

**Sense of the Senate Resolution
Expressing Concern Regarding the Implementation of
California Senate Bill 850**

Background: California Senate Bill 850, signed into state law in fall 2014, calls for a pilot program for the California Community Colleges to develop and offer 15 bachelor's degree programs for a pilot period beginning no later than 2017 and ending by 2024 unless extended.

- Whereas: the Senate applauds the state for its attempt to encourage more Californians to gain bachelor's degrees; and
- Whereas: the bill explicitly states "baccalaureate degree pilot program shall not offer a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula already offered by the California State University or the University of California"; however, our faculty found some degree of duplication in roughly half of the fifteen proposed programs on our campus alone; and
- Whereas there is concern among our faculty, who are themselves taxpayers in the State and localities of California, that Californians will be paying double for many of these programs, first through the state funds that have helped to develop bachelor degree programs at the CSU over the course of many years, and then again through the combination of state and local tax dollars for Community Colleges to begin building from scratch some of the resources that already exist at the CSU; and
- Whereas the California Community Colleges claim that they can offer degrees more "cheaply" than the CSU, this does not take into account that they receive two sources of funding (state and local) in addition to student fees, unlike the CSU which fund their degrees solely from a combination of state funding and student fees; and
- Whereas The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges does not have experience or expertise in evaluating a four-year degree and that any institution offering a four-year degree needs to have appropriate accreditation and oversight; and
- Whereas the review and discussion of possible duplication has been rushed by the community colleges who are already advertising programs which have yet to be formally approved; therefore be it

Resolved That the San José State University Academic Senate expresses its deep and sincere concern regarding the implementation of SB850 and encourage the legislature to restrict approval for the Community Colleges to offer baccalaureates during this trial period to programs that have no overlap at all with any CSU baccalaureate degree programs; and be it further

Resolved That careful review be given of the accreditation and assessment issues related to any new programs, especially of their upper division components, in this trial period before continuing any approved programs or adding any new baccalaureate programs at the Community College level.

Approved: February 23, 2015

Vote: 9-0-0

Present: Blaylock, Brada-Williams, Brown, Buzanski, Mathur, Matoush, Muller, Schultz-Krohn, Sibley

Absent: Stacks, Jaehne, Vang, Ardalan, Ng