

Resolution

- Whereas the De Anza Academic Senate (DAAS) supports the mission of California Community Colleges to provide educational access and opportunity for all Californians and to offer high quality education to all our students; and
- Whereas DAAS supports efforts to close equity gaps, improve faculty diversity, and improve educational experiences and outcomes for all our students; and
- Whereas community colleges receive significantly less funding per-student than any other segment of education in California (\$8,099 compared to \$11,564 K-12; \$17,784 CSU; \$32,593 UC); and
- Whereas funding has a significant impact on teaching and student-support services, from student access to full time faculty and academic counselors to the breadth and availability of course offerings; and
- Whereas restricted “categorical” funding has, over the past decade, reduced local flexibility in how to allocate available dollars to best serve our students and make the best use of the faculty’s expertise; and
- Whereas the new “Student Centered Funding Formula” (SCFF), while claiming to help “mitigate” financial challenges, will in fact divert even more money from some colleges, thus severely and negatively impacting local efforts to serve and support students; and
- Whereas studies of performance-based funding systems that claim to “reward success” have repeatedly shown that they shift resources away from those students and institutions that most need extra support and thus *increase* equity gaps; and
- Whereas the “supplemental allocation” in the SCFF will substantially and unfairly cut funding to colleges in areas with a high cost of living, resulting in a reduction in the quality and number of educational experiences and student services at those colleges; and
- Whereas the SCFF will redistribute funding in a harmful and capricious manner that will negatively impact many California college students by restricting access and diminishing support services in nearly half of all California community college districts; and
- Whereas the SCFF was so poorly and hastily conceived (and without appropriate or adequate input from stakeholders) that no college is able to predict future funding, which undermines the planning necessary to ensure educational quality; and
- Whereas California voters, through Proposition 98, have endorsed minimal funding levels for community colleges, with the understanding that State support would be equitably distributed; and
- Whereas efforts to improve the SCFF through recommendations from the Advisory Workgroup on Fiscal Affairs and the SCFF Oversight Committee have already been inappropriately constrained by narrow charges and political calculations that do not serve California students,
- Be it therefore resolved this day of May/June, 2019, that the DAAS does formally vote “no confidence” in the Student Centered Funding Formula, and we call on the Legislature and Governor to replace the SCFF with simple, stable funding, giving each district an equitable share of Proposition 98 funding every year plus enhanced funding to improve local efforts to support vulnerable student populations and close equity gaps.
- Be it further resolved that the DAAS calls on the State Chancellor’s Office to cease supporting the SCFF or any other outcomes-based funding formula or inequitable redistribution of State funding and instead work with districts to strengthen counselor-student ratios, increase full/part-time faculty ratios, expand part-time-faculty office hours, and increase opportunities for students to work individually with faculty: proven strategies that improve educational experiences and outcomes for our students.