

**CALIFORNIA SB 520 (STEINBERG), RECOMMENDATION TO
AMEND TO BETTER ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING
HIGH QUALITY ONLINE INSTRUCTION IN CALIFORNIA HIGHER
EDUCATION**

The Faculty Senate endorses the following resolution to amend California SB 520 (Steinberg) in order to better achieve its objective of promoting high quality online instruction in California higher education;

- Whereas: “SB 520 – Student Instruction: California Online Student Access Platform” was introduced by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg with the commendable goal of pursuing “a faculty-led process that places the highest priority on educational quality through which online courses can be subjected to high-quality standards and review” (SB 520, Sec. 2.b.3); and
- Whereas: Faculty-led processes already exist (e.g., general education course review, CI-D) that ensure educational quality for all course offerings within and among each of the segments of California public higher education; and
- Whereas: Rather than using extant processes, SB 520 requires the California Open Education Resources Council (COERC) to create and administer the Platform, which tremendously exceeds the group’s original purpose, scope of work, and expertise; and
- Whereas: “Online course providers” not affiliated directly with an accredited higher education institution and offering courses “open to any interested person” (SB 520, Sec. 2.b.1 and 2.c.1.B.2) bypass the very quality control processes that SB 520 seeks to champion; therefore be it
- Resolved: That the Faculty Senate of California State University, Sacramento concur with the analyses of additional problems in SB 520 offered by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate CSU (letter of April 4) and the Chair and Vice Chair of the University of California Academic Council (letter of March 15); and be it further
- Resolved: That the Faculty Senate implore Senator Steinberg and all interested stakeholders to collaborate in amending SB 520 to achieve its laudable objectives using existing faculty-led processes to ensure educational quality; and be it further
- Resolved: That SB 520 and any similar legislation abide by several key principles, among which are:
- 1) All classes offered for credit in California Higher Education should be taught by faculty-of-record who have been hired and evaluated according to established professional standards;
 - 2) All classes offered for credit in California Higher Education should be approved by the offering campus according to established curricular standards;
 - 3) These standards are fundamental and should apply equally to all sectors of California Public Higher Education; and
 - 4) Faculty should welcome Legislative support and resources to foster innovation and technology in teaching, provided that the support respects our professional and curricular standards; and be it further

Resolved: That copies of this resolution be distributed to Senator Steinberg and all members of the California State Legislature, to the Academic Senates and Administrations of all institutions of California Public Higher Education, to the California Faculty Association, and to the press.

Carried.