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Mission Creep: Can We Do It All?

Overview

- The Mission as Written
- Current Positions of the ASCCC
- Adult Ed and Noncredit
- Life Long Learning
- Dual Enrollment
- Bachelor's Degrees
- Is It Time to Change the Mission?

The Mission as Written

(1) The California Community Colleges shall, as a primary mission, offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level for both younger and older students, including those persons returning to school. Public community colleges shall offer instruction through but not beyond the second year of college. These institutions may grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree.

The Mission as Written

(2) In addition to the primary mission of academic and vocational instruction, the community colleges shall offer instruction and courses to achieve all of the following:

(A) The provision of remedial instruction for those in need of it and, in conjunction with the school districts, instruction in English as a second language, adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level are reaffirmed and supported as essential and important functions of the community colleges.

(B) The provision of adult noncredit education curricula in areas defined as being in the state's interest is an essential and important function of the community colleges.

(C) The provision of community services courses and programs is an authorized function of the community colleges so long as their provision is compatible with an institution's ability to meet its obligations in its primary missions.

The Mission as Written

(3) A primary mission of the California Community Colleges is to advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous work force improvement.

(4) The community colleges may conduct to the extent that state funding is provided, institutional research concerning student learning and retention as is needed to facilitate their educational missions.

--Education Code 66010.4

Current Positions

6.01 S10

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges oppose any expansion of the California community college mission as proposed in AB 2400 (Anderson, March 2010); and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges assist local senates in educating the Legislature and the general public about the impact of budget cuts more generally and the impact of expanding its mission specifically.

Current Positions

6.09 S10

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges study the issues of California community colleges potentially offering baccalaureate degrees and, based upon that analysis, develop a white paper for the body's consideration no later than Spring 2011

Current Positions

15.03 F12

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges initiate a conversation with all relevant stakeholders to reconfirm or revise the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education in California and the mission of the California community colleges as appropriate.

Other Resolutions of Interest

- 13.02 F11 Not to eliminate categories of noncredit
- 6.03 F11 Assign all Adult Ed to CCC with funding
- 15.02 S09 Support Concurrent Enrollment
- 4.02 F07 Support for Concurrent Enrollment

CCCs Awarding Bachelor's Degrees

- 6.08 S10 Referred

- In support of bachelor's degrees but asked the Exec Committee to "do with it as it [sees] fit." The resolved clause read as follows:

"Resolved, that the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support AB 2400 (Anderson, March 2010), and participate in the study of how community colleges can be used to help address job shortages in California's most vital employment areas that require baccalaureate degrees, deliver baccalaureate education in a selected number of areas, and expand the capacity of public higher education in California to produce baccalaureate candidates that will be needed in the future in order to maintain the state's competitiveness in the world economy."

Adult Ed and Noncredit

- A major point of discussion by the Student Success Task Force in 2011.
 - Early drafts of the SSTF recommendations would have reduced the number of noncredit areas and set a cut-off for credit courses two levels below transfer
 - Final recommendation 5.02 simply called for the state to develop “a comprehensive strategy for addressing basic skills education in California that results in a system that provides all adults with the access to basic skills courses” in mathematics, English, and ESL.
 - LAO Recommendation—Anything below transfer English or Intermediate Algebra should be non-credit.

Life Long Learning

- SSTF Recommendations originally sought to reduce or eliminate these categories of non-credit
- SB 173 (now a two-year bill) seeks to reduce the number of areas of noncredit, as in the original SSTF recommendations

Dual or Concurrent Enrollment

- Definition: Allowing current high school students to enroll in college courses
- Limited to only non-basic skills courses
- Pros and Cons of Expanding Dual or Concurrent Enrollment?

Bachelor's Degrees

- Previous bill—AB 2400 (2010; Anderson)
- Current Chancellor's Office Task Force to prepare report.
- Rationale: Increase access to Bachelor's Degrees in areas where CSUs do not offer degrees or cannot meet demand

Now what?

Should the mission be revised,
and if so, how?