

Saddleback College Academic Senate
Matriculation Resolution: October 28, 2009

Whereas Board Policy 5609 of the South Orange County Community College District, adopted June 15, 1992, states:

“To assist in attaining equality of educational opportunity and success for the students in the South Orange County Community College District, the colleges shall provide students opportunity for (1) access, (2) equitable, quality education, and (3) successful attainment of their educational objectives, with full range of support services through matriculation, all of which acknowledge the requirements and intent of the Seymour Campbell Act of 1986,” and

California Education Code, Section 78210 et. seq.; Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 55500 et. seq.

Whereas students who are required to matriculate include: students who have the goal of obtaining a college degree of Associate or higher; students who must improve basic skills in English, reading or math; students who are undecided on their educational goals; students from other colleges who have not completed an English composition and/or math course, and

Whereas all students are encouraged to participate in matriculation, and

Whereas matriculation support services include: orientation to the college’s programs and services; assessment and placement in English, reading, math and ESL; academic advising; counselor development of a first-semester student educational plan; follow-up services to students in basic skill courses; processes in the area of prerequisites, co-requisites and advisories on recommended preparation, and

Whereas research shows that students who complete the matriculation process perform better in their first semester of college than those students who do not matriculate, and

Whereas reduction in matriculation funding means that there will be no Basic Skills counselor; no English as a Second Language counselor; no evening or weekend testing sessions; no Early Alert program for students such as those in the basic skills courses; no follow-up matriculation counseling services; no follow-up matriculation services for students on probation or those who have been disqualified from college; relief of some matriculation mandates, and

Whereas total reduction of matriculation funding means a relief of all matriculation mandates; therefore, there will be no assessment and placement, and

Whereas self-placement could also threaten articulation agreements with universities, and

Whereas self-placement could threaten the fulfillment of the following accreditation standards: “the institution regularly evaluates admissions and placement instruments and practices to validate their effectiveness while minimizing biases” and “the institution designs, maintains, and evaluates counseling and/or academic advising programs to support student development and success and prepares faculty and other personnel responsible for the advising function,” and

Whereas “exemption from state law and regulations has no bearing on the expectations of the accrediting commission and each college remains responsible for ensuring that the student services policies and practices related to the validation of assessment instruments and the course placement and counseling of students meet standards for the college’s accreditation,” and

Linda Michalowski, Vice Chancellor, Student Services and Special Programs, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, 10/26/09 communication

Whereas any reduction in matriculation and BSI funding at Saddleback will have a direct impact on the success of all college students,

Be it resolved that Saddleback College demonstrate its commitment to these stated priorities and established practices by providing adequate levels of support services and funding for Matriculation and BSI, in order to continue innovative, effective, and efficient models that enable the college to focus on student success.

Approved 10/28/009