

# ACADEMIC SENATE NOV. 5, 2015 – APPROVED

## RESOLUTION ON FOR-PROFIT HONORS PROGRAMS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
For consideration Fall 2015

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has recognized the value of honors programs, encouraged their creation, and been concerned that they equitably serve California's diverse population (Spring 1998 20.01, Fall 1998 20.04, Fall 1999 20.04, Spring 2007 03.01, Fall 2011 13.12);

Whereas, Many presidents at California community colleges with honors programs have been contacted by American Honors, Inc. (AHI), a for-profit company, seeking to bring those existing programs under their corporate control, bypassing the local Academic Senate, its curriculum committees, and existing honors program faculty;

Whereas, Students enrolled in AHI programs pay an average of \$2,800 per year to the company in supplemental tuition and fees for participation in their honors programs,<sup>1</sup> and the company is reported to be seeking establishment of differential fees in California community colleges,<sup>2</sup>

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has confirmed its "opposition to any bill that attempts to establish a two-tiered system" (2012 06.04); and

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has resolved to "support legislation and policy directives that limit need-based financial aid packages to public and private nonprofit colleges only" (Spring 2012 06.01);

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Chancellor's Office and other system partners to oppose the intrusion of for-profit honors programs into California community colleges; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local senates to oppose the involvement of for-profit companies in provision of honors program opportunities and the insinuation of supplemental fees for honors program participation.

1. Moritz, B. (2014). Mission-Driven and For-Profit: Not Mutually Exclusive. Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council,15(1), 29-34. (The author is Vice President for Academic Affairs for American Honors, Inc.)

2. <http://www.scpr.org/blogs/education/2013/12/14/15403/two-california-colleges-part-of-new-for-profit-col/>

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