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September 22, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor,
State of California State Capitol,
First Floor Sacramento,
CA 95814

Re: **AB 928 (Berman): Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation**
Position: **Request Veto**

Position: Oppose

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC), **we respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill 928 by Assemblymember Marc Berman** as we do not think its proposed modifications to the transfer process will have a positive impact on for the students in the California community colleges.

AB 928 will create a committee designated with providing recommendations towards changing the transfer process, a single general education transfer pathway for students intending to transfer to either the University of California (UC) or the California State University (CSU), and automatically place students in an associate degree for transfer (ADT) program regardless of their academic goals or intentions.

While we appreciate amendments that the author has made to recognize the critical importance of those responsible for creating transfer opportunities in this policy discussion, we continue to have significant concerns about the other proposals in the bill. Per extensive conversations with faculty, staff, trustees, CEOs, and other stakeholders, we have concluded that the following mandates would not increase student success or close long-standing achievement gaps.

We agree that a simplified transfer process between the UC and CSU is much needed. We do not believe that AB 928 will achieved this goal, as written. It would also remove viable course options for CSU-bound students and ultimately eliminate community college faculty purview regarding academic and curricular matters. Finally – regarding the University of California’s near constitutional independence from mandates imposed by the state legislature – we have significant questions on how this would be implemented.

We also oppose the requirement that colleges place students in an ADT pathway as we believe such placement into a transfer program without consent from a student goes against the Guided Pathway framework of flexible transfer pipelines with a definitive placement. Finally, while ADTs guarantee a spot at a CSU, they do not guarantee admission at a student’s local CSU.

The ASCCC agrees with the author and the sponsors of this measure about the need for reforming the transfer process. Far too many students – particularly those of color or

first of their generation – get lost in the transfer process. That is why we are in support of a committee made up of various stakeholders charged with taking a hard look at how we are doing with the transfer process and making recommendations to the state legislature on ways we can improve our operations.

Unfortunately, the bill contains other provisions of concern to many higher education practitioners. Thus, we urge your veto on this measure and allow higher education practitioners to continue to work with the sponsor and author on how the transfer process can be reformed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dolores Davison', written in a cursive style.

Dolores Davison, President

CC: Assemblymember Marc Berman

Joey Freeman, Chief Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom