesced to form a difficult process for effective and efficient policy making decisions to occur on campus,” (April 2016, p.13)

“The College must complete a formal review of the roles & responsibilities and authority of all constituencies and staff of the College, including but not limited to issues of policy creation/revision, policy final approvals, and policy implementation. The results of this review must be clearly communicated to all constituencies of the college,” (April 2016, p.14)

“While Board Policy 1200 has been approved, at the time of this visit it has yet to be fully operationalized. The College must continue to move forward, with each constituency group embracing their roles and responsibilities as outlined,” (November 2016, p.10)

“The College must provide evidence of adequate information and decision-making systems to support the work of administrative leaders,” (November 2016, p.11),

These passages and charges from the MSC visiting teams' reports refer to the formal basis of governance, and to organizational documents within the College, including the Board of Trustees policies, collective bargaining agreement and the Bylaws of the Academic Senate. A particular point of concern in the MSC directives to the College is to define the “. . . roles & responsibilities and authority of all constituencies and staff of the College.”

Governance of community colleges, and the roles of the Board of Trustees, the President and faculty, are contained in New York State Education Law 6306 and New York State Education Regulations (8 NYCRR sections 600-605).

The “Responsibilities and duties of the college trustees” are defined in 8 NYCRR 604.2. In conformance with this section of regulations, the Board of Trustees at its meeting of October 2016 adopted revisions and updates of its Bylaws, contained in the “Board Policy 1200, Rules of Procedure.” This action

decision lodged in the governing board or delegated