



**Resolution to Urge the Board of Trustees to
Delay Consideration of Waivers to the Existing Title 5 “American Institutions” Requirement**

- Whereas, For decades the California State University (CSU) has maintained a requirement (in Title 5 administrative law) for all CSU graduates to “acquire knowledge and skills that will help them to comprehend the workings of American democracy and of the society in which they live, to enable them to contribute to that society as responsible and constructive citizens” (Title 5, 40404); and
- Whereas, An informed citizenry is necessary in American democracy, but mounting evidence shows that levels of public information are disappointingly low; and
- Whereas, The passing last autumn of SB 1440—a measure designed to streamline transfers from the California Community Colleges (CCC) to the CSU—has enabled the creation of “Transfer AA” degrees from the CCC system; the CCC system, however, has expressed some reluctance to include the Title 5 American Institutions requirements as a part of these newly created transfer degrees; and
- Whereas, The CSU Board of Trustees is considering changes in the Title 5 “American Institutions” requirement that will enable (but not necessarily require) the Chancellor, Presidents and “appropriate campus authorities” to waive the American Institutions requirement for certain majors and groups (called “the proposal” in this document); and
- Whereas, After a few weeks of informal conversations, the proposal was first publicly broached at an April 13 meeting with the CSU Presidents; this unfortunate time line has resulted in insufficient consultation to date with History, Political Science and other interested Departments and almost no time—in the last month of classes—for local Academic Senates and their curriculum committees to respond; and
- Whereas, The possibility of using the existing option of comprehensive exams in American Institutions to bring the CSU fully into compliance with SB1440 has not been fully explored now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Board of Trustees should delay any consideration of Title 5 changes to the “American Institutions” requirement until November 2011, while the possibility of using the existing Comprehensive Exam option to bring the CSU into compliance with SB 1440 is fully explored with the help of the system’s Political Science and History faculty; we acknowledge that there may need to be procedural and/or policy changes in the administration of these exams but believe that the option could be of great promise in complying with SB 1440 without the need for a Title 5 change; be it further
- Resolved, The Academic Senate of California State University, Fullerton reaffirms its commitment to the principle that all graduates of our institution should demonstrate an understanding of “American democracy and of the society in which they live” so that they may “contribute to that society as responsible and constructive citizens”; be it further
- Resolved, That the CSU should communicate to our community colleges colleagues the great importance of including the AI requirement in transfer AA degrees within the constraints of SB1440 degrees
- Resolved, That the CSU should request that the Legislature amend “The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act” (SB 1440) to clarify that American Institutions requirements should be fully maintained during the implementation of the law; be it further
- Resolved, That copies of this resolution be distributed to the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, the Chair of the ASCSU, all campus senate chairs, the chairs of all CSU History, Political Science, and other interested departments, the California Assembly Committee on Higher Education, and the Chair of the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges.