A Detailed Response to SB 1440 (Padilla),
“Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act”

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) supports the intent of SB 1440 (Padilla) to increase the efficiency of transfer from the California Community Colleges to state-supported four year institutions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That because the ASCSU has the following specific concerns about elements of SB 1440, the ASCSU cannot support the bill at this time:

a. Requirements for the transfer degree should differ from the requirements for the standard associates degree.

b. There is a need for flexibility in the number of units (currently specified as 18 semesters/27 quarter units) in the major or area of emphasis that may be specified for transfer by the community college district;

c. Proposed transfer guarantees for students attaining junior status need to allow the California State University (CSU) flexibility in accommodating transfers into impacted majors;

d. In Article 3, Section 66748 (a) the term “high unit majors” should be replaced with the more inclusive “high-unit or strongly-sequenced majors such as STEM or nursing”;

e. In specifying those courses that students should not be required to complete upon transfer to the CSU, language should be changed from “courses that are similar” to “courses that are articulated (e.g., as comparable to a statewide descriptor as defined by LDTP and/or C-ID)”; 

f. There is need to acknowledge that, pursuant to Title 5, although the California Community Colleges have the right to establish the requirements for the AA degree, the CSU maintains the right to establish the requirements, including specific coursework, for the baccalaureate degree.

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU urge that joint consultation take place between discipline faculty of the California Community Colleges and the CSU to determine the appropriate coursework for major preparation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU acknowledge the groundwork laid for the implementation of the provisions of SB 1440 by the Academic Senate for the California
Community Colleges in their resolution ASCCC resolution on SB 1440 adopted April 17, 2020 (4.03 S10), which calls for the California Community Colleges to work with the California State University and University of California in establishing common major preparation requirements for the development of the transfer degree; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to Chancellor Charles Reed and the Board of Trustees, Chancellor Jack Scott (California Community Colleges), Senator Alex Padilla, Assembly Member Paul Fong, and the chair of the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges.

RATIONALE: The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) recognizes the need for more efficient student transfer between California’s community colleges and the state’s public four-year universities. To this end, the ASCSU in the past has supported the establishment of a community college AA transfer degree. SB 1440 is a step toward this end. The ASCSU, however, does have serious concerns about aspects of the proposed legislation that prevent it from supporting the bill at this time. These involve (1) the need for flexibility in the implementation of certain requirements contained in the proposed legislation and (2) the recognition that while community college districts have the right to set the requirements for the transfer degree, the requirements for the baccalaureate degree are ultimately set by faculty of the CSU.

Approved Unanimously - May 6-7, 2010