

What is our committee charge?

Charge

The Curriculum Committee is a standing governance committee that functions as a vital subcommittee of the Academic Senate. The primary **purpose of this committee** is to ensure that curriculum is consistent with the mission of the college, addresses the needs of students and the community, and **meets the requirements of law and regulation**. Curriculum includes programs of study (degrees and certificates) and individual courses. As such, it must **support strong transfer and vocational programs and include a strong general education program** as the foundation upon which students will build.

- Oversees origination, modification, deletion, and review of all curriculum, including all elements of both programs of study (degrees and certificates) and individual courses in an ongoing systematic review process.
- Independently evaluates requests for prerequisites and advisories in accordance with Title 5 regulation.
- Independently evaluates requests for Distant Education in accordance with Title 5 regulation.
- Evaluates requests for General Education and articulation.
- Develops and implements procedures to assure an effective means of facilitating the curriculum review process while adhering to the requirements of law and regulation.

What is district policy related to classroom privileges and students' rights to education?

4B11C The discussion of controversial issues in the classroom is essential to the development of informed and responsible citizens. Instructors are to be encouraged to provide opportunities for the development of clear thinking, balanced judgment, intelligent choices, and an understanding of the methods and devices of propaganda.

In such activities, instructors shall emphasize loyalty to the United States, the importance of good citizenship, and vigilance in protecting our freedom and **shall refrain from using classroom privileges to promote partisan politics**, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda of any kind.

Continued.

Using college policy and state statutes as a baseline, can we explain how this program's aims don't facilitate a certain political value system to certain political ends?

The César Chávez Leadership Certificate is designed to introduce students to leadership through the study of the leadership style of César Chávez, California's farmworker movement, and various historical landmarks in the Bakersfield College service region. Since the late 19th century, the southern San Joaquin Valley has been home to migrant agricultural workers from across the globe who have come from varying racial/ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The establishment of the César E. Chávez national monument in Keene, California, marked the significance of this local history within the southern San Joaquin Valley. This program is designed to promote student learning through public history engagement related to local historical landmarks associated with César Chávez and the farm worker movement. The program is also designed to accelerate historical thinking for student participants, as well as promote civic and humanities engagement and the studying historic leadership in the area of labor and civil rights for migrant farm workers. To achieve the Certificate of Completion: To complete this noncredit Certificate of Completion, a passing "P" grade must be earned in all required courses.

Remarks:

It is great to see so many people here today, especially if you are here because of the César E. Chávez Leadership Certificate. Your interests and those of the Curriculum Committee are aligned.

Since 1913, BC has focused on providing education that our community values.

Today we offer:

- 37 classes that examine the contributions Chávez and the UFW, 14 of these are available online
- All 37 of these classes may be audited at no charge
- We have 2 of these classes taught in our Delano campus
- We also have an existing procedure for field trips

If you are here because info was shared that our Curriculum Committee or I want to cancel the class on Chávez and UFW, you have unfortunately been misled.

The majority of the committee voted to modify the course so it can be approved.

As the lead author to the curriculum admitted to several of the members of the administration – the purpose of the vote was to provide feedback so the class could be approved.

The lead author's proxy to the Oct 6th meeting confirmed my own opening statement in his public comments that "the histories of Chávez and the UFW are important and must be taught".

I really want to stress this – the intent of the committee is to approve the class so the importance of Chávez and UFW can be taught.

Multiple committee members worked over the weekend to expedite feedback so the course authors would know the options to create a class that can be approved.

Why inaccurate info was shared is puzzling to me.

A little background info on the Curriculum Committee - one of our primary responsibilities involves ensuring that the classes BC provides are educational, worth the time students invest, and compliant with all applicable policies.

How can this type of review be a negative for our students?

Unfortunately, it seems this has been twisted with some faculty creating a different public narrative. Perhaps this was to intimidate committee members into passing the curriculum with few minor edits. Insinuating, "vote yes" or someone will paint you as racist to both the campus and the public. Vote yes, or you could be the next one maligned in the press for "tapping into deeper darker sentiments." I leave it to you to delve into the purpose of that language.

Again, we are trying to get the curriculum approved.

We provided the guidance to achieve it. The question is why most of the guidance was dismissed. Instead of making edits, the community was misled into thinking we're blocking the course.

Additionally, those internal committee documents with suggestions were leaked to the press and then published. And then the intent of the recommended edits was misconstrued. Why provide this info when the goal of getting the course approved was known by the very people who leaked it?

The charge of the Curriculum Committee is to ensure the classes at BC are objective, balanced, and educational. With the current proposed class rejecting the recommended edits of the committee, unfortunately this class isn't. The lead creator of the class knows what is required and rejected it. Why?

Let's engage in a quick thought experiment. Looking at the program description, let's substitute Ronald Reagan and neo-conservatives for Chavez and the UFW? Would you be ok providing a certificate and training in the leadership speeches and tracts of Reagan and neo conservatives with the aim of teaching them leadership and civic engagement? What if we substitute Trump and MAGA? Newt Gingrich and Contract with America?

You may not have noticed, but two of our colleagues are unfortunately not here today. Who can blame them based on the environment today? Sadly, I've been asked to either abstain or vote in favor of curriculum that adopted few of the suggested edits multiple committee members advised.

What is the lesson here?

- Ignore the educational focus of what BC has stood for 100+ years?

- Willing, knowingly disregard the very standards the school and state designed to educate our students?
- Don't question the content of any classes and approve everything?
- Obey and comply or face destruction of your reputation and endure threats to your livelihood?

In our environment, Character and conscience are a terrible thing to have. And hopefully it's not dangerous to have them. Do we, everyone involved in this, have them?