First Reading Item W*
California State University, Dominguez Hills
Academic Senate Resolution
Sense of the Senate
RESOLUTION ON CSU-ONLINE
Exec 11-13
MSP 12/07/11

Resolved:
That the Academic Senate of CSUDH call for the suspension of final decisions regarding the design and implementation of the CSU Online Initiative pending: 1) the completion of the White Paper by the Statewide Senate Academic Affairs and the implementation of its recommendations; 2) greater faculty input and faculty support from across the system, and 3) clarification of the goals and intentions of the Online Initiative. And be it further

Resolved:
That specific concerns must be addressed before the any policies regarding the Online Initiative are finalized:
1) **clarification** of the implications of creating a 501C3 Auxiliary Unit with a stated goal of contracting and managing the needed services (e.g., the role for-profit/external vendors, oversight of this unit);
2) clarification of the role of existing educational policies and maintenance of high academic standards (e.g., security issues, curricular review, ownership of curricular content, allowable class size);
3) guarantees the program not commence unless at least 80% of the campus academic senates approve the final plan and implementation. That priority be given to current CSU faculty and that instructors teaching through the Online Initiative be subject to CFA labor agreements; that this document be distributed to all CSU academic senates; the CSU Statewide Academic Senate; the Board of Trustees and the CSU Online Executive Director.

4) details regarding financial impacts for campuses and students (e.g., distinctions between costs associated with stateside courses versus online courses, how FTES are calculated, how revenues generated through Online Initiative are distributed) 5) development of concrete benchmarks for evaluation of the success of CSU Online.

Background and Rationale:

The development of the CSU Online Initiative has been carried out by the Technology Steering Committee (TSC: 9 campus presidents and 6 CO representatives), with support from the Online Working Group, a group of technology and distance/continuing education administrators (including 2 faculty members) (see "CSU Online Overview" and "TSC CSU Online/E-Leaning Initiative, Implementation Discussion Draft: Attachment A" at http://its.calstate.edu/onlinelearning/documents.shtml). A major element of this development involved hiring a consulting firm, Richard N. Katz and Associates, Inc. (RNKA), to conduct an analysis of aspects of online learning to include: opportunities, risks and benefits, market analysis, funding models, and timelines for program inception. The results of the RNKA analysis can be found in documents (produced between May and July, 2011) entitled "CSU at a Crossroads," "Options for the CSU," "Trends in Online Learning," and "Online Learning Today: The Players" (http://its.calstate.edu/onlinelearning/documents.shtml). Subsequently, the TSC produced a Draft Implementation Plan (TSC CSU Online/E-Leaning Initiative, Implementation Discussion Draft: (http://its.calstate.edu/onlinelearning/documents.shtml) and began a search for an Executive Director (see CSU Online Executive Director Job Announcement and CSU Online Executive Search Committee Roster at http://its.calstate.edu/onlinelearning/documents.shtml). On Nov. 16 the TSC announced that Ruth Claire Black had been appointed as Executive Director of CSU Online and announce the appointment of a CSU Online Governing Board responsible for establishing the policy direction for CSU Online and providing oversight to the Executive Director. (http://its.calstate.edu/onlinelearning). On Nov. 16, a webcast was held to answer questions regarding the Online Initiative (view at http://its.calstate.edu/onlinelearning).

Growing faculty concerns about the minimal faculty input in the development of the Online Initiative, as well as the direction the Initiative may be taking have led three Academic Senates (CSUSB, CSU Stanislaus, and Sonoma State) to pass resolutions calling for the suspension of the Initiative until basic issues are addressed and approved by campus senates. In addition a "CSU Online Faculty Task Force," consisting of over 80 faculty across the CSU, has been actively questioning features of the Initiative and has written an open letter to Chancellor Reed expressing opposition to outsourcing to for-profit online providers or attempts to circumvent collective bargaining.

Efforts to increase faculty input for the development and implementation of the Online Initiative also include the ongoing work of the Statewide Senate Academic Affairs Committee, which is preparing a White Paper on Online Education.

Due to the lack of meaningful faculty input in the development of the Online Initiative and the many uncertainties and genuine concerns surrounding the final design and implementation of the Online Initiative, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate at CSUDH is presenting a resolution to the Senate to ask for certain issues to be satisfactorily resolved—with much greater faculty input— before any decisions about the Online Initiative are finalized.   We are not opposed to online education in principle; we are opposed to the development and implementation of online policies that have not been developed with adequate faculty input and whose goals and intentions are unclear.