

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

ACADEMIC SENATE

Concerns about the CCC/BA Proposals

RES 141528

EC

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Bakersfield (AS, CSUB) express serious concern regarding the proposals by the California Community Colleges to offer B.A. degrees and urges Chancellor White, the Community College Chancellor and our legislators to consider the long term impact on this action on the overall academic mission of California's institutions of higher education and also on students who seeks degrees in these institutions.

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of CSUB encourage Governor Brown and the Legislature to allocate sufficient funding to allow the CSU and UC to leverage existing resources in order to provide baccalaureate degrees which meet critical state needs.

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate, CSUB, distribute this resolution to California Governor Jerry Brown, Senators Block, Anderson and Hill, CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor, the leadership of the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges (CCC), CCC Board of Governors, the CCC Office of the President, the Academic Senate of the University of California leadership, the California State Student Association (CSSA), the CSU Academic Senate, and the Chairs of the CSU Campus Senates.

RATIONALE: The Academic Senate of California State University, Bakersfield recognizes the need for an increase in the baccalaureate degrees for the future of California, but believes the Master Plan for Higher Education (the Donahoe Higher Education Act) is the proper mechanism for facilitating that increase. This act endowed the University of California and the California State University systems with the statutory authority to grant baccalaureate degrees, while the California Community Colleges (CCCs) were given authority to grant associate degrees.

We acknowledge that independent applied doctoral degrees in Physical Therapy, Nursing Practice, and Educational Leadership

are now offered by the CSU, in unique circumstances, warranting departure from the Master Plan. The unique circumstances were the University of California was consulted in a reasonable amount of time and offered the right of first refusal to offer and/or expand these degrees. In the present circumstances, there was not a reasonable amount of time to consult with the CSU campuses and faculty and there was no first right of refusal. Further, the rationale for the proposal was not one based on educational practices and needs but on the notion of saving money in the funding of higher education. It was not based on a deliberate decision by the CSU not to offer or expand such degrees.

We view with consternation the fact that the CCC proposals for a BBA degrees did not offer the same kind of collaborative and efficient arrangement that occurred between the UC and CSU. The outcome of that collaboration results in the offering of doctoral degrees that resulted in a limited number of carefully vetted doctoral programs offered by the CSU. Further, the CSU had to provide a cost analysis for each of its proposed doctorates before approval. It does not seem the case that the California Community Colleges are being held to the same burden to prove that they can offer high quality degrees using a cost-effective funding model.

The ASCSU has also rightly argued that the existing curricular expertise and infrastructure of the CSU and UC segments better allows them to serve the interests of Californians seeking a public baccalaureate degree. This expertise includes the ability to offer in depth instruction in upper division General Education offerings.

Finally, it seems reasonable that if there is an unmet need for baccalaureate degrees in California. That CSU and UC should be provided the opportunity and resources to meet the need.

Approved by the Academic Senate on February 26, 2015
Sent to the President as information on March 11, 2015