



Resolution 14.4.2: Reaffirming the Local Academic Senates Responsibility for Discipline Assignment
(Thekima Mayasa and Manuel Velez)

1st Reading: April 21, 2014

Mover: Velez

Seconded: Mayasa

Whereas, In accordance with Title 5 (Section 53200, Article 2) and the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Board Policy 2510, the faculty (via local Academic Senates) are responsible for placing courses in disciplines;
Whereas, SDCCD Board Policy 5020 defines the role of the curriculum committees, which excludes the responsibility for placing courses in disciplines;

Whereas, District Instructional Administration has initiated various efforts to change the responsibility for discipline assignment from the local academic senates (faculty) to the curriculum committees (administrators, faculty and staff) without following the participatory governance process;

Whereas, over the past four years, increasing concern has grown over the continued efforts by District Instructional Administration to take over the responsibility for discipline assignment including, but not limited to:

- District Instructional Administration and the Curriculum Instructional Council (CIC) discipline assignment proposals misrepresenting Title 5 and SDCCD Board Policy 2510 by stating that curriculum committees are the shared governance bodies responsible for assigning courses to disciplines when such does not appear in Title 5 or SDCCD Board policy.
- In 2011, the CIC voted to implement the CIC "Formalizing the Process to Assign Courses to Disciplines" proposal when it was not presented to, nor voted on, by the Mesa Academic Senate. Therefore, the formalization process was implemented without the approval of the Mesa Academic Senate. Included in the proposal is an attempt to change the responsibility for discipline assignment from the academic senates (faculty) to the curriculum committees (administrators, faculty and staff).
- District Instructional Administration has taken over the discipline assignment of Black and Chicano/a Studies courses by assigning disciplines to Black Studies and Chicano/a Studies courses without department knowledge and/or approval.
- After agreement among SDCCD Black Studies and Chicano/a Studies faculty, refusing to include the selected disciplines for Black Studies and Chicano/a Studies courses.
- Refusing to add the Chicano Studies discipline designation to Chicano/a Studies courses after approval by the statewide academic senate.

Whereas, until recently, only SDCCD discipline faculty have assigned courses to disciplines through an informal process that most community colleges follow in the region and throughout the State;

Whereas, the addition of the discipline assignment functionality in CurricUNET has added to the confusion about the authority over discipline assignment by of curriculum committees; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate recommends that the SDCCD Board of Trustees uphold Title 5 and SDCCD Board Policy 2510 by reaffirming the local academic senates' responsibility for discipline assignment, including:

- Recognizing the discipline faculty as the sole experts responsible for placing courses in disciplines;
- Acknowledging that SDCCD Academic Senates determine the best process to assign courses to disciplines;
- Repealing the District Instructional Office proposal "Formalizing the Process to Assign Courses to Disciplines" proposal approved by the CIC in May 2011 on the basis of the lack review and approval by the Mesa Academic Senate along with statements misrepresenting the language and intent of Title 5 and SDCCD Board Policy 2510, which in effect changed the process for assigning courses to disciplines which had been in place prior to the disputed 2011 CIC action;
- Ending the CIC's effective blocking of curriculum revision in Black Studies and Chicana/o Studies disciplines and other interdisciplinary departments/courses on the grounds on the pretext of disputes about assignment of courses to disciplines.

Presented to the Academic Senate: April 21, 2014

Approved by the Academic Senate: May 5, 2014