

Statewide Academic Senate (Academic Senate for California Community Colleges) resolutions passed in April 2013 that are of particular interest in ISIT discussions:

## 9.0 CURRICULUM

### **9.03 S13 Conditions of Enrollment for Online Instruction**

Whereas, Online learning is a mode of instruction that has become commonplace in our community colleges and some colleges now offer degrees exclusively online;

Whereas, Students may not have the time management skills needed to succeed in an online class or section, may have unrealistic expectations about online education, and may lack the basic technological skills required to succeed in a college online class or section;

Whereas, Student success in an online course depends not only on mastering the course content but also on a student's ability to navigate within the online environment and manage the unique aspects of an online class or section including specific technological skills and higher reading aptitudes; and

Whereas, Section 55200 of Title 5 describes specific characteristics of distance education and online instruction but does not permit colleges to implement a condition of enrollment to ensure students are prepared to succeed in the online environment;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support allowing implementation of appropriate additional preparation in order to enhance student success in online classes or sections; and

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges investigate what would be required to permit colleges to implement appropriate conditions of enrollment for distance learning courses, including changes to Title 5 if necessary, and research the efficacy of a required orientation designed for students taking an online class or section and report the results of the study to the body by the Spring 2014 Plenary Session.

## **19.0 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

### **19.06 S13 Certification of Faculty to Teach Distance Education Courses**

Whereas, Federal and state regulations, as well as accreditation standards, require that colleges ensure that distance education (DE) course offerings meet the same standards of instructional quality as on-site courses;

Whereas, Distance education pedagogical methods differ significantly from on-site instructional pedagogy, and as a result, effective, quality DE instruction requires faculty with relevant skills and training in distance education delivery and pedagogy to promote student success in this modality;

Whereas, In its paper *Ensuring the Appropriate Use of Educational Technology: An Update for Local Academic Senates* (Spring 2008), the Academic Senate states that colleges could "consider possible use of board-approved local minimum qualifications" that include technology skills but

does not address the possible inclusion in local minimum qualifications of certification in DE pedagogical methods; and

Whereas, Title 5 §55208(a) requires that faculty assigned to distance education sections meet the same discipline minimum qualifications as on-site faculty, in accordance with Title 5 §53410, but is silent on qualifications beyond the required preparation to teach in a given discipline, such as qualifications to teach in the distance education modality;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges survey colleges to determine what local requirements exist for certification of faculty to teach in the distance education modality and communicate those results to the body by Spring 2014.

Full set of resolutions passed or failed is available at <http://asccc.org/session/resolutions>