

## College of Marin Academic Senate Resolution

### Urging the Student Success Task Force to Support the Ongoing Local Student Success Efforts and the Mission of the California Community Colleges

Adopted on November 10, 2011

**Whereas**, The College of Marin Academic Senate understands that these recommendations are the first step in an ongoing effort to reform, through legislation, the California Community College system. The Academic Senate, shared governance committees, and employee groups across campus are critically assessing these recommendations.

**Whereas**, College of Marin, located just north of San Francisco, with its main campus in Kentfield and a second campus in Novato, serves a diverse population that includes a growing immigrant population and a large older adult population that is primarily interested in cultural enrichment and life-long learning opportunities.

**Whereas**, The educational goals of College of Marin students include transfer, career technical education (job skills, retraining, certificates), English as a Second Language and basic skills, and lifelong learning.

**Whereas**, College of Marin's mission states in part: "College of Marin's commitment to educational excellence is rooted in our mission to provide excellent educational opportunities for all members of our diverse community by offering: preparation for transfer to four-year schools and universities; workforce education; basic skills improvement/English as a Second Language; intellectual and physical development and lifelong learning; and cultural enrichment."

**Whereas**, 75% of entering students taking placement tests in 2010 placed below college-level English and 89% placed below college level Math – many placing 3-4 levels below transfer.

**Whereas**, College of Marin, having always focused on student success, is committed to supporting students toward the timely completion of their educational goals and has created a Student Access and Success Initiative with the goal of revamping our matriculation process and improving student support.

**Whereas**, College of Marin consistently seeks to improve its student and instructional services and overall institutional effectiveness through program planning at the departmental level, the internal institutional review process, the accreditation process, and the ongoing assessment of student and program learning outcomes.

**Resolved**, That the College of Marin Academic Senate oppose the recommendation for a common assessment because it does not adequately address important questions such as how multiple measures would be locally controlled based on each individual college's unique populations or its affect on local curriculum.

**Resolved**, That because deviations from an education plan may become necessary when a class has been cancelled or there are not enough sections available or available at the time a student can attend due to his/her work schedule, and because this is completely contrary to the basic philosophy of a community college education, which allows for students to explore their options – not to mention contrary to a basic tenet of a free society that *we are allowed to change our mind*, the College of Marin Academic Senate oppose the concept that changes in an education plan or deviations from it may be subject to the loss of the fee waiver.

**Resolved,** That the College of Marin Academic Senate urge the Student Success Task Force to consider how its recommendations will potentially exclude and marginalize College of Marin’s most socioeconomically disadvantaged students by limiting enrollment and moving toward an outcome-based funding model that narrowly measures success by momentum points and degree or certificate completion alone.

**Resolved,** That the College of Marin Academic Senate urge the Student Success Task Force to revise all recommendations to appropriately account for students whose goals include: career technical education, job retraining, learning English as a second language, and life-long learning.<sup>i</sup>

**Resolved,** That the College of Marin Academic Senate urge the Student Success Task Force to modify its recommendations in order to consider all approaches for revising basic skills instruction without promoting adoption of any specific model or approach.

**Resolved,** That the College of Marin Academic Senate oppose state funding based on outcomes. Research has shown these models to fail in educational contexts because the financial gains are not evident, and it is too easy to manipulate the system by lowering academic standards or selecting for only the most prepared students.<sup>ii</sup>

**Resolved,** That because we believe that over-legislating the California Community College system will produce outcomes that fail to capture significant evidence of student success, the College of Marin Academic Senate support the empowerment of districts to continue making decisions that are in the best interest of their locally served populations.

**Resolved,** That the College of Marin Academic Senate urge to the Task Force to support the broader mission of local community colleges that extends beyond the completion agenda. There are many equally important outcomes that community college students achieve including an increased engagement in education, increased self-confidence and self-motivation, a new ability to decide on goals and outline pathways to achieve them, and an increased understanding of the value of education in their lives at all levels whether it is to be a better parent, stay mentally engaged after retirement, get a better job, train for a new profession or career, or work towards a degree and transfer. All of these outcomes are equally valid.

**Resolved,** That the College of Marin Academic Senate urge the Task Force to advocate for public investment, not divestment, in public education.

---

<sup>i</sup> See “Removal of ESL Students from Student Success Task Force Recommendations,” ASCCC senate resolution passed on 11/5/11.

<sup>ii</sup> See “Full-Time Faculty and Student Success” ASCCC senate resolution passed unanimously on 11/5/11 and “Oppose Student Success Task Force Recommendations on Basic Skills Funding,” ASCCC senate resolution passed on 11/5/11. <http://asccc.org/session/materials>