



**GOVERNANCE**

*2011-2012*

Active student participation is a central aspect of the governance system at Messiah College. The Student Government Association (SGA) appoints students to membership on standing committees of the College.

### **COLLEGE COUNCIL**

The College Council consists of representatives from every College constituency. The Council makes recommendations to the President who is charged with making the final decision or final recommendation to the Board regarding issues such as strategic plan, institutional facilities initiatives and priorities, annual budget parameters and budget, salary and benefits, personnel policies and procedures, substantive issues of College image and marketing, new non-curricular and non-cocurricular College programs and initiatives which significantly impact the College's basic philosophy and mission and/or significantly impact the allocation of financial and staffing resources. The SGA President and the SGA Vice President of Finance participate in this Council.

### **COLLEGE COMMITTEES**

The following councils and committees all have student representation, with voting privileges:

#### **Academic Council**

The Academic Council proposes academic policies and programs and advises on academic matters and administrative issues related to the academic program. A subcommittee of the Academic Council reviews student academic petitions and appeals. The SGA Vice President of Educational Programs serves on the Academic Council.

#### **Admissions and Financial Aid Committee**

The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee develops policies for student enrollment and financial aid. One student is appointed by SGA.

#### **Cocurricular Education Council**

The Cocurricular Education Council develops and periodically reviews the College's philosophy of cocurricular education in the context of College mission and identity, College-wide educational objectives, and cocurricular principles and suggests changes. Two students are appointed by SGA.

#### **College Review Board**

This Board serves as a subcommittee of the Community Standards Committee. Its responsibilities include the handling of all student disciplinary matters involving major or repeated violations and all appeals from other hearing bodies under the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook. The two students appointed by SGA to the Community Standards Committee also serve as members of this Board.

**Community of Educators Senate**

The Community of Educators Senate is comprised of representatives from each constituent group of the Community of Educators. The Community of Educators Senate is a representative body with the authority to act on behalf of the Community of Educators. Among the responsibilities are curricular changes in existing curricular programs, curricular structure for general education, curricular policies, cocurricular policies, admissions requirements, graduation requirements, approval of College graduates. Membership includes one student approved by the SGA with voice but no vote.

**Community Involvement Advisory Committee**

The Community Involvement Advisory Committee develops and periodically reviews strategies for organizing and disseminating information about community involvement to the broader Messiah community administrators, faculty, staff and students. This committee also provides counsel to faculty and students needing assistance with community based program initiatives. One student is appointed by SGA.

**Community Standards Committee**

The Community Standards Committee develops and reviews major changes in student behavioral standards and policies that support the Community Covenant and advance a campus ethos consistent with institutional mission. A subcommittee of this group serves as the College Review Board, which handles student disciplinary matters involving major or repeated violations. Two students are appointed by SGA.

**Curriculum Committee**

The Curriculum Committee reviews curricular requirements and courses for approved new academic programs and approves changes for all curricular programs. One student is appointed by SGA.

**Educational Technology Committee**

The Educational Technology Committee develops and maintains a philosophy and strategic plan for educational technology. It responds in an advisory fashion to proposals for major changes in services provided to faculty, students, and/or the College as a whole by Information Technology Services. Two students are appointed by SGA.

**First-Year Experience Committee**

The First-Year Experience Committee provides oversight to the purpose, objectives, and programs associated with the first college year. The committee reviews curricular and cocurricular strategies to ensure a smooth transition from high school to the first college year and to ensure that all first-year students begin the process of understanding what it means to be an educated person according to the institution's mission and values. One sophomore student is appointed by the Vice Provost/Dean of Students.

**The Gender Concerns Committee**

The Gender Concerns Committee educates, encourages, and empowers students and employees to become agents for change and transformation concerning gender issues on campus and beyond. Three students—one male and two females—are appointed by SGA.

**General Education Committee**

The General Education Committee reviews the structure, courses, and guidelines for the general education program. The committee also reviews appeals from students regarding the satisfaction of curricular requirements. One student is appointed by SGA.

**Information Technology Committee**

The Information Technology Committee recommends additions and modifications to policies related to information technology. One student is appointed by SGA.

**International Student Advisory Committee**

The International Student Advisory Committee reviews and addresses special needs that international students may encounter at the College. The Student President of ISA/MuKappa serves on this committee.

**Library Committee**

The Library Committee develops policies relative to acquisition and use of library materials, library services, and conduct in the library. Two students are appointed by SGA.

**The Messiah Justice Panel**

The Messiah Justice Panel is composed of trusted, accessible, and sympathetic members of the community trained to serve as mediators. Their goal is to protect and counsel any member of the College who feels personally pressured or uncomfortable because of the behavior of another College member. The panel provides a safe, impartial, non-adversarial setting in which the issue can be considered or resolved through confidential counseling and, when requested, mediation between the complainant and the alleged harasser. The panel thus provides guidance and protection for both the accuser and the accused. Panel members become a link through which the College can take account of, and take appropriate action against, those on campus who behave irresponsibly and illegally. The Justice Panel acts in a timely fashion as a protective and compassionate arm of the College; it not only sensitizes and educates the College community, but it also demonstrates the College's commitment to all members of this community. Members of the panel are appointed by the president and include a student member who is appointed for one year, with the possibility of reappointment.

**The Oakes Museum Committee**

The Oakes Museum Committee reviews the Museum's mission statement, policies, programming and outcomes, and proposes appropriate modifications and serves in an advisory capacity to the Museum Director. One student with a major in the Department of Biological Sciences is appointed by the department chair.

**Peace and Conflict Studies Committee**

The Peace and Conflict Studies Committee reviews the mission and goals of the Peace and Conflict Studies Initiative and establishes criteria for developing and recommending elective courses for the peace and conflict studies minor. Two students are appointed by the director of The Sider Institute.

**Racial Justice and Multicultural Education Committee (MICAH)**

The Racial Justice and Multicultural Education Committee develop recommendations for programs and policies of benefit to people of color and to our College mission of reconciliation. Student representation on this committee is determined by positions held in the Student Government Association.

**Sophomore Experience Committee**

The Sophomore Experience Committee provides oversight to the purpose, objectives, and programs associated with the sophomore year at Messiah College. The Sophomore Experience Committee reviews curricular and cocurricular strategies to help students develop an understanding of one's identity and vocation; assist students in gaining knowledge of one specific major or discipline and to encourage purposeful selection of cocurricular involvement experiences. The committee will also promote a successful transition from the First Year Experience to the Sophomore Year. One sophomore student is appointed by the Vice Provost/Dean of Students.

**Sustainability Committee**

The Sustainability Committee provides oversight and direction for sustainability initiatives at the College and ensures that the requirements of the President's Climate Commitment are met. They develop information and talking points that tell the story of the College's work on sustainability for various groups to use and also review and maintain the Sustainability website. Two student representatives serve on the committee representing Earth Keepers and Agape Center Sustainable Agriculture.

**Teacher Education Committee**

The Teacher Education Committee develops policies relative to all areas of teacher certification. One student is appointed by the Messiah College Education Association.

**Upper Class Experience Committee**

The Upper Class Experience Committee provides oversight to the purpose, objectives, and programs associated with the junior and senior year at Messiah College. The committee reviews curricular and cocurricular strategies to ensure a smooth transition to post-college life and to ensure that all students consider living a life beyond the campus in accord with the institution's mission and values. Two junior and/or senior class members are appointed by the Vice Provost/Dean of Students.

**COMMUNITY OF EDUCATORS**

The Community of Educators consists of educators whose primary role is to directly help students attain the College-Wide Educational Objectives through curricular and cocurricular programming or who supervise those having this primary role. Members of the Community of Educators, who have at least a Master's degree, include faculty (term-tenure track faculty, clinical track faculty, lecturers, librarians, and curricular administrators) and cocurricular educators (professionals in Athletics, College Ministries, Counseling, Residence Life, Community Development, Multicultural Programs, and Student Programs). Educational means devoted to helping students attain these objectives can be categorized into curricular and cocurricular programming, with curricular programs defined as those that lead to academic credit for the students and cocurricular programs being defined as programs that do not lead to academic credit. Recognizing the complementary and mutually enriching nature of these two types of programming, it is nevertheless important, for the purposes of governance, to make a functional distinction between educators primarily involved with curricular programs and educators primarily involved with cocurricular programming.