

**To:** Shared Governance Council

**From:** Dr. John B. Cook, President

**Action:** **Approval – Student Commencement Regalia Policy (Operational)**

**Date:** January 16, 2025

**Next Steps:** To be shared with STCC Board of Trustee on January 27, 2025

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In accordance with formal enabling by vote of the STCC Board of Trustees (June 27, 2022) regarding shared governance, including clarification of a process by which “high-level” recommendations regarding institutional and operational policy are reviewed, the Shared Governance Council (SGC) has reached consensus regarding establishment of a policy specific to Student Commencement Regalia.

I am pleased to provide endorsement of this policy, which was submitted for SGC review after diligence by the All-Unit Congress. The formalization of this operational policy is approved; no action is needed by Trustees, and implementation will occur starting with Commencement 2025.

**The approved protocol will now state:**

STCC graduates are welcome to wear cords, stoles, and medals representing their achievements and membership in recognized STCC clubs, organizations and student support programs. Students are encouraged to check with their respective club/organization/program to determine if graduation regalia is established and available. Students will be responsible for any fees associated with those items if regalia is not otherwise sponsored/provided by the club/organization/program. Those recognized STCC clubs, organizations and support programs will register their respective stole, cording or medal(s) with the Office of Student Activities & Development; this directory will be maintained by the Division of Student Affairs.

**Background:**

Graduation (Commencement) regalia typically and historically includes a cap with tassel as well as a gown, plus special regalia that denotes certain academic and co-curricular achievement (i.e. those who have achieved an academic honor, or are members of an academic honors society, are entitled to wear special regalia). STCC provides, at no cost to graduating students, their cap with black tassel and gown. Additionally, academic honors tassels (red, silver or gold) are also provided by the college.

With appreciation for committee work and diligence conducted by the All-Unit Congress, which included review by the Student Support Committee in collaboration with Student Affairs, a dedicated effort was made to establish a policy for Student Commencement Regalia. Akin to a registry, the recommendation was formally considered by the Shared Governance Council in

October 2024; final consideration and consensus from the SGC occurred in December 2024 (discussion and engagement with the AUC began Spring Semester 2024).

Additional regalia accessories at STCC have traditionally including stoles, cords, or medals, but did not have a formalized process by which college clubs, organizations and institution-supported programs could establish a directory, or registry, of what would be distributed by way of additional regalia to those participating students. As part of the diligence with this policy, it was also broadly understood and communicated that faculty welcome and support the creative ways students use regalia to celebrate at Commencement.

As part of the policy recommendation vetting, identified additional regalia (stoles/cords) are currently utilized by the following STCC-supported programs and entities:

- Phi Theta Kappa (National Honor Society);
- National Society for Leadership and Success;
- TRIO (Student Support Services - Federal);
- Veteran Students & Veteran's Club;
- Student Government Association (SGA) Leadership;
- Student Ambassadors;
- MILE (Male Initiative for Leadership and Education);
- Lead (Female Leadership and Mentoring).

As part of policy implementation, a given STCC club/organization/program will register Commencement regalia via a Google form on the portal; any questions or inquiries from faculty or staff alike can be directed to the Office of Student Activities & Development.

This policy is aligned to the STCC Strategic Plan and priorities.