WATC GOVERNANCE

Wichita Area Technical College uses a formal process that integrates planning, budgeting, and problem solving into a single committee and is the framework for the college’s participatory decision-making process. This committee is called the Leadership Council. The Leadership Council offers advice to the President on WATC policy and procedural matters, on creation of the general fund budget, and has the responsibility of advising the President on aligning the budget recommendations with the college’s Strategic Plan.

The Leadership Council does not involve itself in:

- curriculum issues
- individual salary, benefits, and reassignment decisions
- individual Division and Department budget decisions
- negotiated working conditions of faculty

This governance structure is in conjunction with the Transition Plan approved by the Kansas Board of Regents which specifies that employees of WATC will continue to be subject to the Professional Negotiations Act (PNA) or the Public Employer Employees Relations Act (PEERA) regarding collective bargaining and that WATC administration will support the continued right of WATC employees to engage in collective bargaining after separation. Working conditions of faculty will be determined exclusively through the bargaining process of the Faculty Negotiations Team and the Management Team subject to the approval of the President. If the Negotiations/Management Team chooses to negotiate compensation and benefits, the agreed upon package must be introduced as a Budget Initiative and proceed through the established budget process of the Leadership Council.

The Leadership Council is comprised of:

- Two full-time faculty elected at large by their peers
- Two full-time classified staff elected at large by their peers
- One adjunct faculty selected by the President from among three nominees from the Faculty Council
- Vice President for Academic and Learner Services
- Chief Financial Officer
- Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness
- Director of Human Resources
- Faculty Council President
- Executive Director of Technology and Operations
- A student representative appointed by the President

All are welcome to attend the Leadership Council meetings should their schedules permit. Public members are welcomed to speak at the invitation of a Council member.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to participate in the decision-making processes at WATC by providing input to their Leadership Council representative(s)
regarding any college matter that concerns them. The Leadership Council will distribute a list of current representatives to all faculty and staff at the beginning of each academic year. If the President does not accept the recommendation of the Leadership Council he/she will provide reasons for that decision.

**BUDGETING**

By February 1 of each year, the Chief Financial Officer will prepare a Base Budget as it pertains to general fund dollars. The Base Budget is defined as the previous year’s budget adjusted to reflect mandated changes. The Base Budget may also include recommended savings based on previous budget history.

Once the Base Budget has been established, the Leadership Council begins deliberations on the additions or subtractions to the Base Budget in preparation of the new budget. Changes to the Base Budget occur through an initiative process. Only a member of the Leadership Council may submit/sponsor an initiative (on a form prescribed) by March 1 for consideration. During March, the Leadership Council holds hearings on the initiatives. By April 1, the Leadership Council submits to the college, in rank order, the list of initiatives from highest to lowest priority.

After receiving feedback from the college, the Leadership Council presents its final rankings of initiatives to the President. After considering the recommendations of the Leadership Council, and considering the funding levels prescribed by the Legislature, the President presents the final budget (the Base Budget plus initiatives) to the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority Board for approval. Initiatives not funded may be re-submitted during the next budget cycle for consideration.

Should additional resources become available during the budget year, the President may, after informing the Leadership Council, fund additional initiatives.