

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

**SS-S15-2, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Expressing Concern
Regarding the Implementation of California Senate Bill 850**

Legislative History: At its meeting of March 2, 2015, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senator Brada-Williams for the Curriculum and Research Committee. California Senate Bill 850 calls for a pilot program for California Community Colleges to develop and offer 15 bachelor's degree programs not offered by the CSU or UC. SJSU has found some degree of duplication in roughly half of the 15 proposed programs on our campus, and the CSU has found substantive overlap for 14 of the 15 proposed programs.

**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 2022 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 15 proposed programs on our campus alone, and that the CSU has found substantive overlap for 14 of the 15 proposed programs; 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 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 express 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 to 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, and be it further

Resolved: that copies of this resolution be distributed comprehensively.

Approved: February 23, 2015

Vote: 9-0-0

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

Absent: Stacks, Jaehne, Vang, Ardan, Ng