Small and Rural College Participation in OEI Course Exchange

Whereas, Online Education Initiative (OEI) Pilot courses that have been reviewed and meet the OEI rubric have an average success rate 4.9% above the statewide success rate for online courses, correlating with the high quality of materials required to meet the OEI rubric and the resources (or online ecosystem) available to colleges in the OEI Consortium;

Whereas, The OEI announced expansion of its consortium in late 2017, with a final application deadline of Friday March 9, 2018, and at least 29 colleges applied to join the cohort, but the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office released a Request For Applications to manage the CVC-OEI on March 8, 2018 including the language that an objective of the grant is to expand the Course Exchange by making “20 seats available to participating students from other colleges by Fall term 2018” in “each course offered through the CVC-OEI,” despite the fact that existing colleges in the OEI consortium have only been required to make five seats available in Course Exchange courses for students in other colleges throughout the application period to join the OEI Consortium; and

Whereas, Small and rural colleges who are at or above cap and might otherwise benefit from the OEI online ecosystem are potentially disadvantaged by the new 20-seat requirement since it may preclude students at teaching colleges from enrolling in required coursework which may not be available elsewhere in the course exchange, potentially placing students in competition with students from all California community colleges for seats in exchange courses at their own college, and

Whereas, The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Dean of Educational Resources and Professional Development stated at the May 9, 2018 Online Education Initiative Advisory Committee (OEIAC) meeting that trailer bill language funding the CVC-OEI requires that students from all 114 California Community Colleges be able to enroll in approved Course Exchange courses, despite the language on the OEI website that “When a college becomes a member of the OEI consortium, the college and its faculty have the opportunity to participate in the course exchange”;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) recommend to the Chancellor’s Office that appropriate mechanisms be identified and implemented by the OEIAC to ensure that participation in the Course Exchange does not impede degree completion for students at small and rural colleges.

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