

Resolution 2015 – 02
Assessment and Orientation Hold Policy

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 standards or policies regarding student preparation and success (Board Policy 3255); and

Whereas Student Success and Support Program regulations require that all first-time, non-exempt students attend an orientation, complete assessment, and develop an educational plan; Title 5, 55530 states, “failure to fulfill the required services may result in a hold on a student’s registration or loss of registration priority pursuant to section 58108 until the services have been completed,” and Mt. SAC’s SSSP Plan states, “non-exempt students are not permitted to register until an assessment is complete;”

Whereas prior to the Fall 2014 semester, the College lifted assessment and orientation holds on approximately 900-1000 first-time Mt. SAC students, resulting in their enrollment in classes without having completed orientation or placement testing; and

Whereas, the lifting of holds resulted in significant numbers of first-time students navigating unfamiliar facilities, grounds, policies, resources and procedures without guidance and support and enrolling in classes without information on appropriate placement in English, math, and reading courses at the beginning of their academic journeys; therefore, it is

Resolved, the Academic Senate opposes students bypassing a process critical to their student success through the removal of assessment and orientation holds and urges the restoration of these holds in accordance with Student Success and Support regulations and local policies; and

Resolved, the Academic Senate declares its strong support for all non-exempt students completing orientation and assessment as a critical foundation of student preparation and success; and

Resolved, the Academic Senate recommends that any future modifications to the College’s Student Success and Support Program policies follow the shared governance process in accordance with Title 5 and Board Policy.

Submitted by:
Academic Senate Executive Board

First reading: May 7, 2015
Second reading: May 21, 2015
Approved: May 21, 2015
Approved by AMAC: June 8, 2015