

High Standards, Excellent Outcomes, Local Control

California Community College Chief Instructional and Student Services Officers respect the action of the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges regarding the Math and English minimum requirements for the Associate Degree. They appreciate the collegial and thoughtful approach the Academic Senate has taken in leading a statewide dialog, but they consider this decision one that should be made by local colleges.

Whereas California is confronting a basic skills crisis, which is undermining the economic vitality of the state, and

Whereas the majority of students entering community colleges today place into pre-collegiate basic skills courses, and

Whereas the allocation of resources devoted to the basic skills mission creates an imbalance within the comprehensive missions, and

Whereas current efforts to mitigate the basic skills challenge have only perpetuated low rates of retention and persistence, particularly among economically disadvantaged populations, and

Whereas the inability to mitigate this situation is eroding the aspirations of our students to transfer or gain meaningful employment.

Therefore, be it resolved the CCCCIO and the CCCCSSAA affirm current Title 5 language regarding math and English minimum requirements for the Associate Degree; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Instructional and Student Services Officers work with local Academic Senates and other appropriate groups to define college-level learning outcomes for math and English appropriate to the Associates Degree, and

Be it further resolved that local Academic Senates be challenged to prepare new courses and new methodologies to bring students up to college-level skills and competencies in composition and computation and to provide alternatives to intermediate algebra and freshman composition, relating competencies more directly to student preparing for work, and

Be it further resolved the CCCCIO and the CCCCSSAA urge local colleges, through their academic senates, as they act on the above recommendations, to consider the actions proposed in the resolution related to this topic put forth by the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges.

Motion: Jack Friedlander

Second: Pamela Lester

Passed unanimously: March 17, 2006

