



President

David Morse
Long Beach City College

April 13, 2015

Vice President

Julie Bruno
Sierra College

The Honorable Jose Medina, Chair
Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Secretary

John Stanskas
San Bernardino Valley College

Treasurer

Wheeler North
San Diego Miramar College

Subject: AB 626 (Low), as of 4/13/15
Position: Support

Area A Representative

James Todd
Modesto Junior College

Dear Assemblymember Medina:

Area B Representative

Dolores Davison
Foothill College

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges wishes to express our support for AB 626 (Low, as of 4/13/15), which would require expenditures of Student Success and Support Program Funds to increase the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty under certain circumstances, support funding for part-time faculty office hours, and express the intent of the Legislature that the California Community Colleges Board of Governors work together with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and other relevant entities to establish appropriate goals for a full- to part-time faculty ratio in noncredit education.

Area C Representative

John Freitas
Los Angeles City College

Area D Representative

Cynthia Rico
San Diego Mesa College

North Representative

Kale Braden
Cosumnes River College

North Representative

Phil Crawford
San Jose City College

South Representative

Michelle Grimes-Hillman
Mt. San Antonio College

South Representative

Craig Rutan
Santiago Canyon College

Representative at Large

Debbie Klein
Gavilan College

Full-time faculty are needed to achieve the student success goals of the California Community College System. Full-time faculty are necessary for curriculum and program development, for participation in college governance and planning, and for the continued delivery of high-quality instruction for all students. The professional expertise and experience necessary for effective development and delivery of academic programs can only be achieved through the efforts of full-time faculty with the full connection to their institutions, job security, and undivided attention to their work that part-time faculty often are not granted.

Representative at Large

Dan Crump
American River College

Despite the importance of and need for full-time faculty, heavy reliance on part-time faculty continues throughout the community college system. Part-time faculty may provide excellent instruction but often, through no fault of their own, cannot fully serve students because they are not compensated for, given space for, or expected to perform office hours. This situation creates a significant equity issue, as part-time faculty disproportionately teach basic skills courses that typically include heavy enrollment of students from underrepresented ethnic and cultural groups. For these reasons, the provisions in AB 626 for the funding of part-time office hours add additional importance to the bill.

Julie Adams, Ph. D.

Executive Director

Finally, with the upcoming change to the funding rate for Career Development and College Preparation Noncredit Instruction promised in SB 860 (2014), full-time noncredit faculty are needed to develop curriculum and programs that can take

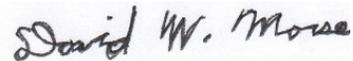
Assemblymember Medina
April 14, 2015
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advantage of this change for the benefit of students. Thus, the establishment of an appropriate goal for a full- to part-time noncredit faculty ratio is essential, and the Academic Senate, as named in AB 626, is the most relevant body to work with the Chancellor's Office to establish this ratio.

Another significant and ongoing need for the community college system is hiring of full-time counseling faculty. AB 626 does not specifically require the hiring of counselors, but such hiring could be included under the bill's current provisions. The Academic Senate would prefer to see specific language in future revisions of AB 626 indicating the need for hiring of full-time counseling faculty, but we nevertheless see much to recommend the bill in its present form.

For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports Assembly Bill 626 (Low, as of April 14, 2015). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Morse". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and title.

David W. Morse
President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Assemblymember Evan Low
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee