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May 6, 2019

The Honorable Evan Low  
State Capitol, Room 4126  
Sacramento, CA. 94249

**Subject: AB 130 (Low, as of 10 April 2019) Postsecondary Education: Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability**  
**Position: Oppose unless amended**

Dear Assemblymember Low:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is regrettably writing to express our opposition to AB 130 (Low, as of 10 April 2019), which would “establish the Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability as the statewide postsecondary education coordination and planning entity,” unless the bill is amended to include segmental faculty representation. This position represents the collective judgment of the 60,000 faculty in the California community college system as expressed at our organization’s 2019 Spring Plenary Session through Resolution [6.01 SP19 \(https://www.asccc.org/resolutions/oppose-ab-130-low-april-10-2019-unless-amended\)](https://www.asccc.org/resolutions/oppose-ab-130-low-april-10-2019-unless-amended).

The Academic Senate would welcome a replacement for the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), which performed a significant role in providing data and coordination for higher education in California. CPEC was an asset to the state and has been missed since it was defunded by the governor in 2011.

AB 130 would create the Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability, which would, among other functions, “review and make recommendations, as necessary, regarding cross-segmental and interagency initiatives and programs in areas that may include, but are not necessarily limited to, efficiencies in instructional delivery, financial aid, transfer, and workforce coordination” and “act as a clearinghouse for postsecondary education information and as a primary source of information for the Legislature, the Governor, and other agencies,” thus potentially providing support for California higher education that has been needed since the defunding of CPEC. For this reason, the Academic Senate supports the concept and intent behind this bill.

The Academic Senate’s reservation with AB 130 concerns the composition of the advisory board for the Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability, which would be overseen by an executive director and would include an advisory board consisting of “six public members with experience in postsecondary education.” While the bill’s language has been amended to provide for a meeting once per year with stakeholders, including the “chairperson of the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates, or the chairperson’s

May 6, 2019

AB 130 (Low, as of 10 April 2019) Postsecondary Education: Office of Higher Education  
Performance and Accountability Position: Oppose unless amended

Page Two

designee” as a member of the stakeholders group, the bill does not allow for Academic Senate appointments to or representation on the advisory board.

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges strongly believes that the functionality and benefits of the Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability would be greatly enhanced if the advisory board were to include direct representation from the segments of public higher education. We do not suggest that this representation should constitute a majority of the board. If just one representative from each of the three segments of California higher education—one each from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California—were to be added, they would still constitute only one third of what would become nine voting seats on the board. Such a composition would add a direct connection to the segments and allow for voices with direct and current knowledge of the three systems without yielding responsibility for the development of any recommendations to the segments. This structure would lead to stronger, better informed discussion and decisions while preserving the intent of the legislation.

**For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges expresses its opposition to Assembly Bill 130 (Low, as of 10 April 2019), unless the bill is amended** to include faculty representatives appointed by their respective Academic Senates from each of the segments of public higher education in California among the members of the advisory board for the office.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,



John Stankas, President

Cc: Assemblymember Susan Eggman  
Hon. Jose Medina, Chair, and Assembly Committee on Higher Education  
Hon. Steven Choi, Assembly Committee on Higher Education, Vice Chair  
Jeanice Warden-Washington, Principal Consultant, Committee on Higher Education  
Hon. Ben Allen  
Lizette Navarette, Community College League of California  
Evan Hawkins, FACCC  
Laura Metune, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations for the California Community  
Colleges  
Robert May, Chair, UC Academic Senate  
Catherine Nelson, Chair, CSU Academic Senate