

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2886-09/FA/FGA (Rev)
March 19-20, 2009

**Concerns Related to the Migration of State-Supported Courses to Self-Supporting
Special Sessions during Times of Budget Constraints**

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) affirm its commitment to protect the CSU as a public higher education institution committed to academic excellence and student access; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU affirm its commitment to serve all CSU students regardless of their economic status; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU affirm its recognition of Executive Order 802 “Special Sessions” with particular reference to its mandate that “Self-supporting special sessions shall not supplant regular course offerings available on a state-supported basis during the college year (Education Code Section 89708);” and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge the Office of the Chancellor to oppose migration of state-supported courses to self-supporting special sessions during the college year, which may make them impracticable for some students; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge campuses to reaffirm their commitment to equal access to classes and programs for all students and avoid creating a two-tier access system; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU distribute this resolution to the Board of Trustees, Chancellor’s Office, campus Presidents and campus Senate Chairs.

RATIONALE: In light of the severe budget crisis impacting academic programs across the CSU, there may be attempts to cut course sections and move regular state-supported courses to self-supported special sessions. This trend would both weaken the principle of public (state-funded) education, and place low-income students at a disadvantage given the typically higher costs of self-supporting special sessions. Also, because fees for self-support courses often are more expensive than state-supported courses, this may result in low income students exhausting their financial aid which could jeopardize the ability of students to achieve their educational goals. Furthermore, the migration of courses and programs from state-support to self-support potentially impacts adversely the wages and benefits of lecturers who teach such courses. Migration refers specifically to the supplanting of regular course offerings available on a state-supported basis during the college year with self-supporting special sessions. It does not refer to supplemental offerings.

Approved - May 7-8, 2009