

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
OF  
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2926-09/AA/APEP (Rev)  
November 5, 2009

**Recommendations Regarding the Implementation of  
Mandatory Early Start Programs**

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) reiterate the commitments embodied in AS-2895-09/APEP/AA in support of "diverse campus approaches to moving fully qualified first-time freshmen (FTF) who require additional skill acquisition (remediation) in English or mathematics to achieve proficiency either prior to, or during, their first year of enrollment"; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU also recognize the regional character of individual campuses and the diversity of their student populations, cautioning the CSU System against a "one size fits all" approach to remediation programs as it moves toward the goal of proficiency; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU urge the CSU to ensure that serious attention be paid to the financial consequences - both to campuses and to individual students - resulting from the various "early start" approaches; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That tests, such as the English Placement Test (EPT), originally designed as placement instruments, not be used to either grant or deny otherwise-qualified first-time freshmen (FTF) admission to the CSU; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU, affirming that it is within the purview of the faculty to develop, deliver, and assess curriculum, urge that CSU faculty be fully engaged in the planning, teaching, and evaluating of campus-based "early start" programs; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That such "early start" programs supplement but not supplant already existing, successful models of proficiency attainment on the various campuses; and that the success of "early start" programs themselves be assessed over time to determine their effects upon such factors as retention rates and progress toward degree before the CSU considers mandating adoption of any "early-start" models systemwide; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to the CSU Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, campus Presidents, Provosts and Senate Chairs, the Chair of the English Council of the CSU, and the Chair of the Mathematics Council of the CSU

*RATIONALE: In response to a resolution approved by the Board of Trustees at its May 2009 meeting, a Task Force was convened by the Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. The Task Force was given the charge to develop "policies required to achieve a full-scale implementation of pre-matriculation remediation programs throughout the CSU, including a timeline for implementation." This plan is to be presented to the Board of Trustees at its March 2010 meeting.*

*Members of the Early Start Task Force include:*

*Co-Chairs:*

*Paul Oliaro, Vice President, Student Affairs – CSU Fresno*

*Sue Rosser, University Provost, Academic Affairs, San Francisco State University*  
*Members:*

*Bob Buckley, CSU Sacramento*

*Linda Dalton, Vice President, Enrollment Management – CSU East Bay*

*Allison Jones, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Support – Office of the  
Chancellor*

*Magnhild Lien, Professor, Mathematics – CSU Northridge*

*Glen McClish, Professor and Chair, Rhetoric and English – San Diego State  
University*

*Eduardo Ochoa, Provost/Vice President, Academic Affairs – Sonoma State University*

*Lorie Roth, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Programs and Professional  
Development – Office of the Chancellor*

*John Tarjan, Chair, Academic Senate – CSU Bakersfield*

*The ASCSU, while recognizing the urgency of this mandate from the Board of Trustees, wants to ensure that access to fully qualified students will not be denied and that faculty will be involved in the design, the implementation, and the assessment of such “early start” pilots before any decision is made to adopt any “early-start” program systemwide.*

**Approved Unanimously – January 21-22, 2010**

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
OF  
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2895-09/APEP/AA  
May 7-8, 2009

**Opposition to Impending Implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs**

RESOLVED: The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) recognizes the value of diverse campus approaches to moving fully qualified first-time freshmen (FTF) who require additional skill acquisition (remediation) in English or mathematics to achieve proficiency either prior to, or during, their first year of enrollment; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU oppose the implementation of “early start” programs as a pre-condition for enrollment at any CSU campus until such time as a number of concerns, including but not limited to:

- the (1) unilateral implementation by campuses which are “*already moving toward requiring*”<sup>1</sup> FTF to engage in remediation and (2) doing so prior to Fall 2009 enrollment;
- the legality of denying admission to fully qualified FTF;
- the limitation of access to economically disadvantaged students;
- the financial aid implications for students;
- the potential hardship for out-of-area students;
- the shift of mandatory instruction to a non-traditional instructional session;
- the presumed desirability of identifying a single or limited number of “early start” programs for the CSU system;
- the paucity of evidence-based, longitudinal data on the effectiveness and social impact of “early start” programs;

are addressed in the context of shared governance at both the local and systemwide levels; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU urge the CSU Board of Trustees, the CSU Office of the Chancellor, and campuses of the CSU, to explore other means to improve FTF proficiency, including but not limited to Directed Self Placement and credit-bearing stretch courses; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That this resolution be sent to the following CSU entities: the Board of Trustees, the Office of the Chancellor, campus Presidents, Provosts and Senate Chairs, the Chair of the English Council of the CSU, and the Chair of the Mathematics Council of the CSU.

*RATIONALE: The Board of Trustees of the CSU has an on-going commitment to require all fully eligible and admitted First Time Freshmen (FTF) to demonstrate college level proficiency in both English and mathematics no later than the end of their freshman year. The CSU has achieved this goal to a roughly 85% compliance rate but continues to seek more efficient approaches and identify best practices to assist students in their efforts.*

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<sup>1</sup> Committee on Educational Policy. “Proficiency in English and Mathematics *Before* the First Year.” Board of Trustees Agenda Item 3, May 12-13, 2009: p. 2 of 2.

*Faculty leadership has led campuses to invest in a number of “early start” programs to assist students in their efforts to demonstrate proficiency before the start of their freshman year. However, Agenda Item 3 of the Committee on Education Policy for the Board of Trustees’ May 12-13, 2009 meeting features a resolution focusing on “Proficiency in English and Mathematics Before the First Year.” The resolution authorizes the pilot testing of “early start” programs, including those considering mandatory involvement of FTF students anticipating matriculation in the fall of 2009, who have not demonstrated readiness for college work in either mathematics or English, or both. The resolution requires the CSU, by March of 2010, to use the reported results of these pilot tests to establish policies requiring a full-scale implementation of such pre-matriculation programs with a timetable throughout the CSU.*

**Approved – May 7-9, 2009**