



Academic Senate of Madera Community College

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-002

A RESOLUTION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF MADERA COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Title 34, §668.10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (34 C.F.R. §668.10) defines a direct-assessment competency-based education (CBE) program as “a program that, in lieu of credit or clock hours as the measure of student learning, utilizes direct assessment of student learning, or recognizes the direct assessment of student learning by others”; and

WHEREAS, Title 5, §55270.1(e) of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR 55270(e)) reiterates this definition; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Senate of Madera Community College is supportive of equity-focused programs, and CBE is being presented as equity-focused, yet some “experts argue that...these programs will only serve to exacerbate class and race-based inequalities in higher education [and] establish a separate-but-equal landscape in higher education, with poor students relegated to CBE programs” (Chen, G., 2022); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Governors for California Community Colleges has recognized the need for “mutual agreement of the college or district administration and the academic senate” in developing CBE programs as they, at a minimum, have curricular impact (5 CCR 55270.4); and

WHEREAS, the State Center Community College District has not yet expressed its commitment to this direction by suggesting a discussion regarding “faculty workload policies for the number of students assigned to a module within a direct-assessment competency-based education program” (5 CCR 55270.5); and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) have recognized the need for support from local academic senates (*e.g.*, “New Horizons: Competency Based Education & the CCC CBE Collaborative,” presentation delivered at the ASCCC Fall 2020 Plenary Session); and

WHEREAS, the application to join the CBE Collaborative indicates that the “completed PDF of this submission will be routed electronically via Adobe Sign” for the President of the Academic Senate to sign, and

WHEREAS, no formal request for support has yet been put before the body of the Academic Senate of Madera Community College, therefore any signature obtained was done so without the consideration of the body; and

WHEREAS, Madera Community College’s participation in the California Community College’s Competency-Based Education Collaborative was publicly announced on June 10, 2021 (<https://www.maderacollege.edu/news/2021/competency-based-education-credits.html>), three months prior to the CCC Board of Governors adding §55270 *et. seq.* to the California Code of Regulations, which refocused the program on direct assessment; and

WHEREAS, on the only occasion when a formal question was put to the Academic Senate of Madera Community College related to this topic (a resolution of support for the addition of District Administrative Regulations regarding CBE, November 18, 2022), it failed to garner support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Academic Senate for Madera Community College is deeply concerned about the direction the CBE Collaborative is taking regarding the project and requests that the MCC administration reconsider our participation in the project along the lines of the actions taken by Bakersfield College, and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT further involvement in any CBE group be vetted through the Academic Senate for Madera Community College under the authority granted to academic senates by 5 CCR 53200 and 5 CCR 53203(f).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Academic Senate of Madera Community College, this 25th day of August, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: 14
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
VACENCIES: 3