September 2015 Statewide Senate Report
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September 3-4, 2015

Resolutions Passed

AS-3222-15/FGA Support for SB 707 (Wolk): This resolution supports SB 707 (Wolk), which would prohibit persons with a concealed weapon permit from bringing a firearm onto K-12 school grounds or higher education campuses. The bill has an exception for certain law enforcement personnel.

AS-3224-15/FGA Support for SB 172 (Liu) Pupil Testing: High School Exit Examination: Suspension: This resolution supports SB 172 (Liu), which would temporarily remove the high school exit examination as a condition of high school graduation for the academic years 2015-16 through 2017-2018. According to the rationale, the bill is in response to recent developments that raise questions as to whether the continued use of CAHSEE is desirable at this time. The exam is no longer aligned with current high school curricula, and the usefulness of the exam in assessing performance is questionable given disparate exam pass rates among various subgroups. In addition, the State’s contract with the Educational Testing Service that administers the exam will expire at the end of 2015. The exam was not offered by the State in 2015.

AS-3230-15 Establishing a Task Force on the Requirements of CSU General Education (GE) Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) Credit: This resolution is in response to the implications of a pilot program called Statway for the GE B4 quantitative reasoning requirement. Statway is currently used at seven community college campuses and two CSUs (SJSU, CSUS). It is designed to speed up progress through students’ developmental math sequence and college-level course for credit. Statway bypasses the existing intermediate algebra proficiency standard in quantitative reasoning required as a prerequisite to CSU GE B4 courses by Executive Order (EO) 1100. The resolution asks for the creation of a task force to address the current GE B4 quantitative reasoning standard, particularly what courses will transfer to the CSU. The resolution directs the task force to answer two questions: Can the pre-requisite content for the CSU GE B4 course requirement be met concurrently with achieving the SU GE B4 standards (this is how Statway is designed)? And what should be the pre- (and potentially co-) requisite content for quantitative reasoning and mathematical competency (CSU GE B4)? For more information on Statway, see: http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/in-action/pathways-improvement-communities/

AS-3232-15/APEP On the California High School Exit Examination: This resolution applauds the efforts of Senator Loni Hancock and Assembly Member Patrick O’Donnell in sponsoring and co-sponsoring respectively, SB 725, Pupil testing: high school exit examination: exemption. The legislation lifts the requirement for an exit exam in English and Mathematics for California 2015 high school graduates. The legislation was necessary because the exit exam was not offered by the State in 2015.
First Reading Resolutions

AS-3223-15/FA Suspension of CSU Background Check Policy, HR-2015-08: This resolution calls for a suspension of the new CSU background check policy and requests that the ASCSU and Chancellor’s Office create a task force to study the policy and make recommendations regarding the appropriateness of background checks for specific areas of faculty responsibility. The Rationale argues that subjecting all new faculty employees to a general background check represents an unwarranted infringement of privacy, potentially resulting in unintended consequences and unwarranted discrimination. The concern is also raised that the policy could prove a deterrent to attracting the strongest and most diverse candidates. The ASCSU was not consulted about the policy. The policy is available at: http://www.calstate.edu/HRAdm/pdf2015/HR2015-08.pdf

AS-3228-15/FA Additional of an Emeritus/Emerita Faculty Member to the CSU Board of Trustees: This resolution calls upon the ASCSU to advocate for the addition of an emeritus or emerita faculty member to the CSU Board of Trustees. It also requests that the Chancellor’s Office support legislation amending the Education Code to that effect. The Rationale states that emeriti faculty have institutional knowledge of the CSU and its students that would be beneficial to the Board.

AS-3229-15/FGA California State University 2016-17 Support Budget Preliminary Plan: This resolution commends the CSU preliminary plan for the 2016-17-support budget. It also urges the Board of Trustees to seek additional funding to provide a compensation pool increase for all employees beyond the administration’s proposed 2%. The Rationale acknowledges that the preliminary plan recognizes that CSU fiscal needs are greater than those in the governor’s multi-year funding plan. However, it also states that the 2% compensation pools in 2015-16 and 2016-17 are insufficient in light of multiple years when long serving employees had no cost of living increases, and a 1-year mandatory furlough resulting in a 9-10% pay reduction.