

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
OF  
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3526-22/AA (Rev)  
January 20-21, 2022

**INVOLVING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU) FACULTY IN THE APPROVAL  
PROCESS FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (CCC) FOUR-YEAR  
BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) notes with great concern the extremely short time (30 days) allowed by AB 927 for new California Community College (CCC) four-year baccalaureate programs to be reviewed and approved or denied by the California State University (CSU); and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That, since the Higher Education Employee Relations Act ([HEERA](#)) [section 3561](#) recognizes joint decision-making and consultation between administration and faculty as the long-accepted manner of governing institutions of higher learning and that the involvement in the review process of the CSU faculty is thus called for, the ASCSU ask that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) be established between the two systems - the CCCs and the CSU - agreeing on the following as important in order to facilitate and expedite a proper program review involving CSU faculty:

- That programs received before the biannual cut-off dates, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and January 15<sup>th</sup>, be treated for the purposes of timing of the review period as having been received on the cut-off date.
- An agreement as to the meaning of what constitutes a “duplicate program”.
- An understanding as to the geographic scope of any new CCC programs approved by the CSU.
- The following items to accompany new CCC program approval requests:
  - i. The program’s course numbers and titles.
  - ii. The CSU program that the CCC system considers closest in content to the new program being proposed.
  - iii. The Associates Degree of Transfer (ADT), if any, around which the program is to be built.
  - iv. Whether external accreditation [exists or] is being sought for the proposed program.

- v. Whether any CSU program that the proposed CCC program might be reasonably considered to duplicate is impacted and at which CSU campuses such impaction has been declared.

**RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU warmly acknowledge the intent of the Chancellor's Office to work collaboratively with faculty in evaluating the duplication in new CCC four-year baccalaureate programs with existing CSU degrees and undertakes to work with the Chancellor's Office to create a process (as suggested in the Appendix) by which CSU faculty would be involved in the approval of new CCC four-year baccalaureate programs; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor, CSU campus Presidents, CSU campus Senate Chairs, CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, California Faculty Association (CFA), Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS), CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA), Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, and the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors.

***RATIONALE:** AB 927 grants the California Community Colleges (CCCs) the right to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees as long as these do not duplicate overall with programs offered by the California State University (CSU). The process specified in AB 927 for addressing potential program overlap requires the Community College district proposing the program submit its proposal to the University of California (UC) and CSU; in the case of the CSU proposals are submitted to the CSU Office of the Chancellor. AB 927 requires that the state universities (UC or CSU) respond to the Chancellor of the Community Colleges with written objections and supporting evidence within 30 days of receipt of the proposal and that the two system heads. While AB 927 makes no mention of faculty involvement in the assessment of proposed program duplication, HEERA, section 3561 establishes that joint decision-making and consultation between administration and faculty is the long-accepted manner of governing institutions of higher learning and is essential to the performance of the educational missions of these institutions.*

*To that end this resolution offers an initial proposal for the implementation of joint decision-making and consultation process by which a response to all CCC bachelors' program proposals might be developed.*

*It is also worth noting that even with faculty involvement in the review process for new CCC baccalaureate process, the issue addressed in this resolution, AB 927 lacks clarity as to what happens when the segments are unable to reach consensus: Section 78042. (i)(3) requires that in the event of an objection by the CSU or the UC, “a written agreement [be established] before the program is approved”. However, Section 78042. (i)(5) requires that “The written agreement established between the objecting segment and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall address, at a minimum, whether each of the elements of the original objection addressed in paragraph (4) have been resolved”. That leaves open the possibility that the segments simply agree to disagree, meaning that the legislated requirement to craft “an agreement” would have been met and the legal impediment to the implementation of the proposed CCC four-year baccalaureate would be removed. It is therefore possible that CCC four-year baccalaureate programs may be established, that overlap significantly with those already offered by the CSU. Were that to happen CSU enrollment and funding may be adversely impacted. That is the subject of a parallel resolution, AS-3525-22/FGA (Rev), which is hereby integrated by reference.*

**Approved Unanimously – March 17-18, 2022**

*Appendix for AS-3526-22/AA (Rev)*

**Proposed process**

If, as suggested in this resolution, an appropriate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is established between the two systems on timing and content of submissions, the Chancellor's Office will receive biannually - and on a date certain - a single package containing all California Community College (CCC) district proposals for that approval cycle. Each submission should contain:

- the program name,
- the program's course numbers and titles,
- the California State University (CSU) programs that the CCC system considers closest in content to those in its proposal package
- the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), if any, that would allow students to transfer into the four-year programs being proposed.

The ASCSU and the Chancellor's Office will jointly convene for the Friday following the receipt of the proposal package, a meeting of a Faculty Program Review Committee (FPRC) comprising:

- one member of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) Academic Affairs Committee;
- one member of the ASCSU designated by the ASCSU Senate Executive Committee based on disciplinary background in each of the following areas as needed given the mix of program proposals to review;
  - Arts and humanities,
  - Social sciences,
  - Engineering,
  - Business,
  - Health sciences,
  - Business,
  - Library science,
  - Life and physical sciences.
- A liaison from the Chancellor's office
- An administrative support person from the Chancellor's Office

Prior to the first meeting of the FPRC, the proposal package will be distributed to FPRC members; those appointed for their disciplinary expertise will make a preliminary decision as to whether a proposed program appears to overlap with one

in their disciplinary domain; if not, they may excuse themselves from the FPRC's initial biannual meeting.

The FPRC will begin by confirming or identifying the CSU program that most closely resembles each of the new CCC programs being proposed. Where there exists an ADT that allows transfer into a new CCC program, the determination of duplication will be based on the overlap in upper division courses. Where there is no identified ADT, lower division articulation agreements between the proposed new program and a CSU campus may be used to help identify the closest matching CSU program.

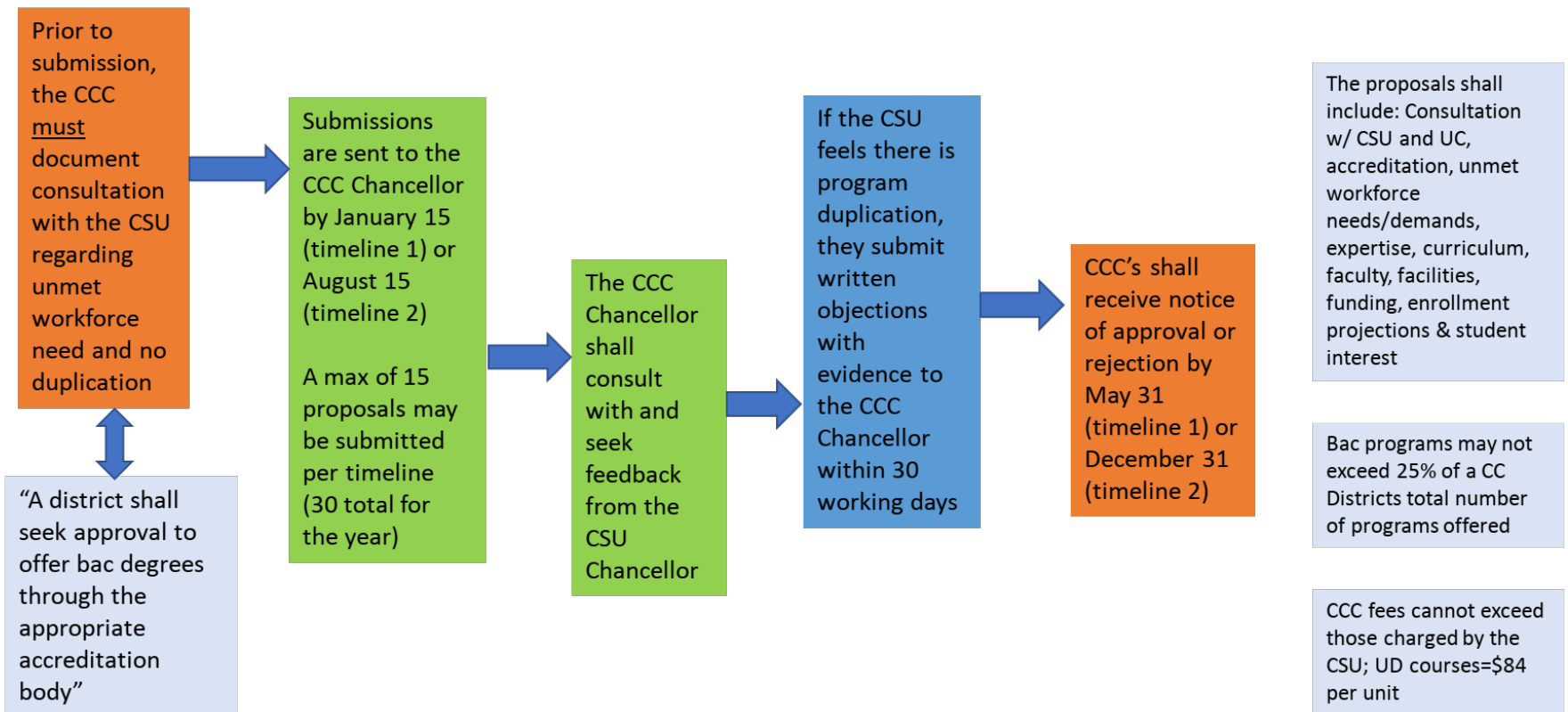
Once a closely matched CSU program is identified, the degree of overlap for all non-General Education (GE) courses - that are not free electives - will be assessed by the faculty members of the FPRC.

A second meeting two weeks after the initial meeting will be convened at which the results of the assessment exercise will be discussed to provide the basis for the CSU Chancellor's Office response to the CCC system.

In determining whether the overlap is considered sufficient to object to the proposed CCC program, a holistic perspective is recommended in which both the proportion of overlapping material and the potential for the proposed new CCC program to lead to the same outcomes (e.g., in terms of job opportunities) as the existing CSU program, are taken into account. A graphical representation of the proposed process is included in this appendix to this resolution.

The ASCSU hopes that this process (or something akin to it) be established and looks forward to ongoing discussions with the Chancellor's Office to put in place necessary systems and support infrastructure to make the review process function both effectively and expeditiously, given the very short amount of time (30 days) provided in AB 927 for the program review process.

AB 927, Annual CCC Proposal Timelines (w/ obligation to the CSU) for authorization to offer baccalaureate degrees

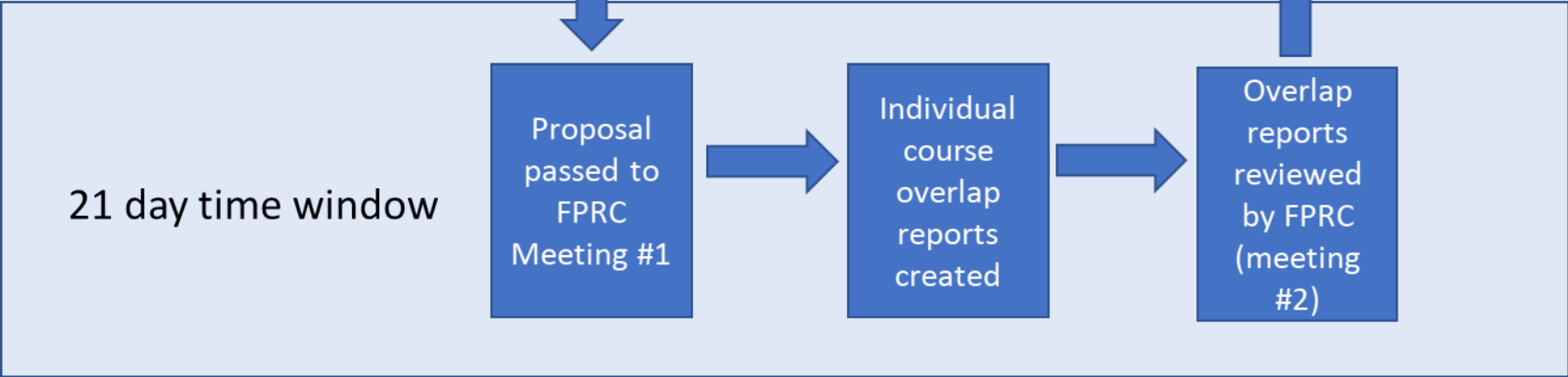


Submissions are sent to the CCC Chancellor by January 15 (timeline 1) or August 15 (timeline 2)

The CCC Chancellor shall consult with and seek feedback from the CSU Chancellor

Proposal received at the CO

Response prepared by CO Academic Affairs



21 day time window

Proposal passed to FPRC Meeting #1

Individual course overlap reports created

Overlap reports reviewed by FPRC (meeting #2)