

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3478-21/APEP (Rev)
March 18-19, 2021

**CONCERNS ABOUT COMMON TRANSFER PATHWAYS ACROSS THE
CCC, CSU, AND UC**

**(RE: AB 928 BERMAN -- STUDENT TRANSFER ACHIEVEMENT REFORM ACT OF
2021: ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER INTERSEGMENTAL
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE)**

- RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) appreciate the legislative attention to admissions and standards for the California State University (CSU) and in the success of our incoming transfer students from the California Community Colleges (CCC) to the California State University; and be it further,
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU recommend that this interest be operationalized as additional support for existing CSU/CCC-driven joint efforts on student preparation and transfer rather than proposing new such structures; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU draw the attention of the legislature to the fact that the CSU has, in academic year 2020/2021 (despite the ongoing pandemic) educated a record number of students with, for the first time ever, the majority of students who transfer from the California Community Colleges using the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathway; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU acknowledge limitations within existing advising structures for Associate Degrees for Transfer programs, but find that the proposed solution via AB 928 is likely to suppress, rather than facilitate transfer to the CSU (in particular, for historically underserved students); and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU recommend that the CSU and the CCC continue to work together within existing intersegmental structures to ensure that the preparation for transfer from the CCC to the CSU is both appropriate in both content and structure and that the requirements are clear to our potential future students; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU welcome the disciplinary expertise of the University of California (UC) system faculty and the support of the UC Office of the President in helping to revise and evaluate transfer pathways and structures, while also recognizing the constitutional autonomy of the UC system, and

the distinctive mission of each of the three different California higher education segments; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to the Governor, Legislature, Department of Finance (DOF), Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), CSU campus Presidents, CSU Vice Presidents of Finance/ Chief Financial Officers, CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, Campus Senate Chairs, California Faculty Association (CFA), CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA), Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS), CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Office of the Chancellor, California State Student Association (CSSA), CCC Office of the Chancellor, UC Office of the President, and Assembly member Berman.

***RATIONALE:** There has been a recent trend for legislative proposals to increasingly align CSU and UC admissions policies despite differences in our respective missions. The Academic Senate of the CSU (ASCSU) opposes legislative intrusion in matters of admissions and other academic policies. Specific concerns with AB 928 – Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer, Intersegmental Implementation Committee (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB928) include:*

- *The Master Plan has three distinct components for public higher education in California each with different purpose and mission.*
- *The nature of the constitutional independence of the UC system ensures that any action to fully align transfer pathways between the UC and CSU for community colleges will conflate preparation for a more general liberal arts degree with those of a more research focused outlook – an example of this difference in anticipated preparation includes the requirements (or lack thereof) of calculus as a required element of various programs (including business) across the CSU and UC. The addition of prerequisite content to degrees for the CSU system in order to align with the constitutionally autonomous UC system is likely to inhibit transfer to the CSU, especially for those with the least prior preparation for college work.*
- *The Intersegmental Operating Committee (IOC) and Intersegmental Curriculum Workgroup (ICW) were organically developed by the three segments of public higher education in California and could, or already do, the work described by the proposed Intersegmental Implementation Committee.*

Neither the proposed AB 928 committee structure, nor the proposed committee charge seem aligned with academic principles; rather, the proposal seems to represent an attempt to interfere with curricular autonomy.

- *The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) is a group of Academic Senate leaders from each of the three segments of public higher education in California: CCC, CSU, and UC. It meets jointly to address matters of academic importance to all three segments.*
- *The AB 1440 Implementation Committee and the Course Identification (C-ID) Advisory Committee serve many of the functions described in AB 928.*
- *Legislative constraints prevent Associate Degree for Transfer pathways from appropriately accommodating high unit majors. Well-intentioned, but flawed, constraints within the original legislative structures fail to allow normal CCC/CSU curricular processes. The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) structure can be in conflict with external accreditation requirements.*

The original legislation producing the Associate degree for transfer demonstrated:

- *a flawed understanding of the nature of degree requirements (cf., the failure to accommodate, and prohibition from accommodating, the CSU American Institutions requirement);*
- *a failure to recognize the large ongoing workload and fiscal costs associated with establishing and ensuring the currency of disciplinary requirements;*
- *a failure to recognize the strength of the diversity of programs in the CSU (and UC).*

AB 928 continues this trend. The CCC/CSU systems were able to partially remediate the flaws in SB 1440 and AB 440. It is far preferable to leave determining curricular requirements and structures to the segments responsible for them so that they can be modified and updated without requiring additional legislative fixes for legislatively-driven problems.

In fall 2020, for the first time since the inception of the program, transfer students entering the CSU with an ADT represented a majority of the CSU's new fall community college transfers. (January 2020 Board of Trustees Educational Policies Committee).

Approved – May 13-14, 2021