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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION

APRIL 15, 2013

Resolution Urging Amendments to California SB 520, Steinberg (D-Sacramento) Creating the
"California Online Student Access Platform"

WHEREAS: "SB 520-Student Instruction: California Online Student Access Platform" was introduced by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg with the commendable goal of pursuing "a faculty-led process that places the highest priority on educational quality through which online courses can be subjected to high-quality standards and review" (SB 520, Sec. 2.b.3); and

WHEREAS: Faculty-led processes already exist (e.g., general education course review, CI-D) that ensure educational quality for all course offerings within and among each of the segments of California higher education; and

WHEREAS: Rather than using extant processes, SB 520 requires the California Open Education Resources Council (COERC) to create and administer the Platform, which tremendously exceeds the group's original purpose, scope of work, and expertise; and

WHEREAS: "Online course providers" not affiliated directly with an accredited higher education institution and offering courses "open to any interested person" (SB 520, Sec. 2.b.1 and 2.c.1.b.2) bypass the very quality control processes that SB 520 seeks to champion; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of California State University, Fresno concur with the analyses of additional problems in SB 520 offered by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate CSU (letter April 4) and the Chair and Vice Chair of the University of California Academic Council (letter March 15); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate implore Senator Steinberg and all interested stakeholders to collaborate in amending SB 520 to achieve its laudable objectives using existing faculty-led processes to ensure educational quality; and be it further

RESOLVED: That SB 520 and any like legislation abide by several key principles, among which are:

- 1) All courses offered for credit in California Higher Education should be taught by faculty-of-record who have been hired and evaluated according to established professional standards;
- 2) All classes offered for credit in California Higher Education should be approved by the offering campus according to established standards;
- 3) The Legislature apply the above standards equally to all sectors of California Higher Education
- 4) The Legislature respect the professional and curricular standards established by the California Higher Education faculty.

RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed to Senator Steinberg, to all members of the California State Legislature, to the Academic Senates and Administrations of all institutions of California Public Higher Education.

Sources: www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb_0501-0550/sb_520_bill_20130401_amended_sen_v98.html and perb.ca.gov/laws/heera.asp