

FA23.03 SUPPORT FOR A FACULTY DRIVEN APPROACH TO CLASS ENROLLMENT MAXIMUMS

From Science Division and Student Services Division

Fall 2023

Whereas, Local academic senates at California community colleges are organizations whose primary function is to make recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters (Title 5, §53200) and the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges (ASCCC) asserts the role of “faculty, and especially curriculum committees, of the importance of establishing a reasonable enrollment limit for each section of any course approved by the curriculum committee”^{1,2}; and

Whereas, Current funding formulas practices can put an undue burden on colleges to increase course enrollment maximums and, due to such pressures, enrollment maximums in the San Bernardino Community College District have historically been assigned numbers that differ between SBVC and CHC campuses³, and between teaching modalities of the same course, and have at times been increased to unsafe and/or pedagogically unsound student numbers against the advisement of subject matter faculty expertise; and

Whereas, The ASCCC Spring 2022 Resolution 17.03 reaffirms that local senates engage in collaboration with their bargaining agents, further encourages local academic senates to adhere to the guidelines provided in the 2012 paper titled “Setting Course Enrollment Maximums: Process, Roles, and Principles”, and acknowledges the necessity of updating these guidelines to reflect a culturally responsive pedagogy and integration of “IDEAA principles, academic freedom, and the exigencies occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic”⁴; and

Whereas, Our recently updated SBVC mission states that we engage in continuous improvement, foster an environment of meaningful learning, and our College values aim for student success, quality education, and state that our decision-making process be based on thoughtful consideration that will best serve our students⁵; and the District’s Goals #1 and #2 are directly related to students success, equity, inclusion, and antiracism⁶; and the SBVC Student Equity Plan calls for “just-in-time remediation needed for optimal student success”⁷ therefore,

Resolved, That the San Bernardino Valley College Academic Senate reaffirms our faculty purview in the determination of course enrollment maximums as asserted by the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges and supports ASCCC’s Spring 2022 Resolution 17.03, and the SBVC Academic Senate will work with the Curriculum Committee to establish and maintain course enrollment maximums through the current curriculum process in consideration of pedagogical, health, and safety factors, including but not limited to the methods of instruction, course modality, objectives and outcomes of the course, and the assessment methods as established on the course outline of record and in alignment with inclusion, diversity, equity, anti-racism, and accessibility values; and

Resolved, That the San Bernardino Valley College Academic Senate rejects the existing administrative practices that determine course enrollment maximums using criteria unrelated to pedagogical recommendations, student support, method of instruction, and classroom and lab safety, and urges the College and the District administration to critically examine and align institutional practices with those of the Academic Senate’s recommendations on course enrollment maximums as they work on enrollment management plans that also meet SBVC’s Educational Master Plan “Strategic Direction 8: Ensure Sustainability Through Fiscal Accountability with Supporting Action 5: Initiate culturally responsive strategic enrollment management”⁸ and thus demonstrate support of pedagogically driven enrollment maximums and in which the academic senate with discipline faculty should have primacy; and

