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Research Briefs from Crafton Hills Office of Research and Planning

**PARTICIPATION BY STUDENT LEADERS IN GOVERNANCE 2009/2010**

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**Overview:** The 2008 Accreditation Evaluation Report recommended that “The college should...establish more widespread participation by...students” in the college’s governance structures and processes, such as shared governance committees. As a result, Crafton Hills College (CHC) Student Leaders have been asked to participate in shared-governance, advisory, steering, or planning committees, councils, or other governance groups during the 2009-2010 academic year both at the College and District.

**Methodology:** In an effort to obtain feedback from CHC Student Leaders regarding their experiences as representatives in shared-governance groups, a paper survey was administered during a regularly scheduled Associated Students meeting. The survey included one multiple choice question asking participants to select the number of governance groups they had personally served on at any time in the 2009-2010 academic year. Following were four questions using a four-point likert scale with choices ranging from *Strongly Agree* to *Strongly Disagree*. These questions asked students to rate their personal experiences while participating on a shared-governance body. In addition, there were five questions using a four-point likert scale with choices ranging from *Strongly Agree* to *Strongly Disagree* asking students to rate their level of agreement with statements about the CHC Student Senate’s overall participation in shared-governance. Finally, there was one open ended question requesting additional suggestions and comments about student participation in governance.

**Sample:** Ten respondents chose to participate in the Student Leaders in Governance Survey at the Associated Students meeting on April 26, 2010.

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RESULTS

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**Findings:** CHC Students Leaders served on a variety of shared-governance, advisory, steering, or planning committees, councils, or other governance groups during the 2009-2010 academic year. Specifically, in Table 1, 90% of the respondents indicated that they had served as a student representative for one or more Crafton or District shared-governance body.

Table 1		
<i>Number of shared-governance groups students participated in during 2009-2010 academic year.</i>	N	%
None	1	10
1	1	10
2	6	60
3	1	10
4	0	0
5 or more	1	10
Total	10	100

Table 2 illustrates that 100% of the respondents *Agreed* or *Strongly Agreed* with all of the statements concerning their overall participation in the governance group(s) on which they served. Moreover, 67% of the respondents strongly agreed that they felt comfortable contributing ideas and that they learned a lot about how things work at the College and District.

Table 2	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
I feel comfortable contributing ideas	6	67	3	33	0	0	0	0
My ideas are treated with respect even though people may not agree with them	5	56	4	44	0	0	0	0
I have learned a lot about how things work at my College and/or the District	6	67	3	33	0	0	0	0
I have had sufficient opportunities to provide input to the governance group(s) on which I have served.	5	56	4	44	0	0	0	0

Student leader’s thoughts about their participation in Student Senate discussions and actions regarding important issues facing the college can be seen in Table 3. One hundred percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with all of the statements related to the Student Senate’s overall participation in College governance during the 2009-2010 academic year. For instance, the majority of respondents (89%) strongly agreed that the CHC Student Senate has had sufficient opportunities to provide input on important issues facing the College.

Table 3	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The Student Senate has felt comfortable contributing to discussions of College issues	7	78	2	22	0	0	0	0
The Student Senate’s ideas are treated with respect, whether or not others agree with them	3	33	6	67	0	0	0	0
The Student Senate has been kept well informed about important issues facing the college	4	44	5	56	0	0	0	0
The Student Senate has had sufficient opportunities to provide input on important issues facing the College	8	89	1	11	0	0	0	0
Students’ interests are adequately represented in discussions and decisions regarding important issues facing the College	5	56	4	44	0	0	0	0

When respondents were asked to provide additional suggestions and comments about the student participation in governance at Crafton Hills College or at the District level, one respondent chose to do so, proposing the following suggestion;

- Provide a rubric of all the committees on campus and at the District at the beginning of fall semester so we can place students on the committees as soon as possible.