



## San Bernardino Valley College Student Trustee's Report Thursday, March 12, 2009

### Student Senate for California Community Colleges



#### **March in March Rescue Education Rally**

The time has come where we must ask ourselves and our legislators whether our budget reflects our goals as a state. Even with the passage of the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 budget package, we, the students of California's public higher education system, realize that this crisis is far from over and that very real threats are not far ahead.

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC), in conjunction with, University of California Student Association (UCSA) and California State Student Association (CSSA) leaders, is calling out to all those concerned with the future of California's higher education system. Join us at Raley Field to begin a march to the State Capitol in Sacramento to express support for California's public higher education system. Students, faculty, staff, administrators, and all other supporters will gather on March 16th to make their voices heard. Let's KEEP THE DOORS OPEN to our colleges and universities: come support affordable, accessible, and high-quality education for all!

March 16th, 2009 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

8:00 - 9:30 AM Bus parking and staging  
Raley Field | 400 Ballpark Drive, West Sacramento

10:00 AM March to the Capitol

12:00 PM Rally on the Capitol's West Steps

2:00 PM Legislative visits: Optional, but recommended; on your own.

Featured speakers: Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, Assemblymember Sandré Swanson, Assemblymember Warren Furutani, Assemblymember Curren Price, SSSCC President Richael Young, CSSA President Tim Snyder, UCSA President Lucero Chavez, ASSCC President Mark Wade Lieu, FACCC Executive Director Jonathan Lightman, CFT Vice President Dean Murakami.

#### **SSCCC Basic Skills Resolution**

The SSSCC addressed potential topics of resolutions to sponsor at the Spring 2009 General Assembly. This was addressed at the SSSCC Council meeting on Saturday,

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. I suggested that we sponsor a resolution that would eliminate or increase the maximum units allowed for basic skills courses within Title 5. I drafted the following resolution pending approval of the SSSCC Council:

**WHEREAS**, according to the California Community Colleges System Office, the total number of seats consumed in “Basic Skills” courses in Spring 2008 were 135,696; only 71.57% were retained although merely 51.04% succeeded. Furthermore, the total number of seats consumed in Basic Skills Courses in Winter 2008 dwindled to 17,033; considerably 88.13% were retained and 71.47% went on to be successful in the courses.

**WHEREAS**, Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55035 declares that, “...no student shall receive more than 30 semester units (or 45 quarter units) of credit for remedial coursework....‘remedial coursework’ refers to nondegree-applicable courses...”

**WHEREAS**, many community college districts specify twenty-two (22) courses or less as “Basic Skills” courses. In addition, a majority of these courses are three (3) units. As a result, countless numbers of students easily surpass the 30 semester unit threshold and are then “restricted to taking only noncredit courses, nondegree-applicable courses which do not involve remediation, and those degree-applicable credit courses which do not have prerequisites or advisories on recommended preparation.” Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55035

**WHEREAS**, Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55035 does state that “the governing board of a district may provide a waiver of the limitation on remedial coursework with respect to any student who shows significant, measurable progress toward the development of skills appropriate to his or her enrollment in degree-applicable credit courses...”. However the wording “...may provide a waiver...” is ambiguous and does not guarantee students the opportunity to access such a waiver.

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55035 be amended to allow California Community College students to receive no more than 45 semester units (60 quarter units). Further amendments include the removal of the ambiguous word “may” to be replaced with “shall” so that we, the 2.7 million community college students, are guaranteed the right to obtain a waiver from our district if we show significant, measurable progress.

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges work with the California Academic Senate to urge the Board of Governors, Consultation Council, and all statewide boards, committees, and ad-hoc groups to incorporate the amendments stated above into the Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 55035.

***Respectfully submitted by,***  
***Javier Alcaraz***  
***Student Trustee – SBVC***