



June 18, 2021

Honorable Marc Berman
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849

Re: AB 928 (Berman) – Proposed Amendments

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

The undersigned organizations are writing to recommend amendments for AB 928. We understand you are considering amendments to your legislation and ask that you consider these as well. We believe that if taken these amendments will meet your goal of making the transfer process more accessible to students.

We appreciate your efforts to create a transfer oversight committee; however, the committee as proposed does not have adequate representation for those directly responsible within the transfer process. We suggest you reconfigure the committee to reflect the critical importance of the public systems of higher education in the transfer process balanced with the vital role of public input. Therefore, we recommend the committee be reconstituted to include a total of 14 representatives:

- One (1) representative each from the CSU, UC, and community colleges system offices.
- One (1) student representative from each of CSU, UC, and community colleges.
- One (1) representative from each academic senate from the CSU, UC, and community colleges.
- One (1) representative from the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.
- One (1) representative appointed by the Governor's Office.
- One (1) representative appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

- One (1) representative appointed by the Assembly Speaker's Office.
- One (1) representative from the California Intersegmental Articulation Council.

We also recognize the importance of other partners involved in the transfer process such as the Department of Education, workforce development experts, social justice groups, and others. Thus we suggest that the new committee be required to consult with these various groups as it considers ways to strengthen the transfer process.

We wholly oppose the consolidation of IGETC and CSU GE Breadth pathways and recommend this section of the bill be removed. The pathways have specific class requirements and consolidating them would lead to less class variety. UC accepts far fewer courses for GE than the CSU, so this change would eliminate viable courses and programs, and create additional barriers for students pursuing transfer to the CSU. It would also remove viable course options for CSU-bound students, and ultimately eliminate community college faculty purview regarding academic and curricular matters. We therefore ask you to consider removing this provision and instead ask the newly created committee to consider how to develop alignment in a student-friendly manner.

We also oppose the automatic placement of students in an ADT pathway and recommend this be eliminated in the bill. This overlooks the many students, specifically place-bound and first-generation students, who may not plan on transferring, or who hope to transfer to a UC, private school, out-of-state institution, or wish to complete a community college baccalaureate degree program. Furthermore, while ADTs guarantee a spot at a CSU, they do not guarantee admission at the local CSU. Providing students with better information about their pathway options would afford them self-agency, which leads to closing equity gaps. Similar to the single pathway provision in the above paragraph, we do believe this item requires more discussion and thus asked it be removed from the legislation and instead charge the committee with discussing how to better leverage these pathways for our students.

As community college practitioners, we recognize that our students face barriers to transfer to our four-year partners. There is a critical need for a committee combined with system stakeholders and public members to examine systemic barriers to transfer and to report potential solutions to the Legislature. We appreciate your efforts to put student needs first and believe the proposed amendments above would best support students. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Goldman".

Stephanie Goldman, Associate Director
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan McElhinney".

Ryan McElhinney
Community College League of California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolores Davison".

Dolores Davison, President
Academic Senate of California Community Colleges

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Michels".

Jeffrey Michels, President
California Community College Independents