Resolution 18-09 Recognizing Class Size Considerations as Academic and Professional Matters

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, degree and certificate requirements, and policies regarding faculty professional development, and shall reach mutual agreement on college governance structures, faculty roles and involvement in the accreditation process, processes for program review, and processes for institutional planning and budget development; and,

Whereas, the consideration and recommendation of class size has been demonstrably linked to student success and preparation within a classroom by numerous studies, and

Whereas, the current process for reviewing class size proposals excludes participation by the Senate and its curriculum committees in the determination of whether to grant a request to modify existing class size limitations, and

Whereas, the current process is flawed and needs be re-evaluated due to a lack of procedures to resolve a tie in the resulting decision by the Class Size Committee without any right to appeal said decision,

Resolved that the Academic Senate, as the faculty representative through which the Board of Trustees agrees to rely primarily upon the faculty's recommendations as to policies regarding student success and preparation declares that class size is an academic and professional matter under Title 5, §53200, and

Resolved that the Senate President shall request that the District and the Faculty Association enter into a mutually acceptable memorandum of understanding to address the above concerns, including but not limited to the appointment of Senate appointment(s) to the Class Size Committee and a formal process by which faculty can request that decisions be reconsidered or appealed following an adverse decision by the Committee.

Submitted by:

The Academic Senate Executive Board

Action:

1st Reading of Full Senate: Sept. 6, 2018 2nd Reading of Full Senate: Sept. 6, 2018 Notice to AMAC: Sept. 10, 2018 Forwarded to Board of Trustees: Sept. 12, 2018