**Resolution: The role of not-for-credit education**

WHEREAS, Education Code section 78300 authorizes colleges to offer fee-supported, not-for-credit community service classes; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6.90 states authorizes the San Mateo County Community College District to offer not-for-credit community education classes “in subject matter areas that, in content or depth of treatment, are not appropriate for college credit” and “should avoid unnecessary duplication” of credit-bearing courses and programs; and

WHEREAS, the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO), in its 2012 *California Community Colleges Guidelines for Community Services Offering*, recommends that appropriate functions of not-for-credit courses include, but are not limited to, offering introductory courses that feed into credit-bearing college courses and programs, serving as test markets or incubators for new courses and programs that may eventually be converted to credit-bearing, and transitioning inactivated credit courses, those that are not financially feasible, or those that cannot overcome repeatability limitations to a not-for-credit offering; and

WHEREAS, Education Code authorizes colleges to offer “selected topics courses” (also known as experimental courses) for which full information on some approval criterion, such as feasibility or need, cannot be determined until the course is offered on a pilot basis, but such courses are limited to one successful offering before they must be converted into a permanent credit-bearing course; and

WHEREAS, the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) recommends that not-for-credit offerings should only be comparable to a credit-bearing courses if the local college determines that the not-for-credit course offering reaches “different community members who have different goals”; and

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate supports faculty who choose to work with CCCE to create pathways that lead students from not-for-credit offerings to credit-bearing courses and programs; and

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate supports faculty who choose to transition inactivated courses, those that are no longer budget priorities, and those whose limitations preclude them from being offered by the college for credit, to CCCCE for offering as not-for-credit; and

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate supports the use of not-for-credit course offerings for piloting courses as an appropriate alternative to the limitations of “special topics” (also known as experimental) courses; and

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate urges faculty to engage in consultation with college administration and CCCE to ensure that not-for-credit course offerings differ significantly from credit courses in content or depth of treatment, and/or reaches community members with different goals than those of students who taking comparable credit courses.

Reference Materials:

California Community Colleges Guidelines for Community Services Offering <http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/AA/Miscellaneous/CommunitySvcsOfferingGuidelinesFinal10.24.12.pdf>