

FA23.02 SUPPORT FOR A FACULTY DRIVEN APPROACH TO CLASS ENROLLMENT MAXIMUMS

From Science and Student Services Divisions

Whereas, Local academic senates at California community colleges are organizations whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, §53200) and the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges (ASCCC) asserts the role of “faculty, and especially curriculum committees, of the importance of establishing a reasonable enrollment limit for each section of any course approved by the curriculum committee”^{1,2} and

Whereas, Current funding formulas practices can put an undue burden on colleges to increase course enrollment maximums and, due to such pressures, enrollment maximums in the San Bernardino Community College District have historically been assigned numbers that differ between SBVC and CHC campuses³, and between teaching modalities of the same course, and have at times been increased to unsafe and/or pedagogically unsound student numbers against the advisement of subject matter faculty expertise and

Whereas, The ASCCC Spring 2022 Resolution 17.03 reaffirms that local senates engage in collaboration with their bargaining agents, further encourages local academic senates to adhere to the guidelines provided in the 2012 paper titled “Setting Course Enrollment Maximums: Process, Roles, and Principles”, and acknowledges the necessity of updating these guidelines to reflect a culturally responsive pedagogy and integration of “IDEAA principles, academic freedom, and the exigencies occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic”⁴ and

Whereas, Our recently updated SBVC mission states that we engage in continuous improvement, foster an environment of meaningful learning, and our College values aim for student success, quality education, and state that our decision-making process be based on thoughtful consideration that will best serve our students⁵; and the District’s Goals #1 and #2 are directly related to students success, equity, inclusion, and antiracism⁶; and the SBVC Student Equity Plan calls for “just-in-time remediation needed for optimal student success”⁷ therefore,

Resolved, That the San Bernardino Valley College Academic Senate reaffirms our faculty purview in the determination of course enrollment maximums as asserted by the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges and supports ASCCC’s Spring 2022 Resolution 17.03, to codify a faculty-driven process that establishes and implements course maximums, particularly as class enrollment maximums are directly related to student success and meaningful implementation of inclusion, diversity, equity, antiracism and accessibility (IDEAA) efforts; and

Resolved, That the San Bernardino Valley College Academic Senate rejects the existing administrative practices that determine class caps using criteria unrelated to pedagogical recommendations, student support, method of instruction, and classroom and lab safety, and urges the College and the District administration to critically examine and align institutional practices with those of the Academic Senate’s recommendations on course enrollment maximums as they work on enrollment management plans that also meet SBVC’s Educational Master Plan “Strategic Direction 8: Ensure Sustainability Through Fiscal Accountability with Supporting Action 5: Initiate culturally responsive strategic enrollment management”⁸ and thus demonstrate support of pedagogically driven enrollment maximums and in which the academic senate with discipline faculty should have primacy; and

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of the San Bernardino Valley College Academic Senate commits to fostering a symbiotic and cooperative relationship with the San Bernardino Community College District Teachers Association (SBCCDTA) in alignment with ASCCC's papers titled "Developing A Model for Effective Senate/Union Relations"⁸ and "The Senate and Union Relationship: Understanding Their Roles and Working Together"⁹ to ensure the implementation and maintenance of enrollment maximums and the production of contract language that enforces the adherence to course enrollment maximums that align with pedagogical recommendations, student support, and classroom and laboratory safety; and

Resolved, That we as the Academic Senate body will disseminate this resolution widely to constituency groups at San Bernardino Valley College, our College and District administration, and our Board of Trustees.

¹ [Title 5 CCR § 53200](#) and Academic Senate for California Community Colleges "Setting Course Enrollment Maximums: Process, Roles, and Principles." Spring 2012: <https://asccc.org/papers/setting-course-enrollment-maximums-process-roles-and-principles>

² Page 3 of 2012 ASCCC document which cites "See, for example, the publication Survey of Effective Practices in Basic Skills (2003), the Rostrum article "Pedagogical-and Other-Approaches to Authenticate Student Identity" (December 2008), and resolution F 01 2.04 (Class Size in Distance Education Courses). Numerous additional resources on this topic may be found by searching for 'class size' at asccc.org."

³ Crafton Hills College Academic Senate Resolution S22.01 Approved 4/20/22: <https://www.craftonhills.edu/faculty-and-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/resolutions2201.pdf>

⁴ ASCCC Spring 2022 Resolution 17.03 Faculty Participation in the Creation of Course Enrollment Maximums for Community College Departments and Courses: <https://asccc.org/resolutions/faculty-participation-creation-course-enrollment-maximums-community-college-departments>

⁵ SBVC Mission, Vision, Values: <https://www.valleycollege.edu/about-sbvc/missions-values.php>

⁶ SBCCD Mission, Vision, Values & Goals Board Approved March 10, 2022: <https://sbccd.edu/about-sbccd/documents/sbccdmissionvisionvaluesgoals.pdf>

⁷ SBVC Student Equity Plan, updated Fall 2022: <https://www.valleycollege.edu/about-sbvc/offices/office-research-planning/student-equity-plan-2022-2025-final2.pdf>

⁸ SBVC's Educational Master Plan 2023-2028: https://www.valleycollege.edu/about-sbvc/office-of-president/college_planning_documents/documents/2023-2028-sbvc-master-plan-final.pdf

⁹ Spring 1996, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, Developing A Model for Effective Senate/Union Relations: <https://www.asccc.org/papers/developing-model-effective-senateunion-relations>

¹⁰ October 2016, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, The Senate and Union Relationship: Understanding Their Roles and Working Together: <https://asccc.org/content/senate-and-union-relationship-understanding-their-roles-and-working-together>