I. NAME
A. The name shall be Saint Mary’s College of California Staff Council.

II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
A. The Staff Council (Council) shall exist to contribute to the mission of Saint Mary’s College of California (College), to the growth and welfare of its staff employees, and to the promotion of a positive and supportive work environment. As a constituent organization, along with the President’s Cabinet, Academic Senate, and the Associated Students, the Council shall operate as a recognized member of the College governance system to provide a forum for open communication and on-going dialogue among staff and between staff and administration. The Council shall be a consultative and deliberative body with authority to make recommendations on all matters which have a significant bearing on the working environment of the staff. The Council will serve as the official nominating body for staff appointments to College administrative committees, and for other task forces and search committees as requested.

III. DEFINITION OF STAFF
A. Any employee who is not the President of the College, the Provost, a Vice President, a Vice Provost, or represented by the Academic Senate who is a member of the faculty but whose primary function is staff services, is considered staff. For purposes of clarification, also excluded are independent contractors, volunteers, interns, and temporary employees. The employment experience at the College varies considerably from one job title and area to another. Therefore, members of the Council should represent the broad range and perspectives required to properly address the concerns of all staff and should include proportional representation from each Administrative functional area: the President’s, the Provost’s, and each of the Vice-President and Vice-Provost areas.

IV. DEFINITION OF STAFF COUNCIL
A. Composition of Council
   a. The Council will be comprised of proportional representation from each Administrative area, totaling 15 constituent representatives (members) and the Chair for a total of 16 members. Representation is subject to review on an annual basis and is to be completed prior to the election process of the current year. The President of the College, the Vice President for Finance, the Chair of the Committee for Staff Activities, and the Past Chair of the Council are non-voting ex-officio members of the Council.
   b. In the event a Council member takes a new position at the College in a different administrative area and that area has adequate representation, then the staff will be considered an At-Large member.
B. Duties and Responsibilities
   a. To inform staff about campus matters vital to their interests.
   b. To foster an effective two-way communication link between staff and the administration.
   c. To advise and consult with the Vice President for Finance on issues of concern to the staff.
   d. To encourage participation of all staff in College activities and in campus life in general.
   e. To recognize and promote the contribution of staff to the College.
   f. To invite feedback from the staff on the effectiveness of staff policies and strategic initiatives.

C. Attendance
   a. Meetings of the Council may be called during regular working campus hours, and the members shall be excused from their work duties in order to attend these meetings. Meetings of the Council shall include both the Executive Session and the Open Forum meetings.
   b. Any member who misses three (3) meetings per fiscal year without cause shall be considered to have resigned as a representative. A Member who expects to miss a Council meeting must notify the Secretary prior to the meeting, barring illness or emergency. If a member will be absent for more than two (2) consecutive meetings, he or she must notify the Chair or the Chair-Elect.

V. ELECTION OF MEMBERS
   A. Elections and Voting in General
      a. A simple majority of votes cast, except where otherwise stated in the bylaws, determines the results of all elections, mail or e-mail ballots, and votes taken at meetings.

   B. Nomination and Election Procedures
      a. Any staff member of the College may nominate another staff member for election to the Council. Nominees must have worked for the College for at least one (1) year as of July 1 to be eligible for nomination and/or to be elected to the Council.
      b. Those staff members who have pre-existing voting privileges on another College body, including but not limited to the President’s Cabinet, the Provost’s Council, and the Academic Senate, are not eligible for election and may not cast a vote in the election.
      c. Except as noted above, any staff member may nominate him or herself.
      d. The nomination form must be completed and signed by both the nominator and the nominee either electronically or on a paper ballot.
      e. All nomination forms must be received by the Bylaws and Elections Committee no later than one (1) week prior to the beginning of the election period.
      f. The Bylaws and Elections Committee will certify ballots. Ballots together with a brief resume of each nominee will be made available to all staff members.
      g. Any staff member may vote for any nominee according to the proportional number of representatives from each Administrative area.
      h. Members of the Bylaws and Elections Committee who are not candidates for Council positions will tabulate the ballots immediately following the close of the election period.
      i. The newly elected members and their supervisors will be notified by the Chair or his or her delegate following results.
      j. Election results will be announced after the final tabulation.
C. Terms in Office
   a. Each member is elected to a two-year term. Terms will be staggered so that approximately one-half of the Council membership will be elected during any given year. The Chair shall serve a total of three years: one year as a constituent representative, one year as Chair-Elect, and the third year as Chair (a non-voting ex-officio member).

D. Term Limits
   a. Members may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive two-year terms. Members who have served two such terms may not run for immediate re-election but may be nominated for a new term beginning at least one (1) year after the expiration of their previous term.

E. Vacancies
   a. Should a vacancy or vacancies occur on the Council, the runner-up in the most recent election from the same representative Administrative area will be appointed to serve the balance of the term. If the runner-up is unavailable, the Chair may appoint another individual from that Administrative area with assistance from the Bylaws and Elections Committee. The Chair’s appointment is subject to approval by the Council.
   b. In the event that there are no nominations, or an insufficient number of candidates from the applicable Administrative area, the open position may be filled by any qualified staff person appointed by the Council as an At-Large Member. At no time should the Council have more than three (3) At-Large Members, including the Chair.

F. Tie Vote
   a. In the case of a tie vote among the nominees, the tie will be broken by vote of the members at the next scheduled meeting or via e-mail, whichever is most expedient.

VI. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS
A. Officers
   a. The officers of the Council shall be Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

B. Election of Officers
   a. The Chair-Elect shall be elected by the members for a one-year term and will assume the duties of the Chair for the subsequent year. Any member who has completed one (1) year of service on the Council may be elected Chair-Elect (thus, a member of the Council elected Chair-Elect will serve a total of three years).
   b. The officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the incoming and continuing members at a special meeting in May or June. The officers will serve a term of one (1) year beginning July 1.

C. Duties and Responsibilities
   a. The Chair shall:
      i. Preside at all meetings of the Council.
      ii. Serve as official representative of the Council at College functions.
      iii. Meet on a monthly basis with the Vice President for Finance.
iv. Produce an annual report of activities, accomplishments, and concerns of the Council. This report shall be directed to the entire staff of the College.

v. In consultation with the Officers, review reports, petitions, and proposals referred to the Council for possible action to determine whether or not they are in the jurisdiction of the Council and to refer items to the appropriate committees which shall then make recommendations to the members.

vi. Prepare and distribute agendas for all Council meetings.

vii. Upon termination of responsibilities as Chair, serve as an ex-officio non-voting member for one (1) year.

b. The Chair-Elect shall:

i. In the event the Chair is unable to complete the full term to which elected, the Chair-Elect will assume the responsibilities and duties of the Chair (as outlined above). The Chair-Elect will continue on as Chair through his or her full three-year term.

ii. The Chair-Elect shall assist the Chair in matters relating to the annual retreat meetings, program planning, and other duties as assigned by the Chair.

c. The Secretary shall:

i. Serve as Chair in the absence of the Chair and Chair-Elect.

ii. Record the minutes of all Council meetings and distribute these minutes to all members for approval prior to the next meeting.

iii. Perform other duties as assigned by the Chair.

iv. Maintain attendance files of Members and inform the Chair if a member has missed three (3) meetings without cause.

v. If the Secretary is unable to take the minutes, then he/she must arrange for replacement from the Council.

vi. Collect and forward reports and documents (including but not limited to Council meeting minutes, rosters, bylaws, and committee reports) to the College archives on an annual basis.

d. The Treasurer shall:

i. Have responsibility to report on the status of the Council’s finances.

ii. Provide written financial reports at least quarterly to the Council and the Vice President for Finance.

iii. Be responsible for authorization of payments as directed by the Council.

D. Recall of Officers

a. An officer may be recalled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all of the members of the Council at a special meeting called for that purpose.

VII. COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. The Council shall have the power to create Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees as deemed appropriate.

B. All Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees may consist of Council members and/or staff of the College.
C. Standing Committees:
   a. The BYLAWS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE shall draft, propose, and update (after approval by the Council) the bylaws and operating procedures of the Council, as needed. The Committee shall conduct the annual election of members beginning with nominations in March and concluding with results by the end of April. Those seeking re-election to the Council are ineligible to serve on the Committee.
   b. The COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE shall explore, analyze, and evaluate proposals related to salary and benefits, in consultation with the human resources department and the Vice President for Finance.
   c. The STAFF DEVELOPMENT & CLIMATE COMMITTEE shall be responsive to the concerns or needs expressed by members and their constituents and shall recommend actions to address those concerns and needs to the Council. They shall also advise the human resources department and promote policies and activities to ensure new and existing staff become fully familiar with the College’s mission, traditions, and processes. They shall identify and promote opportunities for staff personal and professional growth.
   d. The PAST CHAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be composed of former Chairs of the Council who are still employed by the College. Participation on the Committee will be voluntary and determined annually. Past Chairs need not serve every year to remain eligible to participate on the Committee. Committee members will not be considered to be members of the Council (except for the immediate Past Chair, who retains ex-officio Council membership) nor have voting rights in Council decisions. The Committee will not have any mandatory meetings, but members are encouraged to attend the annual Council retreat. The Committee will serve as a resource to the Council by providing advice on current issues facing the Council. Such advice can be either solicited by the Council or submitted to the Council for consideration by the Committee itself. Members of the Past Chair Committee may be appointed to represent the Council on College committees as necessary and acceptance to serve would be entirely voluntary.

D. Ad Hoc Committees
   a. Ad Hoc Committees shall be formed and used as needed by the Council for specific or immediate problems or needs.

VIII. COMMITTEE FOR STAFF ACTIVITIES
   A. The Council shall collaborate with the COMMITTEE FOR STAFF ACTIVITIES (CSA) to develop and implement educational and community building events that are of interest to the staff.

IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY
   A. Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, or any other parliamentary authority approved by the Council shall govern the Council in all cases to which they are applicable and insofar as they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

X. CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS
   A. At two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members is required for the approval of any proposed amendments to the bylaws.
XI. OPERATING PROCEDURES

A. Operating procedures shall be included as an Appendix to these bylaws. The procedures shall be approved or amended by the vote of a majority of the Council.