



Academic Senate CSU
 401 Golden Shore, Suite 139
 Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

www.calstate.edu/acadsen

May 6, 2013

The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
 California State Senate
 State Capitol, Room 4038
 Sacramento, California 95814-4900

SB 440: OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU), which serves as the official voice of the faculties of the CSU in matters of systemwide concern, I write to report that the ASCSU Executive Committee has voted unanimously to take a formal position of oppose unless amended with regard to SB 440.

Specifically, we are concerned that the amendment on lines 8 through 17 to section 66747 jeopardizes and potentially nullifies the substantial progress made on SB 1440.

line 8 A
 line 9 *California State University campus shall accept transfer model*
 line 10 *curriculum-aligned associate degrees for transfer in each of the*
 line 11 *California State University degree options within a major field.*
 line 12 *As The California State University shall accept transfer model*
 line 13 *curriculum-aligned associate degrees for transfer in each of the*
 line 14 *areas of emphasis listed in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of*
 line 15 *subdivision (b) of Section 66746.*
 line 16 (2) *As used in this section, a “degree option” is an area of*
 line 17 *specialization within a degree program.*

In working to implement SB 1440, the CCC and CSU faculty quickly realized that a one-to-one campus degree pathway between each CCC and each CSU would require thousands of agreements for each degree (112 CCC X 23 CSU = 2,576). To speed this process, the transfer model curriculum (TMC) strategy was devised. This involved the CCC and CSU discipline faculty meeting to identify the foundational building blocks at the CCC for each major at the CSU and getting consensus across the

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 Chico
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 Fullerton
 Humboldt
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 Pomona
 Sacramento
 San Bernardino
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systems. Once the TMC for a given discipline was jointly approved, then the CCC faculty would use it to structure the associate degrees for transfer.

One of the foundational agreements made in this process was the “at least one option” agreement. That is, if a proposed TMC (transfer model curricula) would allow students to transfer to the CSU campus in at least one option in a major, then the CSU campus should accept the transfer associate degree as similar. This confers upon the transfer students the benefits of the transfer associate degree (an AA degree, guaranteed CSU admission, priority admission to a local campus, and a path to complete the bachelor’s degree in 60 units).

Should the amendment proposed in SB 440 be implemented, CCC and CSU faculty would have to revisit any associate degree for transfer linked to a CSU degree with an option and ask CSU faculty to reconsider if the associate degree is “similar” for all degree options. If any option could not be completed within 60 units, then the CSU faculty would not be able to declare the transfer degree as “similar,” and any pathways to that degree for a given CSU would no longer be available to transfer students. This will reverse the progress already made in supporting student transfer from CCC to CSU.

If transfer students wish to complete a more specialized degree option after transferring, this can usually be accomplished by taking as few as six extra units before graduating. The few extra units beyond the 60 that may be necessary for a student to complete a specialized option do not seem significant enough to re-start the SB 1440 implementation process.

Please note that substantial and impressive progress has been made since the May 2012 LAO Progress Report.

Indicators of Progress	May 2012	March 2013
Creation of Transfer Model Curricula	18 Majors	24 Majors
CCC Associate Degrees Developed/In Progress for <u>all</u> Majors Similar to CSU Major	15	66
Number of TMCs with 90-100% “Similar” Degrees Approved by CSU	n.a.	13/24
Number of TMCs with 80% or More “Similar” Degrees Approved by CSU	n.a.	19/24 (4 of remaining 5 are new, created in 2012)
Number of Associate Degrees for Transfer In Progress	n.a	1,065
Number of Associate Degrees for Transfer Active	n.a.	592
Number of CCC-to-CSU Transfer Pathways Created	n.a.	12,094

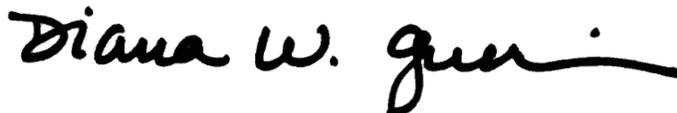
The CCC and CSU Academic Senates continue to work on additional TMCs. CCC faculty are working on developing the ADTs based on the TMCs. In the CSU, a recent change to Title 5 setting the maximum units for BA and BS degrees at 120 semester (180 quarter) units being implemented over the next two years may also increase the degree pathways available. CSU faculty are working on reviewing their degree programs in response to this change.

We respectfully request that the aforementioned amendment be removed from SB 440. Additional curricular intervention at this point in the implementation process can lead to significant reversal of the substantial progress in what has been a successful and productive collaboration between CCC and CSU faculty.

Also related to curricular intervention in SB 440, the CCC and CSU faculty looked at the general AA “areas of emphasis” degrees early in our implementation conversations. These were determined to be too broad to prepare students for transfer under the conditions of SB 1440. Requiring attention to this area will distract CCC and CSU faculty from the work needed to complete the pathways under development. We trust that our CCC colleagues will weigh in on this amendment.

Finally, the ASCSU endorses the amendment regarding “student-centered communication and marketing” to increase the visibility of the associate degree for transfer pathways. The curricular foundation is well underway, and for the goals of SB 1440 to be realized it is essential that students find their way to the appropriate associate degree for transfer as early as possible in their post-secondary career. We note, however, that requiring radio advertisements would place a financial burden on the campuses; we respectfully request that radio advertising be noted as “contingent on funding” or deleted as a requirement.

Sincerely,



Diana Guerin, ASCSU Chair

CC:

Chancellor Timothy White
Ephraim Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Academic Senate of the California State University
Campus Senate Chairs
Office of Advocacy and State Relations, California State University
Lillian Taiz, California Faculty Association
Meredith Vivian, California State Student Association
Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates
Michelle Pilati, President, Academic Senate, CCC