



## ACADEMIC SENATE

### ***RESOLUTION: S14-02***

Proposed: May 13, 2014

Approved Date: May 27, 2014

Subject: ***SUPPORT FOR FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE***

Mover: Cherie Bower

Seconder: Luis Pedroza

***Whereas,*** Since 1996, the Freshman Experience Program, a learning communities program, has served over 10,000 students, has increased student pass rates, course completion, and student persistence rates, AA degree attainment, transfer rates, and the percentages of students completing two-semester pre-collegiate and collegiate course sequences within one year in Math and English;

***Whereas,*** The Freshman Experience Program has provided ongoing, effective, reflective, proactive staff development for Santa Ana College faculty, including specific training in student learning outcomes, reading strategies, integrated academics and student services, metacognitive strategies, strategies for increasing student engagement and motivation, integrative assignments, and utilizing technology to develop a personal learning network, and has provided leadership and training for learning community efforts at many other institutions, including direct in-services and trainings at twenty local and statewide colleges, sponsorship of three conferences for local and statewide colleges and presentations at numerous state, national and international conferences;

***Whereas,*** The Freshman Experience Program has forged synergistic institutional relationships with the multiple programs and initiatives, including Basic Skills, MESA, the Center for Teacher Education, the University Transfer Center, the Honors Program, the Nursing Department, the Theater and Dance Departments, U-Link, Puente, Middle College High School, the RSCCD Research Department, has positively affected campus climate through strong, collaborative links between Counseling, Math, and English, has brought positive recognition to Santa Ana College, and has become part of the institutional and cultural fabric of the Santa Ana College;

***Whereas,*** the Basic Skills Initiative has supported the Freshman Experience Program annually since 2009 (approximately \$70,000 annually) and likely will not have sufficient funds to provide support after June 2015;

***Resolved,*** That the Academic Senate of Santa Ana College recognizes the value that the Freshman Experience Program and its activities bring to SAC students; and

#### ***SANTA ANA COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT***

*The mission of Santa Ana College is to be a leader and partner in meeting the intellectual, cultural, technological and workforce development needs of our diverse community. Santa Ana College provides access and equity in a dynamic learning environment that prepares students for transfer, careers and lifelong intellectual pursuits in a global community. Vision Themes of Santa Ana College: I. Student Achievement; II. Use of Technology; III. Innovation; IV. Community; V. Workforce Development; VI. Emerging American Community*

***Resolved,*** That the Academic Senate of Santa Ana College recommends that the Planning and Budget Committee and College Council support full and stable annual funding of the Freshman Experience Program as a permanent part of the college.