

ACADEMIC SENATE – 2nd Reading 03/06/2014 - APPROVED

Resolution to advocate for changes to recent community college repeatability regulations that limit student success and access

Proposed by the Victor Valley College Academic Senate

Whereas, in the summer of 2012, when California Community Colleges were turning away hundreds of thousands of students due to budget shortfalls, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, in the context of rationing education, passed regulations to limit the repeatability of coursework in order to concentrate on and prioritize basic skills, certificate and degree attainment, and transfer preparation; and

Whereas, the new repeatability regulations, effective in fall 2013, contribute to the achievement gap for basic skills and at-risk students by stating that normally students may only pass a course once, thus limiting success for those students who could progress significantly if given another opportunity with the course materials; and

Whereas, in some subjects where it is financially and logistically unrealistic to offer a separate course for every level of skill building and where there can effectively be many skill levels in one course, to hold students to completing only the most basic level of a course may limit the student's ability to become truly proficient; and

Whereas, as industries change and modernize, these new repeatability limitations affect the ability of many community college students, particularly those enrolled in career and technical education programs, to return to take a more current version of a course they have already completed in order to transfer, update skills, or maintain professional competence; and

Whereas, lack of repeatability in performance and skill-building courses severely limits the ability of students of visual and performing arts (including dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts) to transfer as majors into programs which select students based on demonstrated performance skills, excellent portfolios, and strong resumes; and

Whereas, the repeatability limitations will significantly reduce access for students across the spectrum of disciplines, including lifelong learners; and

Whereas, repeatability regulations were passed in July 2012, when students were being turned away from classes due to overcrowding, but today most community colleges have space available in courses across the disciplines; and

Whereas, California Community Colleges have built extensive depth and breadth of educational programs for over fifty years, developing programs that contribute to a skilled, progressive workforce; fostering a creative, innovative citizenry, capable of critical thought; promoting community vision, health, and lifelong learning; nourishing a diverse, multi-generational context in which all Californians can learn and grow; and in these ways providing an essential component in the social fabric of our state; and

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Whereas, in November 2012, voters passed Proposition 30, signifying state-wide, taxpayer support for maintaining access to high quality public educational programs;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE ACADEMIC SENATE will continue to support unfettered access to quality public community college education for all Californians; and

Be it further resolved that the VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE ACADEMIC SENATE will work with the College Council, Board of Trustees, Board of Governors and the state system office to increase repeatability options needed for student success and access across disciplines; and

Be it further resolved that, if necessary, the VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE ACADEMIC SENATE will work towards legislative solutions for revising repeatability options in order to provide equal access to a balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality education as ordained in the California Master Plan for Education