## Chaffey Community College District Classified Senate Shared Governance Statement

## **Mission**

"The Classified Senate's mission is to provide Classified Professionals with a formal participatory voice in supporting the College's mission, vision, core values and promoting a successful learning environment for students." As an integral part of the college community, the Classified Senate shall actively contribute to the growth and success of the College.

## **Purpose and Role**

The Chaffey College Classified Senate is a permanent organization originally sanctioned by the Governing Board in 1982. It shall be the purpose of Classified Senate to participate in the governance of Chaffey College; to actively collect, evaluate, and disseminate information and represent the collective interests of Classified Professionals before or on any governance or college committee. Responsibilities of the Classified Senate shall be as follows:

- A. Provide the Classified Professionals with a formal participatory voice in shared governance supporting the College's mission, vision and core values, and participation in the initiation, development, and evaluation of District policy, and procedures;
- B. To provide communication, understanding, and mutual support among the Classified Professionals;
- C. Select representatives from its membership to serve on appropriate college-wide standing committees and any other committees deemed necessary by the college governance structure;
- D. To communicate Classified Professionals needs, concerns, viewpoints and recommendations on college issues to the superintendent/president and governing board;
- E. To articulate the professionalism of Classified Professionals so that they are properly recognized and valued;
- F. Provide an opportunity to develop individual leadership among the Classified Professionals, as well as increase the professional standards of its members; and,
- G. Lead and participate in fundraising to benefit Classified Professional growth opportunities and provide opportunities which encourage social responsibility and community involvement through giving and actively participating in community outreach efforts both on and off campus.

## **Philosophy**

With collaboration between and among the key constituencies within the college, the formation and improvement of the college committees and councils requires that we operate under the following governing principles toward a shared set of goals:

- A. "A Foundation of Trust" entails a number of factors including truth-telling, candid communications, genuine listening, accountability, and consistency. In a climate of trust, we can depend on one another to work toward the mission and goals of the college. We also have the right to expect the best from one another and to hold one another to the highest standards of ethical professionalism.
- B. "Joint Effort" requires a sense of ownership and acceptance of responsibility to participate in matters affecting the direction of the college. Ideally this principle facilitates as much participation as is reasonable and appropriate, given the scope and significance of the matter at hand, and is based on the key assumptions that:
  - 1. Contribution from all constituencies is essential to the democratic process in the governance of the college, with recognition of differences in levels of authority, responsibility, expertise and perspective.
  - 2. Issues and proposals can be initiated at any level of the college.
- C. "Transparency" is demonstrated with effective communication of the content and rationale of the decision making process. If shared governance is valued in the college, then an informed and engaged community of discourse is necessary. Decision making must entail genuine opportunities both to persuade and to be persuaded. When effective communication conveys decisions that have been reached and identifies the reasons for which these decisions have been made, both the decisions themselves and the processes involved should be open to assessment, review and judgment.

In addition, we affirm that the aims or goals of this collaborative process of shared governance must be:

- To advance the mission, vision, and strategic goals of the college
- To promote a healthy sense of community
- To recognize the domains of authority and responsibility of various entities and individuals

To strive for continuous improvement and a culture of active participation

Dr. Henry D. Shannon Superintendent/President

**Classified Senate President** 

**CSEA President** 

Dean Jennings

January 8, 2008