

Resolution on the Fifty Percent Law, Education Code 84362 and California Code of Regulations Section 59200

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Disposition: Legislative Affairs

WHEREAS, the Fifty Percent Law enacted in 1961 was implemented to require all California Community Colleges to allocate at least fifty percent of the unrestricted general funds they receive on classroom instruction; and

WHEREAS, the current Fifty Percent Law formula, as defined in Education Code Section 84362 and California Code of Regulations Section 59200 et seq., calculates the percentage by dividing Salaries of Classroom Instructors by Total Current Education Expense; and

WHEREAS, although the 50% Law is a fair method of preventing institutions from abusing the flexibility of the unrestricted general funds they receive; the current formula fails to recognize significant components such as counseling, library services, and faculty development as instructional costs, therefore limiting resources that are crucial to support all community college students in their educational pursuits; and

WHEREAS, the California community college system should be advised reclassifying items as “instructional costs” and adding them to the Fifty Percent Law requires increasing the numerator of the law proportionately upwards from fifty percent; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges strongly encourages the explicit recategorization of instructional costs to encompass crucial elements such as counseling services, library faculty, and faculty release time services within the educational framework; and

RESOLVED, by recognizing the essential role fulfilled by counseling services, library faculty, and I.T. services, it is strongly recommended that community colleges strategically allocate resources, ensuring a balanced distribution that enhances essential programs while safeguarding against the reduction of staff or education and educational support quality; and

RESOLVED, the Student Senate of California Community Colleges calls upon all stakeholders to prevent enacting significant changes to or taking legislative action and reform regarding the Fifty Percent Law prior to the release of the Legislative Analyst’s Office audit, ensuring decisions are informed by comprehensive data and analysis;

RESOLVED, urges all stakeholders to engage in meaningful, informed, data-driven discussion on potential amendments to the Fifty Percent Law, stakeholders are urged to engage in dialogues and workshops post-audit publication, ensuring any adjustments are made with an understanding of impacts on the study body and faculty alike

[1] Fifty Percent Law one pager

[50% resolution - Google Drive](#)

[Fifty Percent Law | California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office \(cccco.edu\)](#)

[FACCC article on 50%](#)