

# WCC Academic Senate Community Norms\*

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**These norms are to guide how we the members of the WCC Academic Senate shall conduct ourselves in leadership roles as we serve the college and faculty.**

## Authenticity

- Commit to being your authentic, truthful self.
- Be honest. Speak truthfully and ensure that your words and actions match.
- Allow others to speak their truth and listen without prejudice as they do.
- Listen with respect as others speak. Be informed by what they say.
- Be open to alternatives or ideas and share the air to allow time for others to speak.

## Practice Self-Awareness, Presence, and Patience

- Be mindful of your own possible assumptions or biases, reflect on them, and set them aside. Forgive someone if they fall short or express bias.
- Be positive and respectful when speaking of others (e.g., if the person heard what you said would it be hurtful)
- Forgive yourself if you need to stop, rewind, and change your mind.
- Practice patience when others dig deeper or change their minds.
- Be mindful when communicating. Be mindful of behaviors that may appear to be a micro-aggression and passive aggressive behaviors.
- Recognize your potential attachment to issues. Bring options and interests to the group for discussion and be open to other possibilities.
- Be mindful of your role as a representative of constituents.

## Collegiality, Criticism, and Feedback

- Honor experience, knowledge, and the diversity of our perspectives
- Critique, with respect and humility, not maliciousness
- When an issue or conflict arises, engage individuals directly to resolve the issue or conflict.
- Support others to find a positive way to express concerns or conflict and to find resolution.
- Be a trusted ally who can be a sounding board and will help you redirect negativity into positive action.
- Recognize that we are more than one opinion or position and avoid labeling or stereotyping someone based on past decisions or opinions

## Honor the Space and the Dedication of the Senate

- Give thought and attention to innovative ideas during a meeting and avoid making rapid decisions or reacting to an idea too quickly or derisively.
- Come to each meeting prepared (e.g. reviewing all accompany documents and seeking input from constituencies prior to the meeting)
- Establish clarity between what comments should be kept in confidence and what can be expressed outside the meeting. Respect that shared expectation of privacy.
- Acknowledge and celebrate the work of all of the WCC Academic Senators
- Praise publicly and provide constructive criticism and other critique privately.