

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2381-97/AA
September 11-12, 1997

Sonoma State University Admissions Experiment

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University extend its appreciation and thanks to the academic administration at Sonoma State University for providing the Academic Senate with the *Report to the Statewide Academic Senate: Sonoma State University Admission Experiment 1994-1997* which provided data and information pertaining to the objectives and outcomes to date of the Sonoma State University admissions experiment; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge the Chancellor to allow continuation of Sonoma State University's Admission Experiment through its approved duration to the 1999-2000 academic year with the explicit requirement that Sonoma State University make the same supplemental admission criteria disclosure statements required of campuses for their impacted majors and campuses; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge the Chancellor to require that Sonoma State University provide reports to the Chancellor, Admissions Advisory Council, and Academic Senate CSU on the outcomes of and the supplemental admission criteria used in the admission experiment on a yearly basis throughout the duration of the experiment; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge the Chancellor to recommend that Sonoma State University gather data and report about the pool of applicants on the variables of ethnicity, age, reentry, veteran status, and other variables on November 30 and January 30 for each of the next two application cycles in order to assist the campus in assessing whether the expanded three-month application filing period increases significantly the diversity of the applicant pool beyond the pool that would have been evaluated for admission if Sonoma State University had declared impaction.

RATIONALE: At the October 1996 meeting of the CSU Admission Advisory Council, the Council recommended to the Chancellor that the Sonoma State University admission experiment be approved for a three-year extension. The Chancellor accepted that recommendation. Sonoma State University's admission experiment is the first differential campus admission policy that is not justified by a campus having more qualified applicants than can be accommodated (a state of impaction). Essentially, the approved admissions experiment extended the one-month application cycle to three-months on the basis of enhancing improved ethnic, local, and reentry representation and allowed the campus to develop supplemental admission criteria (filters). The campus had not provided the CSU Admissions Advisory Council or the Chancellor's Office with a definitive description of the admission supplementary admission criteria being used in the experiment since its inception three years ago. It was reported that attempts by the CSU Admission Advisory Council and personnel in Academic Affairs in the Chancellor's Office to obtain full information on the experiment were unsuccessful. As a result and during Spring 1997, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate CSU discussed the issue and formally requested the academic affairs office at

Sonoma State University to provide the committee with a detailed report on the process and outcomes of the admissions experiment over the three years since its inception. The primary concerns of the Academic Affairs Committee were (1) that substantial data on the success of the first three years of the experiment, in terms of achievement of goals, were not available and (2) that the supplementary admission criteria (filters) were not published in either the undergraduate admission booklet or in the special November CSU Review and hence they were not available to prospective students and their advisors. CSU announces each fall the majors and campuses that are impacted and the supplemental admission criteria required by the campus. The CSU Review is provided to over 17,000 high school and community college counselors.

In September 1997, Sonoma State University completed and forwarded its report to the Academic Senate CSU, which was a response to the Academic Senate's questions and concerns with information and data covering four years of the experiment. After a presentation of the report by an academic officer from Sonoma State University and a thorough discussion of and recommendation on the report by the Academic Affairs Committee, the Academic Senate CSU supports continuation of the experiment through its approved duration to the 1999-2000 academic year if, and only if, Sonoma State University is required to meet the same public disclosure statements on selective admissions criteria as impacted campuses and majors are required to meet.

In order for the Sonoma State University campus, the CSU Admissions Advisory Council, and the Academic Senate CSU to evaluate the outcomes of the admission experiment in a timely and ongoing manner, the Academic Senate is recommending that Sonoma State University provide yearly reports throughout the duration of the admissions experiment.

Once Sonoma State University provides the supplementary admissions criteria as required of impacted campuses and majors, the essential remaining difference between Sonoma State University's admissions experiment and the admission policies of impacted campuses and majors is the greater time frame of the admissions application cycle. In order to assist Sonoma State University in assessing whether the expanded three-month application filing period substantially increases the diversity of the applicant pool beyond that which would have been obtained after a one-month application period, the Academic Senate CSU is recommending that Sonoma State University conduct such an evaluation over the next two admission cycles.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY -- November 6-7, 1997