

**Academic Senate
of the
California State University**

On Cal-GETC Alignment and Shared Governance

- 1. RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) object to and be deeply concerned about Chancellor Garcia’s decision to recommend to the CSU Board of Trustees that CSU GE Breadth be aligned with Cal-GETC despite sustained and clear opposition from the CSU faculty; and be it
- 2. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU respectfully ask the Board of Trustees to respect the clearly stated position of the faculty that CSU GE Breadth not be changed at the present time and not until the faculty have approved any curricular changes to CSU GE; and be it
- 3. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU condemn the “lack of recognition of established best practices” in CSU General Education as enabled by the CSU faculty to facilitate student achievement and success, and reaffirm that “consultation must allow for the time to consider, debate, develop their responses and work toward consensus while recognizing the need to proceed in a timely manner”¹; and be it
- 4. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU remind the Board of Trustees that the ASCSU has asked that no decision be made to change CSU GE Breadth until any such changes are approved by the ASCSU; and be it

¹ See [Tenets of Shared Governance](https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2018-2019/3348.pdf), AS-3348-18, Nov. 8-9, 2018, p. 6, available at <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2018-2019/3348.pdf>.

- 5. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU ask the Board of Trustees to support “Option 1 (Two General Education Pathways)”², not “Option 2 (Unified General Education Pathway)” as expressed by faculty and students during the board meeting; and be it
- 6. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU ask the Board of Trustees to support the Title 5 changes set out in Option 1 (set out on page 118 of the Agenda) of the Ed. Policy Committee’s January Agenda and reject Option 2 (Unified General Education Pathway); and be it
- 7. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU request a faculty-led rigorous analysis to quantify and assess the potential impacts of the Cal-GETC transfer pathway on student success so that a data-informed decision about lower-division CSU GE Breadth can be made and agreed upon; and be it
- 8. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU request that the twenty-three California State University (CSU) Campus senates, in consultation and conversation with relevant constituencies (e.g., General Education committees, department chairs, chairs of curriculum committees), debate and report the following:
- a. The implications of aligning CSU General Education (GE) Breadth with California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC).

² See Board of Trustees Agenda Packet, January 29-31, 2024, available at <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2024/Documents/jan-29-31-FULL-BINDER.pdf#page=118>.

- b. The potential use of the 5 units released from CSU GE Breadth to serve the educational interests of our students, should alignment be adopted; and be it

9. RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to:

CSU Board of Trustees
CSU Chancellor
CSU campus Presidents
CSU campus Senate Chairs
CSU campus articulation officers
California Faculty Association (CFA)
California State Student Association (CSSA)
CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA).

Rationale

After the passage of AB 928, the ASCSU, through its representation on ICAS (Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates), negotiated the curriculum of the singular transfer pathway called for in the bill. Because of what amounted to a de facto veto by the University of California, the ASCSU was forced to agree to a smaller GE curriculum than it would have liked, one based on IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) for the CSU rather than on CSU GE Breadth.

Nevertheless, the ASCSU supported the new transfer curriculum, dubbed “Cal-GETC.” This support was based on a careful reading of AB 928 and on assurances from then EVC Sylvia Alva (in e-mail communication to ASCSU Chair Beth Steffel on October 7, 2022 as well as comments to the ASCSU in plenary sessions on January 19, 2023 and March 16, 2023) first that Cal-GETC was a curriculum for transfer only and second that

the question of alignment between Cal-GETC and CSU GE Breadth (for 'native' students, i.e., students who begin their careers in higher education at a CSU) had not been decided by the Chancellor's Office but remained a topic of important discussions to come.

Since then, the ASCSU has been clear in its position that any changes to the CSU GE Breadth curriculum for first-time first-year students should be left to the CSU's faculty to decide, rather than ICAS, the administration in the Chancellor's Office, or the CSU Board of Trustees. Major program changes such as altering the size and content of General Education are clearly curricular matters, and it is a well-established principle that curriculum is the purview of the faculty.

It has been suggested by the CSU Chancellor's Office that legislative intrusion would inevitably follow unless CSU GE Breadth was aligned with Cal-GETC. That mantra has been repeated by the Chancellor's Office for over a year, yet the ASCSU has found no evidence (for instance in the over 2,000 bills in front of the California legislature in this period) for any inclination by the legislature to do more than it has already done. In addition, the Campaign for College Opportunity, a strong lobby group, has indicated that they do not intend to support more legislation in this matter in the near future. For these reasons, the CSU should not self-censor or make any supposedly preemptive changes to General Education.

The absolutely clear message from the CSU faculty through four resolutions (AS-3615-AA(rev), May of 2023;³ AS-3639-AA, September of 2023;⁴ AS-3666-Exec/AA, January of 2024;⁵ and this present resolution) is that while it supports the necessary changes to the transfer curriculum required by AB 928, it is resolutely opposed to changes to CSU GE Breadth until more faculty consultation and rigorous faculty-led analysis of the data has been carried out.

To be clear, the ASCSU has not taken any position regarding the pros and cons of aligning CSU GE Breadth with Cal-GETC, but rather has been unwavering in its assertion that curricular changes are the purview of the faculty and should not be made without faculty endorsement and that they should be data-informed.

This resolution asks the Board of Trustees to respect the position expressed by students and faculty at the last Board meeting, which also happens to be the official position of the ASCSU. This position is an endorsement of a vote to adopt “Option 1,” a change to Title 5 that at this time only concerns transfer, avoiding possible changes to CSU GE Breadth until faculty-led consultation and data analysis have been carried out. In other words, the position calls for a process of faculty consultation and for a rigorous faculty-led data analysis. With the aforementioned consultation and analysis, then, and

³ <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2022-2023/3615.pdf>.

⁴ <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2023-2024/3639.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2023-2024/3666.pdf>

only then, will the ASCSU be in a position to make a recommendation to the Board of

Trustees regarding changes to CSU GE Breadth.