

Senate Bill No.: SB-2014-15-08

Date: March 6, 2015

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Referred to: University Affairs Committee

Committee Rec: **Approved on 3/26/15 (4-0-0)**

Senate Action: **Approved on 3/30/15 (18-0-1)**

Title: **Funding for Student Clubs/Organizations Sign Language Interpreter**

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: CSUN has emerged as a national leader in providing quality education to deaf and hard-of-hearing students in a mainstream university environment; and
4. WHEREAS: In accomplishing its mission, California State University, Northridge is committed to ensuring that deaf and hard-of-hearing students benefit from all possible educational experiences through the efforts of the National Center on Deafness (NCOD); and
5. WHEREAS: Beyond support in the classroom, campus clubs and organizations provide a co-curricular experience for all students which address a wide range of issues, offer a countless number of events and work to improve the overall campus environment; and
6. WHEREAS: Deaf and hard-of-hearing students currently struggle to enhance their personal development through their participation in these co-curricular

activities because of the lack of funding for interpreters within the University budget; and

7. WHEREAS: A Sign language Interpreter is mandatory to provide communication access between deaf and hearing members at student club/organization meetings and events; and
8. WHEREAS Sign language Interpreter salaries can accumulate anywhere from \$20.00-\$65.00 per hour (depending on the situation) which places a severe strain on student club/organization finances; and
9. WHEREAS Due to student club/organization lack of funding to continuously provide interpreter services, deaf and hard-of-hearing members can not fully engage in their events and meetings and play an integral role in the CSUN community through these activities; and therefore let it be
1. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. declares its strong for the continued presence for equitable communication access on campus for deaf students, faculty and staff to actively participate in student clubs and organizations; let it be further
2. RESOLVED That the Associated Students, Inc., strongly encourages the University to look into the Budget Planning for Lottery Fund Expenditures or other appropriate sources of funding in Spring 2015 and set aside a year long budget for student clubs/organizations to request Sign Language Interpreters for deaf students, faculty and staff on campus; let it be further
3. RESOLVED That Interpreter Funds for Student Clubs/Organization, if feasible, be established and readily accessible before Fall 2015; otherwise, maintain close communication with A.S. as to when the funds will be available; let it be further
4. RESOLVED That the Associated Students, Inc., strongly recommends the University to establish an account with NCOD funded by Lottery funds or other appropriate source of funding, with the sole use to fund requests by student clubs/organizations for interpreting services at their meetings and events; let it be further

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

- Dianne Harrison, President, CSUN
- Harry Hellenbrand, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Colin Donahue, Vice President of Administration and Finance
- William Watkins, Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs
- Sharon Eichten, Associate Vice President of Budget Planning and Management
- Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff, Associate Vice President for Student Life
- Dwayne Cantrell, Associate Vice President for Student Success and Support Services
- Jim Macaluso, Associate Director for National Center on Deafness
- Patrick Bailey, Director of the Office of Student Involvement and Development
- Vicki Allen, Assistant Director of Matador Involvement Center
- Diane Hartjen, A.S. Controller
- Deaf CSUNians
- Deaf Students Association

Tiffany Zaich
President, 2014-2015

Talar Alexanian
Vice President, 2014-2015