



**UPDATED Resolution 15.3.1 – Against the Proactive Awarding of Associate Degrees:** Ben Weaver

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: March 16, 2015

Mover: Sundayo

Second: Marrujo

**San Diego Mesa College Resolution to affirm a student's right to full informed consent and to support consistency in procedure regarding the awarding of any degree by the San Diego Community College District (hereafter referred to as the District), in response to the District's policy regarding the proactive awarding of degrees.**

- **Whereas** when the District first began proactively awarding degrees in 2008, the ADT (Associate Degree for Transfer, AA-T and AS-T) Program did not exist, *and*
- **Whereas** the awarding of degrees proactively can restrict students from being able to receive a second, more appropriate ADT degree later on, *and*
- **Whereas** presently, the ADT Program affords students priority transfer into the California State University (CSU) system, *and*
- **Whereas** the inability of students to obtain an ADT degree later on will reduce and/or restrict their ability to transfer to the CSU system, *and*
- **Whereas** the awarding of degrees proactively can prevent a student from later submitting a *Petition for Academic Renewal Without Course Repetition* to disregard the calculation of substandard grades from their grade point average (GPA), *and*
- **Whereas**, the inability of a student from later submitting a *Petition for Academic Renewal Without Course Repetition* can prevent a student from improving their GPA for transfer purposes, *and*
- **Whereas** the proactive awarding of degrees without full informed consent on the part of students is in opposition to the policy stated in the Mesa College Catalog, as follows, "*faculty, staff and students have responsibilities which are based upon principles of fairness, integrity, confidentiality, safety, professionalism and respect for others*" (San Diego Mesa Catalog, 2014-15, p. 89), *and*
- **Whereas** the proactive awarding of degrees, without having a student actually sign a *Petition for Graduation*, is in stark contrast to the current procedure where students are required to sign all other petitions, *and*
- **Whereas** the proactive awarding of degrees is in opposition to the Mesa College Student Learning Outcome for *Critical Thinking* by removing the right of the student to critically think through, reason and decide for themselves their best course of action, *and*
- **Whereas** the proactive awarding of degrees has the appearance of putting the best interest of the District in terms of degrees awarded ahead of the best interest of students, *and*
- **Whereas** the best way to fully inform students about the consequences of obtaining an associate degree is to have students meet with a counselor to discuss these matters, and then to complete, sign and submit a *Petition to Graduate*, after such discussions, *and*
- **Whereas** the District policy of awarding degrees proactively is not listed in the Mesa College Catalog, *and*
- **Whereas** the awarding of degrees proactively can cause students to lose their financial aid,

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Academic Senate of the San Diego Mesa College requests that the San Diego Community College District refrain from the pro-active awarding of degrees; and

**Therefore, be it further resolved**, that the Academic Senate of the San Diego Mesa College support the procedure that students only be awarded degrees by virtue of submitting a *Petition to Graduate* as all students are required to do. [*Presented to the Mesa College Academic Senate for 1<sup>st</sup> Read: March 16, 2015*]

Presented to the Mesa College Academic Senate: March 16, 2015

Approved by the Mesa College Academic Senate: April 20, 2015