

College Autonomy and Faculty Purview for Determining Meta Majors or Areas of Focus

Whereas, Title 5 §53200 defines academic and professional matters to include degree and certificate requirements and educational program development and Title 5 §53203 requires “the governing board or its designees will consult collegially with the academic senate when adopting policies and procedures on academic and professional matters”;

Whereas, A “meta major” or an “area of focus”, a recommended element of the guided pathways framework, is a grouping of majors in a broad field of interest for students who have not decided upon a specific major, but are looking to sample some courses in an area of interest¹; and

Whereas, Colleges nation-wide are determining locally “meta majors” or “areas of focus” to support local programs, community needs, and student interest²;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges urge local senates to assert that determining the content, categories, and titles of the “meta majors” or “areas of focus” is a local curricular and educational program decision that falls within academic senate purview as defined by Title 5 §53200.

¹<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/Meet-the-Meta-Major.aspx>,
<http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/portals/6/docs/sw/Redesigning%20CC%20for%20Student%20Success%20Jenkins%20August%202014.pdf>,

²<http://www.jff.org/publications/meta-majors-essential-first-step-path-college-completion>,
<http://valenciacollege.edu/academic-affairs/new-student-experience/meta-majors.cfm>,
http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/guided_pathways_of_study.html