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Resolution Calling for Suspension of the CSU Online Initiative

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO
FACULTY SENATE
Resolution Calling for Suspension of the CSU Online Initiative

WHEREAS faculty have primacy over the curriculum and have specialized knowledge of the skills and subject matter pertaining to their respective disciplines, as well as the expertise developed over time and through experience to determine which particular pedagogical methods can most effectively convey those skills and that subject matter to their students; and

WHEREAS well-designed and executed online programs can be a useful addition to the variety of pedagogical methods available to faculty; and

WHEREAS the best online programs develop from faculty working on their individual campuses within their particular disciplines who have immediate knowledge both of the demands of those disciplines and the needs of their students; and

WHEREAS California State University, San Bernardino, has been a leader in the development of online degree programs; and

WHEREAS a CSU system-wide initiative can offer the potential benefits both (1) in the financing and marketing of online programs due to economies of scale and (2) in serving as a repository of best practices developed at the several campuses in the system; and

WHEREAS a system-wide online initiative must (1) derive--first-of-all--from the faculty who will actually perform online instruction when and where it is appropriate, (2) address the intellectual property rights of faculty who create courses, (3) indicate how the quality and effectiveness of online courses will be determined, (4) indicate how new curricula are to be developed and what approval process will be applied to them, and (5) indicate the relationship between maintaining the quality of individual courses and maintaining the quality of degrees and programs, and assuring that the CSU degree will be meaningful and our graduates well educated; and

WHEREAS the Katz Report and the online initiative based upon it fail to address any of the foregoing considerations adequately, going so far as to proposing the creation of a twenty-fourth online campus, independent from the existing campuses;

WHEREAS the development of a CSU Online Initiative is entirely premature until adequate consultation has been engaged in with the faculty of the campuses; and because there has not been such consultation, the funding of the Katz Report, the proposed appointment of an Executive Director, and all other expenses associated with the CSU Online Initiative constitute an unwise use of critically scarce University resources; now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the California State University, San Bernardino, call upon the Chancellor to suspend the expenditure of any further University funds on a system-wide online initiative until at least 80% of the campus senates approve the basic issues involved in such an initiative has been completed; and, be it further

RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be distributed among CSU Campus Senate Chairs, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate of the California State University, Chancellor Charles B. Reed, Executive Vice Chancellor Ephraim P. Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Benjamin F. Quillian, the Technology Steering Committee Presidents (Karen Haynes, Jolene Koester, Rollin Richmond, Richard Rush, John Welty, F. King Alexander, Jeff Armstrong, Millie Garcia, Paul Zingg), and members of the Board of Trustees of the California State University.

FSD 11-02

Approved by the Faculty Senate, unanimously

Jodie B. Ullman, Chair

November 1, 2011

Date