
Senate Bill No.: SB-2014-15-06

Date: 3-12-2015

Authored by: Karissa Masmela, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Adan Garay, Attorney General
Orion Block, Upper Division

Referred to: University Affairs Committee

Committee Rec: Approved on 3/12/15 (3-0-0)

Senate Action: Approved on 3/23/15 (18-0-1)

Title: Improve the Orientation Process for Transfer Students

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. (A.S.) is the official voice of over 40,000 students at California State University Northridge; and
2. WHEREAS: A.S. is the primary advocate for students at CSUN and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning focused campus environment; and
3. WHEREAS: The mission at California State University, Northridge is to support the academic, research and creative endeavors of its students, faculty and staff; and to enhance the quality of campus life; and
4. WHEREAS: A commitment to recruit, enroll and serve transfer students requires vision from administrative and faculty leadership; and
5. WHEREAS: A transfer student orientation is available for first time transfers; however, attendance is not required and as a result does not fully cater to the entire transfer student population; and
6. WHEREAS: Transfer students frequently report that they feel a disconnect from the campus, not knowing where key services are, what signature campus events are, or how to maximize their student experience during their brief time here at CSUN; and
7. WHEREAS: Associated Students believes that transfer students, if given an innovative and flexible way to find out about campus services and events, would likely get more involved and feel more engaged with the campus; and

8. WHEREAS: As an institution that supports historically underrepresented diverse communities, we must address the lack of attention to the needs of this student constituency, making it a priority and commitment to closing the achievement gap; therefore let it be
1. RESOLVED: That Associated Students, Inc. recommends that Undergraduate Studies and the Division of Student Affairs collaborate and conduct a survey for the transfer student constituency no later than the end of the Fall 2015 semester, to develop effective strategies in fostering student engagement and continuing success and persistence rates; and let it be further
2. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. encourages the Division of Student Affairs examine and enhance the transfer student orientation (TSO) components based on survey results, in order to target the specific needs of this student constituency; and let it be further
3. RESOLVED: That the Division of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Studies begin discussions as soon as this resolution is passed, on making transfer orientation required by Fall 2016 using the data that was collected from the survey; and let it be further
4. RESOLVED: That any student who does not complete the orientation would have a hold placed on their second semester registration until they complete an online orientation; and let it be further
5. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students Inc., with this resolution, officially request that the Division of Student Affairs will create an innovative, virtual, and user friendly website for our transfer students that would reflect the on-campus orientation; and let it be further
6. RESOLVED: That the Division of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Studies considers the encouragement from Associated Students that this transfer student website be accessible through the MYNorthridge Portal; in order to achieve the goal of getting this student constituency enmeshed in the mainstream student body; and let it be further
7. RESOLVED: That the transfer student website can provide information, but is not limited to providing, the following components:

- How to access and use key campus resources like the Career Center, the Klotz Health Center, and Counseling Services
- Internship programs and Research opportunities within colleges
- Scholarship information
- Study Abroad Opportunities
- Information about free computer software and how to access it.
- Highlights of campus life: Matador Nights, Athletics, Clubs and Organizations – and how to get connected if one wants to.
- Associated Students Inc. : Information on Senators/Cabinet members and their roles on campus; and how students can have access to Senators (via email) for any campus issues; and let it be further

8. RESOLVED: That, if feasible, the transfer student website would debut by Spring 2016; and let it be further

9. RESOLVED: That the Director of the Office of Student Involvement and Development follow-up with the University Affairs Committee to let them know the progress that is being made towards the survey that will target the needs of transfer students and the required orientation; and let it be finally

10. RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including but not limited to the following:

- Dianne Harrison, CSUN President
- Dr. William Watkins, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff, Associated Vice President for Student Life
- Patrick Bailey, Director of the Office of Student Involvement and Development
- Christopher Aston, Assistant Director, New Student Programs and Transition
- Dr. Cheryl Spector, Director, Academic First Year Experiences
- CSUN Today

ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS



Tiffany Zaich
President, 2014-2015

Talar Alexanian
Vice President, 2014-2015