

**Resolution FA09.02: Assessment/Placement – Local Decision  
SBVC English Department**

Whereas, the Academic Senate’s “primary function is to make recommendations with respect to *academic and professional matters* over which the senate faculty have primacy” (Title 5, §53200);

Whereas, decisions regarding curriculum, assessment/placement tools, and developing appropriate cut scores for placement tests in English, Math, and Reading, are within the purview of local (college specific) faculty, discipline experts;

Whereas, student demographics (age, race, gender, socio-economic factors, preparedness) are unique to each college community;

Whereas, SBVC serves an ESL population of 12-14% of our total placements tests;

Whereas, SBVC has a current ESL program consisting of a sequence of classes in which ESL students are placed which lead up to mainstream English courses;

Whereas, Crafton Hills College has no ESL program;

Whereas, AccuPlacer cannot identify ESL students;

Whereas, the “Comparative Study of Three Assessment Tests at SBVC” results reveal that the locally developed test (LDT) supports the demographics of our student population when being placed in college-level writing courses, ENGL 101 (4% placement, 72.8% pass-rate, 90.9% retention); and

Whereas, college-level writing courses (ENGL 101) require students to not only have good control of composition at the sentence level but also require the ability to articulate an argument and develop and logically organize support which cannot be determined by an automated assessment/placement tool, such as AccuPlacer,

Resolved, that SBVC Academic Senate and District recognize that the decision to include a writing sample component for placement into college-level composition courses, setting cut scores for placement tests, requiring an ESL placement test like CELSA to supplement an automated assessment test (AccuPlacer) is made by the local discipline experts of each college, not the District, Chancellor, or college President, and

Resolved, that the SBVC Academic Senate deliver its advice and judgment in this academic and professional matter to the administration and the Board of Trustees.