

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3618-23/AA
March 16-17, 2023

**CONDEMNATION OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S DECISION
TO PROCEED WITH A DUPLICATIVE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE**

- RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) condemn in the strongest possible terms, the California Community College Board of Governors' decision to approve the BS Ecosystem Restoration and Applied Fire Management degree over the formal objection filed by the California State University's Chancellor, in direct opposition to the requirements of AB 927; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU agree with the California State University Chancellor's position that Feather River College's proposal for a *BS Ecosystem Restoration and Applied Fire Management* degree is duplicative of existing California State University programs; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU observe that the approval by the Community College Board of Governors is contrary to California law and urge the CSU to pursue whatever avenues are available to remedy this inappropriate decision; 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, California Faculty Association (CFA), California State Student Association (CSSA), 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 states "If the California State University or the University of California believes there is program duplication, written objections with supporting evidence shall be submitted to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges within 30 working days of receipt of the proposal. Upon receipt of written objections, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall have 30 working days to convene with the applicant and the segment or segments that raised an objection to collaborate and establish a written agreement before the program is approved."

In the spring of 2022, the California Community College system proposed 10 new 4-year baccalaureate programs. The Chancellor's Office reached out to faculty from the relevant disciplines and to the Academic Affairs committee of the ASCSU for input as to whether the programs were duplicative of existing CSU programs. The Academic Affairs committee

flagged four as problematic, and the Chancellor's Office also took issue with the Community Colleges on three of those four highlighted by Academic Affairs.

The CSU Chancellor's Office filed its objection to those three programs in the specified time 30-day window (although it later conceded on two of the three). Yet, despite the currently unresolved objection to Feather River's Fire Science program as being duplicative, the Community College Board of Governors green lit the Feather River proposal. This flagrant disregard of the CSU's objection and what appears to be a violation of the spirit if not the letter of AB 927, should not go without comment. This resolution makes clear that the ASCSU objects to the Community College's decision and its potential to establish a very unfortunate precedent, one that damages intersegmental relations and hinders the cooperation between systems necessary to help students meet their educational aspirations.

Approved – March 16-17, 2023