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[www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate](http://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate)

June 4, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814-1173

Chancellor Joseph I. Castro  
The California State University  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: AB 928 (Berman): Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee.

Position: **Oppose**

Dear Governor Newsom,

I hope that all is well and you are having a nice day. I am writing to urge you to veto AB 928 (Berman). As Chair of the [Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates \(ICAS\)](#), and on behalf of the faculty senate leadership of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU), Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges (ASCCC), and the Academic Senate of the University of California (ASUC) that comprise the committee, I want to convey our opposition to this legislation. While ICAS agrees with the intent of AB 928 and have worked for the past decade to enable transfer efficiency between the segments, this legislation is unnecessary and contains curricular and resource implications, as described below, that cause us to urge a veto. The ASCSU has consistently taken a position of opposed unless amended to AB 928, while the CCC and U.C. have taken positions of opposition. This legislation that would require the formation of an intersegmental committee that mirrors ICAS, yet has less faculty representation, a common general education pathway to the CSU and U.C. for transfer students, and a common number system in the CCC, have been created with little to no concern for – or consultation with - the faculty in the three segments that are enable transfer success.

We take this position as ICAS is a committee of duly elected faculty and recognized Academic Senate leaders from each of the three segments of public higher education in the State of California. ICAS meets jointly five times a year to address matters of academic importance to all three segments. Central in these discussions for the past decade is transfer efficiency, including how to reduce barriers to transfer faced by students. Just to be clear, in the CSU our Graduation Initiative (GI) 2025 goal for 2-year transfer graduation rate is 45%. Today we are at 44%. Our 4-year transfer graduation rate goal is 85%. Today we are at 79% (see <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025>). In addition, the California Community Colleges Associate Degree for Transfer program has seen a

steady increase in student's use of ADTs, with approximately 29% of transfer students utilizing an ADT in fall 2016, to 46% of transfer students using an ADT in fall 2020. <sup>1</sup>

**Most importantly, the bill is unnecessary.** At our April meeting, ICAS agreed that transfer is not broken. It is underfunded, particularly in the area of advising. Currently, the California Community Colleges (CCC) provide students considering transfer with one thirty minute session of advising. The advising sessions frequently combine academic advising with mental health advising. With the COVID-19, and persistent food and housing insecurities presenting many barriers to student achievement, advising often focuses more on mental health, than academic advising. The language of AB 928 suggests that it is taking a student-centered approach. What is more student-centered than advising? Are these barriers the result of general education barriers and a common numbering system in the CCC or lack of student ability to discuss, receive explanation, make informed choices, and understand variations in faculty expectations for success within the CSU and U.C.? Your veto is extremely important now as a recognition of the purviews of the faculty, in shared governance collaboration with administration, and not the legislature, as the determinants of curricula within the different segments of the higher education in the State of California.

**The bill is redundant and disruptive to existing intersegmental efforts to reduce barriers to student transfer success.** For over a decade, ICAS has embraced the need for reducing barrier to student transfer success between the different segments of higher education in the State of California. Central in these efforts have been regular meetings between the segments, effective communication with - and application of recommended changes provided by - the Intersegmental Curriculum Workgroup (ICW) and Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Standards Sub-Committee. The formation of a new committee would undermine the academic integrity of current strides towards transfer efficiency. ICAS welcomes discussion with legislators and annually provides experience based – not anecdotal – data that lend to policy recommendations during our spring legislative advocacy day.

**The bill represents government intrusion into the university curricula.** HEERA and long standing principle and practice leave curricular matters to the faculty through duly constituted shared governance bodies, including academic senates.

In short, AB 928 is unnecessary, is harmful to existing academic programs associated with transfer and represents government intrusion into the curriculum during ever challenging times . We look forward to collaborations between the State of California and faculty of the CCC, CSU, and U.C. in the appropriate shared governance process necessary for the successful reduction of barriers to intersegmental student transfer. For these reasons, the faculty of all three segments of higher education in the State of California respectfully urge a Veto on AB 928.

Sincerely,

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[https://tableau.calstate.edu/views/FirstTimeFreshmanandCollegeTransfers/SummaryView?iframeSizedToWindow=true&:embed=y&:render=true&:showAppBanner=false&:display\\_count=no&:showVizHome=no](https://tableau.calstate.edu/views/FirstTimeFreshmanandCollegeTransfers/SummaryView?iframeSizedToWindow=true&:embed=y&:render=true&:showAppBanner=false&:display_count=no&:showVizHome=no)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Keith Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Keith Collins, PhD  
Chair, ICAS  
Chair, Academic Senate CSU