

Academic Senate Resolution 2010/11-01
Santa Clarita Community College District

In Support of California Community Colleges Budget Priorities and Principles

WHEREAS, California's higher education system is in a crisis situation with insufficient resources at a time of record demand due to high school graduates and unemployed residents seeking retraining; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Proposed Budget seeks a balanced approach of making \$12.5 billion in spending cuts and asking the voters to extend temporary tax increases totaling \$12 billion for five years; and

WHEREAS, under the Governor's Proposed Budget, California community colleges would face \$400 million in state general fund cuts; and

WHEREAS, 140,000 students were turned away from California Community Colleges last year; and

WHEREAS, without an extension of temporary tax increases, California community colleges could face \$900 million in state general fund cuts; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clarita Community College District faces cuts of \$3.7 million under the Governor's Proposed Budget and \$10 million if an all-cuts budget were to be adopted instead; and

WHEREAS, of the 8,018 new students who applied to COC in the last three years, less than half (42 percent) were able to register for the classes they needed; and

WHEREAS, between Fall 2008 and Fall 2010, the total number of new students who enrolled in classes decreased 19 percent overall; and

WHEREAS, College of the Canyons had 10,670 students on waitlists in Fall 2010; and

WHEREAS, the United States used to lead the world in the percentage of adults with two-year or four-year degrees and now ranks 10th behind Korea, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Ireland, Denmark, Belgium and Australia; and

WHEREAS, California leads the nation in the overall percentage of community college students and the proposed budgets cuts will have national consequences for economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges are an integral component of the State of California's integrated and interdependent business community and the proposed budget cuts threaten various industries, development and economic sustainability; and

WHEREAS, funds spent on supporting California Community Colleges are not a cost to the state, but rather an investment; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of future jobs will require education or training beyond high school, but not a four-year degree; and

WHEREAS, community colleges will meet that need, and thus play a key role in the future health of our economy; and

WHEREAS, California's locally elected community college trustees, together with their faculty, staff and students, are best able to decide where budget reductions can be absorbed while minimizing the impact on their communities; and

WHEREAS, "targeted" cuts at specific curriculum that cost colleges the least to offer will -- in addition to injuring students in transfer and career preparation programs -- require districts to reduce enrollment in higher-cost programs such as advanced technology and nursing; and

WHEREAS, California community colleges could mitigate state cuts and maintain essential student instruction and services if their local communities were able to approve parcel taxes to provide funds to replace reduced state General Fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, modest fee increases charged to community college students should protect the quality of instruction and student services; and

WHEREAS, policy and practice reforms to improve student success and completion and motivate student behavior should be based on sound research implemented in a manner to allow students and institutions to adjust; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of the Santa Clarita Community College District supports redirecting any amount of student fee revenue increase to reduce the proposed apportionment cut to protect the quality of student instruction and services; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of the Santa Clarita Community College District opposes the proposal to distribute apportionment based on student retention and instead supports an additive, categorical incentive funding program to encourage student success and completion, as proposed in the report A 2020 Vision for Student Success; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of the Santa Clarita Community College District supports the right of California's voters to be given the opportunity to allow local voters to approve parcel taxes with a 55% vote to backfill state budget cuts at community colleges; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Academic Senate joins the Board of Trustees and the Associated Student Government (ASG) of the Santa Clarita Community College District, by passage of this resolution, and expresses its full support for the above principles and positions on the Governor's Proposed Budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Signed and dated this Twenty-Fourth day of February, Two Thousand and Eleven.
RECORD OF VOTE COUNT:

Academic Senate

__19__ Aye

__0__ Nay

__0__ Abstain

__3__ Absent

Edel Alonso

President, Academic Senate
Santa Clarita Community College District