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WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROGRAM

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### CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Board believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the District. Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.

For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use is the instructional program:

1. encourages fair presentation and open-mindedness
2. is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry
3. is instigated by curricular design
4. draws upon information and insights from the widest feasible range of resources

No controversial issues may be introduced which have the inherent effect of reflecting adversely upon persons because of their race, sex, color, creed, national origin or ancestry. In the discussion of any issue, a teacher may express his/her personal opinion, but he/she shall identify it as such, and he/she must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

Board approval date: \_\_\_\_\_