

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
OF  
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2957-10/APEP/AA/FGA  
May 6-7, 2010

**Support of AB 2382 (Blumenfield), Legislation to Authorize the  
Offering of the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Degree in the  
California State University**

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) support and encourage the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees to support “AB 2382 (Blumenfield), as amended. California State University: Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees,” which authorizes the CSU to offer an independent Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU support the continuance of successful joint doctoral physical therapy programs such as the partnership between San Francisco State University and the University of California San Francisco, currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU affirm that DPT degree programs offered by campuses of the CSU must be developed and approved by faculty through regular academic program review and approval processes (including individual campus academic senates) at all individual campuses; and be it further

RESOLVED: That all proposed DPT programs be developed in accordance with all appropriate national standards for such applied doctoral programs; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to the CSU Chancellor and Board of Trustees; campus presidents; campus senate chairs; Assembly Member Marty Block, Chair of Assembly Committee on Higher Education; Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes, Chair of Assembly Committee on Appropriations; Assembly Member Mary Hayashi, Chair of Assembly Committee on Business, Professions and Consumer Protection; Assembly Members Robert Blumenfield, Anthony Adams, Joan Buchanan, Cathleen Galgiani, Lori Saldana, and Audra Strickland; and State Senators Tony Strickland and Mark Wyland.

*RATIONALE: The demand for physical therapists throughout California is strong. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the California Employment Development Department, California exceeds the national growth rate of jobs for physical therapists (30% vs 27%), and it is estimated that California will experience a 30% increase in physical therapy jobs between 2006 and 2018. The demand for physical therapists in the Northern California region is especially significant since, according to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 19 areas in the region are designated as medically underserved and/or with underserved populations. Data from the Physical Therapy Central Application Service reveal that applications and enrollments in California physical therapy programs continue to increase.*

*According to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, CSU campuses provide approximately 38% of the new graduate workforce in physical therapy each year.*

*While the demand for physical therapists grows, state law currently prohibits the CSU from offering an independent Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. This is problematic because the education model for physical therapy is now a 4-year baccalaureate degree followed by a 3-year entry-level professional DPT program. Indeed, for existing physical therapy programs nationwide, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education has mandated the DPT degree for all accredited programs by December 31, 2015, and this doctoral degree would therefore be necessary for students to achieve professional standing.*

*As of June 15, 2009, 94% of the 212 accredited physical therapy programs in the United States are approved to confer the DPT degree, and 100% of programs that are in development plan to offer the DPT. Only 11 programs nationwide offer a Master's of Physical Therapy (MPT) and not the DPT; 5 of them are CSU programs. The DPT has become the national standard.*

*Partnerships for joint DPT programs with University of California (UC) schools have not materialized in any significant way, with the exception of the UC San Francisco/San Francisco State partnership, which will begin offering the entry-level DPT in Summer 2010. UC San Francisco, despite having the authority to offer an entry-level doctorate, offers a post-professional DPT only. UC has signaled its disinterest in partnering with CSU beyond current arrangements in place with San Francisco State University and CSU Fresno. Moreover, the joint DPT programs in place are not achieving graduation rates that will keep pace with demand. For instance, the CSU Fresno joint DPT program with UC San Francisco graduated only 8 students in 2008 and 2 in 2009, and only 2 students are currently enrolled.*

*The ASCSU has offered its "Support for the Authority for the CSU to Grant Independent Professional/Clinical Doctorates" in the past (AS-2683-05); allowing CSU campuses to offer independent doctorates specifically in physical therapy will help address the ongoing shortage of physical therapists in California. The cost for such programs would be more affordable than private schools or joint programs with UC. Access to the profession would be increased for students from historically underrepresented groups and those with socioeconomic barriers. Additionally, using the model for the Ed.D., it appears to be possible to offer such programs on a self-sustaining basis within three years.*

*AB 2382 has received the strong support of the California Physical Therapy Association, the California Hospital Association, the California Association of Health Facilities, California Nursing groups, and both the Northern and Southern California Clinical Education Consortia. The bill was passed*

*unanimously out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, as well as the Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee. It was approved without dissent by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

**Approved Unanimously - May 6-7, 2010**

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2382**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Buchanan, Galgiani, Saldana,  
and Audra Strickland)*  
*(Coauthors: Senators Strickland and Wyland)*

February 19, 2010

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An act to add Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 66042) to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2382, as amended, Blumenfield. California State University: Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of California's public and independent segments of higher education, and their respective institutions of higher education. Provisions of the act do not apply to the University of California unless the regents of the university act, by resolution, to make them applicable.

Among other things, the act provides that the University of California has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education to award the doctoral degree in all fields of learning, except that it may agree with the California State University to award joint doctoral degrees in selected fields. With respect to doctoral degrees, the act limits the California State University to awarding these degrees jointly with the University of California, as described above, or jointly with independent institutions

of higher education, provided that the proposed doctoral program is approved by the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

This bill would instead authorize the California State University to award the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. This bill would require the degree to be distinguished from doctoral degree programs at the University of California.

*The bill would require that the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree offered by the California State University be focused on preparing physical therapists to provide health care services and shall be consistent with meeting requirements of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. The bill would require that each student in the programs authorized by the bill be charged fees no higher than the rate charged for students in state-supported programs in physical therapy at the University of California.*

*The bill would require the California State University, the Department of Finance, and the Legislative Analyst’s Office to jointly conduct a statewide evaluation of the new programs implemented under the bill. The bill would specify topics to be included in this evaluation, and would require that the evaluation be submitted to the Legislature and the Governor on or before January 1, 2015.*

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. The Legislature finds and declares both of the  
2 following:

3 (a) Since its adoption in 1960, the Master Plan for Higher  
4 Education has served the state well, allowing California to create  
5 the largest and most distinguished higher education system in the  
6 nation.

7 (b) Because of the need to prepare and educate increased  
8 numbers of physical therapists, it is the intent of the Legislature  
9 to grant the California State University authority to offer the  
10 Doctor of Physical Therapy degree as an exception to the Master  
11 Plan for Higher Education.

12 SECTION 1.

13 SEC. 2. Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 66042) is added  
14 to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education  
15 Code, to read:

1 Article 4.7. Doctoral Programs in Physical Therapy

2  
3 66042. ~~(a) Notwithstanding Section 66010.4~~*Notwithstanding*  
4 *Section 66010.4, in order to meet specific physical therapy*  
5 *education needs in California, the California State University may*  
6 *award the Doctor of Physical Therapy (P.T.D.) (D.P.T.) degree.*  
7 *The authority to award degrees granted by this article is limited*  
8 *to the discipline of physical therapy. The Doctor of Physical*  
9 *Therapy degree offered by the California State University shall be*  
10 *distinguished from doctoral degree programs at the University of*  
11 *California.*

12 ~~(b) Nothing in this article shall be construed to limit or preclude~~  
13 ~~the California Postsecondary Education Commission from~~  
14 ~~exercising its authority under Chapter 11 (commencing with~~  
15 ~~Section 66900) to review, evaluate, and make recommendations~~  
16 ~~relating to any and all programs established under this article.~~

17 66042.1. *In implementing Section 66042, the California State*  
18 *University shall comply with all of the following requirements:*

19 (a) *Funding on a per full-time equivalent student (FTES) basis*  
20 *for each new student in these degree programs shall be from within*  
21 *the California State University's enrollment growth levels as*  
22 *agreed to in the annual Budget Act. Enrollments in these programs*  
23 *shall not alter the California State University's ratio of graduate*  
24 *instruction to total enrollment, and shall not diminish enrollment*  
25 *growth in university undergraduate programs. Funding provided*  
26 *from the state for each FTES shall be at the agreed-upon marginal*  
27 *cost calculation that the California State University receives.*

28 (b) *The Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree offered by*  
29 *the California State University shall be focused on preparing*  
30 *physical therapists to provide health care services, and shall be*  
31 *consistent with meeting the requirements of the Commission on*  
32 *Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).*

33 (c) *Nothing in this article shall be construed to limit or preclude*  
34 *the California Postsecondary Education Commission from*  
35 *exercising its authority under Chapter 11 (commencing with*  
36 *Section 66900) to review, evaluate, and make recommendations*  
37 *relating to any and all programs established under this article.*

38 (d) *Each student in the programs authorized by this article shall*  
39 *be charged fees no higher than the rate charged for students in*  
40 *state-supported doctoral degree programs in physical therapy at*



1 *the University of California, including joint D.P.T. programs of*  
2 *the California State University and the University of California.*

3 *(e) The California State University shall provide any startup*  
4 *funding needed for the programs authorized by this article from*  
5 *within existing budgets for academic programs support, without*  
6 *diminishing the quality of program support offered to California*  
7 *State University undergraduate programs. Funding of these*  
8 *programs shall not result in reduced undergraduate enrollments*  
9 *at the California State University.*

10 *66042.3. The California State University, the Department of*  
11 *Finance, and the Legislative Analyst’s Office shall jointly conduct*  
12 *a statewide evaluation of the new programs implemented under*  
13 *this article. The results of the evaluation shall be reported, in*  
14 *writing, to the Legislature and the Governor on or before January*  
15 *1, 2015. The evaluation required by this section shall consider all*  
16 *of the following:*

17 *(a) The number of new doctoral programs in physical therapy*  
18 *implemented, including information identifying the number of new*  
19 *programs, applicants, admissions, enrollments, and degree*  
20 *recipients.*

21 *(b) The extent to which the programs established under this*  
22 *article are fulfilling identified needs for physical therapists,*  
23 *including statewide supply and demand data that considers*  
24 *capacity at the University of California and in California’s*  
25 *independent colleges and universities.*

26 *(c) Information on the place of employment of students and the*  
27 *subsequent job placement of graduates.*

28 *(d) Program costs and the fund sources that were used to finance*  
29 *these programs, including a calculation of cost per degree*  
30 *awarded.*

31 *(e) The costs of the programs to students, the amount of financial*  
32 *aid offered, and student debt levels of graduates of the programs.*

33 *(f) The extent to which the programs established under this*  
34 *article are in compliance with the requirements of this article.*