

ACADEMIC SENATE
of
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Item 8

AS-2651-04/AA
March 11-12, 2004

Response to SB 1785 (Scott and Alpert): Public
postsecondary education: dual admission programs

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) cannot support SB 1785 as currently written; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU share interest of the authors of SB 1785 to facilitate student progress but urge that the authors provide only broad outlines to help ensure that community college students who wish to earn a baccalaureate degree at a campus of the CSU are able to do so; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU affirm that the complex curricular concerns—especially admission requirements—involved with a program such as that outlined in the current version of the bill are the proper domain of the faculty who deal most directly with the issues involved; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge the legislature to appropriate sufficient funding for the additional time, consultation, advertising, and advising by faculty and staff necessary to implement any new initiatives; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU request that this resolution be forwarded to the California State Legislature.

RATIONALE: SB 1785 has the stated goal of ensuring that community college students who wish to earn a baccalaureate degree at a campus of the CSU are able to do so. To facilitate the goal, the bill calls for a new transfer admission priority category coupled with a model core lower-division transfer curriculum for each degree program.

Sharing the Legislature's concern, the CSU has current campus-based, as well as statewide, initiatives exemplified by the systemwide project on lower-division requirements in the major (POL) and the specific plans developed by campuses to facilitate students' achievement of the baccalaureate degree.

The bill as written has several problems, foremost of which is the detailed requirements that were not developed by or even in consultation with the faculty of the CSU. Additionally, no appropriation is indicated for the

tremendous amount of additional work required of faculty and staff to implement a large-scale initiative such as that envisioned in the bill.

Further, ambiguities in the proposed legislation make for various interpretations that may actually impede student progress to degree:

- 1. b.1 refers to a "community college transfer program"; however, it is not clear what program existing or proposed is referred to.*
- 2. b.2 the lack of appropriation also does not anticipate the cost of creating and staffing new courses at the California Community Colleges (CCC) or the CSU.*
- 3. b.3 could be interpreted as a requirement to accept courses as fully transferable to the degree even if those courses are not appropriate to the degree or, conversely, that no units which are not fully transferable to the degree could be accepted for transfer.*
- 4. b.4 extends the ambiguity by requiring that CCC students may "know and meet the same or similar degree course requirements as counterpart freshmen and sophomores who begin their study at CSU." This section may be read as an indication that similar rather than fully comparable, articulated courses will be accepted for degree credit.*
- 5. c.4, and repeated in g.3, sets a criterion for priority transfer: "have met all general education requirements specified for the declared major"; requiring completion of all general education will not best serve the students pursuing certain degree programs.*
- 6. f.1 the roles of the respective system authorities (CSU Chancellor, CCC Academic Senate) are not clear. Approval of courses for articulation is subject to long-standing processes in the CSU.*
- 7. 4 amendment of any admissions policy must be subject to consultation with the faculty.*
- 8. 4.g is mute on guaranteed admission but assumes that students will be admissible so that they may meet "any specific course requirements beyond the common 45 units that are specified by the CSU destination campus."*

In item 8, for example, it is not clear whether transfer priority or the guarantee of full transfer is portable to another campus if the student's campus of choice is impacted. The need is not, however, for greater specification in the bill but for, at most, a general framework where such specific implementation details devolve to the faculty and administration of the CSU.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY – May 6-7, 2004

SENATE BILL**No. 1785**

Introduced by Senators Scott and Alpert
(Coauthor: Senator McPherson)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Liu)

February 20, 2004

An act to add Section 66739.5 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1785, as introduced, Scott. Public postsecondary education: dual admission programs.

Existing law establishes the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state. These segments include the California State University, the campuses of which are administered by the Trustees of the California State University, the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law establishes community college districts, which operate campuses that provide instruction to students throughout the state.

This bill would establish a program with the purpose of ensuring that community college students who wish to earn baccalaureate degrees at a campus of the California State University are able to do so. The bill would require the Chancellor of the California State University to carry out specified tasks in connection with the establishment of this program.

The bill would require the Chancellor of the California State University to establish admissions requirements for community college transfer students in accordance with specified criteria. The bill would require the Chancellor of the California State University, in



consultation with the Academic Senate of the California State University, to specify for each baccalaureate program major a model core lower-division transfer curriculum. The bill would require California State University to guarantee that transfer students admitted under the bill will be able to complete the baccalaureate degree in the minimum number of course units required for that degree.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 66739.5 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
3 66739.5. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
4 following:
5 (1) The California Master Plan and supporting statutes place
6 utmost importance on the effective transfer of community college
7 students to the University of California (UC) and the California
8 State University (CSU) as a means of providing access to the
9 baccalaureate degree.
10 (2) In 2002, CSU enrolled 55,000 transfer students from
11 community colleges.
12 (3) Two out of three students who earn CSU baccalaureate
13 degrees begin in a community college.
14 (4) Effective use of state and student time and resources would
15 be maximized by students accruing fewer unrequired units in
16 earning their degrees.
17 (5) Additional access to community colleges and CSU will be
18 created by higher graduation rates and fewer nonessential units
19 taken.
20 (6) The state budget situation makes it urgent to streamline the
21 path of the transfer student to the baccalaureate degree.
22 (b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to ensure that
23 community college students who wish to earn the baccalaureate
24 degree at CSU are provided with a clear and effective path to this
25 degree, defined as follows:
26 (1) Knowing all degree requirements upon entering the
27 community college transfer program.
28 (2) Having reasonable access to required courses when needed
29 for effective progress to the degree.



1 (3) Having all community college baccalaureate-level course
2 units accepted by CSU upon transfer, as meeting requirements for
3 the baccalaureate degree.

4 (4) Having the opportunity to know and meet the same or
5 similar degree course requirements as counterpart freshmen and
6 sophomores who begin their study at CSU.

7 (5) Enabling community college students who transfer to a
8 CSU campus as fully qualified, as defined in subdivision (c), to
9 complete the remaining units required for the specific
10 baccalaureate degree within the total minimum units required for
11 that degree major.

12 (c) On or before February 1, 2005, the Chancellor of CSU shall
13 establish transfer student admissions requirements that give
14 highest priority to transfer students who meet the following
15 qualifications:

16 (1) Have earned at least 60 units of lower division coursework.

17 (2) Have declared a major program.

18 (3) Have met all lower division course prerequisites for the
19 major.

20 (4) Have met all general education requirements specified for
21 the declared major.

22 (5) Met any other campus-specific requirements specified by
23 the receiving CSU campus.

24 (d) (1) CSU campuses admitting students qualified in
25 accordance with subdivision (c) will make it possible for these
26 students to complete their baccalaureate degree in the minimum
27 number of remaining units required for that degree major.

28 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, the “minimum number of
29 remaining units” is the minimum number of units required for a
30 degree major after subtracting the number of fully degree
31 transferable units earned at the community college.

32 (e) The Chancellor of CSU, in consultation with the Academic
33 Senate of CSU, shall establish the following components
34 necessary for a clear degree path for transfer students:

35 (1) On or before February 1, 2005, the Chancellor of CSU, in
36 consultation with the Academic Senate of CSU, shall specify for
37 each baccalaureate program major a model core lower-division
38 transfer curriculum composed of at least 45 semester course units
39 that will be common across all CSU campuses offering specific
40 major programs.



1 (2) The 45 common course units shall be composed of general
2 education and, to the extent relevant, of lower division course
3 prerequisites for the declared major.

4 (3) The 45 unit core requirements shall be specified in
5 sufficient manner and detail so that existing and future community
6 college lower division courses may be articulated to the CSU core
7 course requirements.

8 (f) (1) On or before January 1, 2006, the Chancellor of CSU
9 and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in
10 consultation with the Academic Senate of the California
11 Community Colleges, shall identify those lower division courses
12 at the California Community Colleges that meet for each degree
13 major the common 45 unit course requirements specified in
14 paragraph (1) of subdivision (e).

15 (2) To the extent that the goals of efficiency and urgency are
16 advanced, existing articulation procedures such as the California
17 Articulation Number (CAN) program shall be employed.

18 (3) On or before January 1, 2006, each CSU campus shall have
19 identified any additional specific, nonelective course
20 requirements beyond the common 45 unit requirements for each
21 major. To the extent these additional course requirements are
22 identified, each CSU campus shall make available these
23 requirements to the appropriate community college campus.

24 (4) The Chancellor of CSU shall amend CSU's transfer
25 admissions procedures to encourage prospective community
26 college transfer students to meet both of the following
27 requirements:

28 (A) Declaration of a baccalaureate degree program major no
29 later than 30 units into lower division study.

30 (B) Identification of, and, to the extent possible, commitment
31 to, a specific CSU transfer destination campus before earning no
32 more than 45 units of lower division college-level study as
33 specified in subdivision (e).

34 (g) As allowed by enrollment demand and available space,
35 each CSU campus shall develop a transfer agreement with those
36 students who apply for admission before earning no more than 45
37 units. The transfer agreement shall guarantee full transfer of all 60
38 units as creditable to the baccalaureate degree subject to students
39 meeting the following conditions:

40 (1) Completion of 60 units of college-level course work.



1 (2) Declaration of a major.

2 (3) Satisfaction of the general education and major course
3 prerequisites, as specified for the 45-unit common core curriculum
4 for the program major.

5 (4) Meeting any specific course requirements beyond the
6 common 45 units that are specified by the CSU destination
7 campus.

8 (h) A CSU campus shall guarantee that the transfer students
9 admitted under this section will be able to complete the
10 baccalaureate degree in the minimum number of course units
11 required for that degree.

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