

Resolution 2014 – 06
Student Housing and Educational Programs

Whereas, the Academic Senate is the organization whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, § 53200), and is primarily relied upon for curriculum and instruction development, grading policies, education program development, student preparation and success, and degree and certificate requirements (Board Policy 3255); and shall reach mutual agreement with the Board of Trustees and the College President on processes for institutional planning and any other policy, procedure, or related matter that will have a significant effect on students; and,

Whereas, planning is underway for the development and construction of student housing on the Mt. SAC campus, not included in the current Facilities Master Plan, that will require significant changes to Agriculture Science facilities and space utilization; and,

Whereas, the Registered Veterinary Technology program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, which requires that students complete specific tasks using live animals, and the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Welfare Act requires that the program maintain a minimum number of animals of different required types to accommodate student use; and,

Whereas, the loss or disruption of proper agricultural sciences laboratory facilities would impact the number of animals maintained by the program, prevent faculty from being able to provide adequate instruction to students, and degrade the quality of a unique and well-respected educational program;

Resolved, The Academic Senate declares its strong support for the maintenance of educational programs developed by the campus to support student learning, including Agricultural Sciences; and,

Resolved, the Academic Senate opposes the construction of any student housing on campus that may have a negative impact on an educational program; and,

Resolved, the Academic Senate requests that the College cease all planning activities for student housing until a study is conducted in conjunction with the Agricultural Sciences Program to determine the impact of the proposed housing on existing educational programs; and,

Resolved, the Academic Senate directs the Senate President to communicate the Senate position to the Board of Trustees.

Submitted by:
Academic Senate Executive Board
Jennifer Hinostrroza and Brian Scott, Agricultural Sciences

First reading: November 13, 2014
Second reading: December 4, 2014
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