

Peralta Faculty Connected and Working Together



Peralta Community College District Academic Senate Resolution Against the 73rd Community College District, Known as “Calbright”

WHEREAS, for the last year the Peralta District Academic Senate (DAS) has been highly skeptical of the California Community Colleges State Chancellor and the Board of Governors in their advocacy for (and now implementation of) the state legislature-approved fully online community college, now named “Calbright”; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of the State Academic Senate leaders at the Spring 2018 Plenary Session, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges opposed the creation of the 115th community college (now Calbright) by acclamation in Resolution 6.02 S18, in a clear rejection of the ill-conceived “educational institution,” noting that it is bad for both faculty and students in California¹; and

WHEREAS, the California Federation of Teachers, a union of educators and professionals with a history that spans over 100 years of educational advocacy, condemned the creation of an online community college in California, leading to a very public vote of “no confidence” delivered to the office of State Chancellor Eloy Oakley on May 23, 2019²; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) saw fit to not only condemn the creation of the 115th community college, but also pass a vote of “no confidence” against State Chancellor Oakley for his advocacy for said college and his consistent failure to acknowledge the process of participatory governance and thus the voices of the very faculty he is supposed to lead³; and

WHEREAS, despite valid criticisms and serious concerns from all major community college faculty organizations in the state of California over the past two years, “Calbright” is now being referred to as the 73rd community college district, and the recent passage of state legislation requires the college to have courses available by October 2019 fully online⁴;

¹ Opposition to the Proposed California Online Community College District, Resolution 6.02 S18, <https://www.asccc.org/resolutions/opposition-proposed-california-online-community-college-district>

² <https://www.cft.org/post/vote-no-confidence-community-college-chancellor>

³ <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/05/14/california-community-colleges-faculty-vote-no-confidence-chancellor>

⁴ <https://www.educationdive.com/news/can-calbright-reinvent-online-community-college/562147/>

WHEREAS, local and statewide news outlets have reported that Calbright College has opened a Downtown Oakland California “Center” to provide support for students and house offices for the Calbright administrators;

WHEREAS, the California Community College Chancellor’s Office must acknowledge that the 2018 state budget act creating Calbright forbade the college from duplicating the efforts of the existing 72 districts, Calbright’s publicized curriculum—medical coding, information technology support and cybersecurity --currently exists as both physical and fully online programs in Peralta Community College District (PCCD);

WHEREAS, neither the State Chancellor of the California Community Colleges nor the California Community Colleges Board of Governors has adequately addressed the legality of locating the 73rd community college district within Peralta Community College District boundaries, as it is a clear violation of AB 1725 as well as the Title 5 definition of district operations⁵;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Peralta District Academic Senate emphatically condemns the California Community College State Chancellor and Board of Governors for placing the Calbright College Center in Oakland and allowing it to teach courses that are already taught both online and physically in the Peralta Community College District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request the State Chancellor and the Board of Governors respond in writing to the frustration and concerns expressed by the Peralta District Academic Senate no later than October 14, 2019, and to copy their response to the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees and the Peralta Community College District Chancellor.

Resolution 01 fall 2019-DAS