STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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A Resolution in Support of the Implementation of an Early Alert System for High D/F/W Courses To Increase Student Success and Retention

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WHEREAS, the mission of California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) Student Government (SG) is to place the students at the center of our educational experience by leading with integrity and selflessly serving the students and the University on a local, state, and national level; and CI SG serves as the official representative voice of CI students; and

WHEREAS, CI Student Government is an entity of Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of California State University Channel Islands; and

WHEREAS, the California State University Channel Islands Academic Senate is the official representative legislative body of the University and speaks on behalf of the University community on matters within its purview[1]; and

WHEREAS, the CSUCI Academic Senate's purpose is to recommend policy on curriculum, academic standards, criteria, and standards for the selection, retention, and tenure of faculty members and other matters that affect faculty and students[2]; and

WHEREAS, the CSUCI Academic Senate's purpose is to promote academic excellence at this University[3]; and

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[1] https://senate.csuci.edu/

[2] https://senate.csuci.edu/

[3] https://senate.csuci.edu/constitution-revised-04122022-passed-05032022.pdf

WHEREAS, the Student Government President and Vice President have regularly attended CSUCI Academic Senate and Senate Executive Committee and have 1 vote during Academic Senate; and

WHEREAS, the definition of an Early Alert System (EAS) is a campus wide student success intervention that involves faculty identifying students with student behaviors i.e. absenteeism, mental health disparities, or low involvement in class/schoolwork or performance impacting their academic progress, and connecting students with campus support (Academic Advisors, EOP, LRC, WMC, peer mentors, etc.); and

WHEREAS, the adoption of an Early Alert System has not currently been implemented by all faculty; and

WHEREAS, an Early Alert System will act as a formal notification to alleviate academic challenges, serve as a support system for student success, and not a notification of disciplinary action; and

WHEREAS, an Early Alert System message communicates a growth mindset framework to students, and that they should accept challenges, believe that errors are not failures but necessary steps and opportunities as evidenced by growth mindsets improves student achievement over several months including the achievement of low-income and minority students[4]; and

WHEREAS, courses that consist of high Drop, Fail, or Withdrawal (D/F/W) rates are more likely to impede a student's success and retention at CSUCI; and

WHEREAS, earning a non-passing grade negatively impacts a student's academic trajectory and increases the risk of attrition—negatively impacting the CSU's ability to close equity gaps[5]; and

WHEREAS, what happens in a classroom plays a significant role in a student's sense of belonging, their gain or loss of academic confidence and ultimately if they earn a degree[6]; and

WHEREAS, CSUCI is focused on publishing (internally) an active list of high-enrollment, high-Drop, Fail, Withdraw (DFW) courses with the largest equity gaps to establish benchmarks and to engage presidents, provosts, deans, and faculty senate and department leaders[7]; and

WHEREAS, CSUCI is focused on establishing improvement rates by course for each campus;[8] and

WHEREAS, CSUCI is focused on tracking and publish progress over the next three terms when the courses are offered[9]; and

WHEREAS, the retention of Full-Time First-Time Freshmen has decreased from 83.1% in 2019-2020 to 72.3% in 2022-2023[10]; and

[4] https://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/faculty-development/early-alerts
[5] https://www.csuci.edu/daa/gi2025/taskforce/equitable-learning-practices.htm
[6] https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025/closing-the-equity-gap/Pages/promote-quitable-learning-and-reduce-dfw-rates.aspx
[7] https://www.csuci.edu/daa/gi2025/taskforce/equitable-learning-practices.htm
[8] https://www.csuci.edu/daa/gi2025/taskforce/equitable-learning-practices.htm
[9] https://www.csuci.edu/daa/gi2025/taskforce/equitable-learning-practices.htm
[10] https://csuci.sharepoint.com/sites/srpc/Shared%20Documents/srpc-presentation-11-09-23.pdf

WHEREAS, the adoption of an Early Alert System will empower students to make informed decisions about their academic success

WHEREAS, the CSU has seen the adoption of similar programs and systems at the following universities: CSUN[11], CSULB[12], CSUMB[13]; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government President and Vice President have begun this conversation with CSUCI's Academic Executive Committee on October 31st, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government anticipates students will experience higher levels of financial and social burdens with the recent CSU tuition increase approved by the CSU Board of Trustees starting in Fall 2024; and

WHEREAS, CSU Channel Islands's enrollment consists of 61% of First Generation College Students, who historically have a substantially more difficult time navigating financial aid and higher education, come from marginalized, lower socioeconomic, and underrepresented backgrounds[14]; and

WHEREAS, 62% of first-time CSU students graduate within 6 years[15]; and

WHEREAS CSU Channel Islands' student retention should begin on the day of enrollment with systems in place inside and outside the classroom to alert the student and school that the student is presenting behavior or performance in jeopardy of not passing a class/classes and requires notification and extra support; and

RESOLVED that CSU Channel Islands Student Government stands in support of faculty with high D/F/W courses to utilize Early Alert Systems; and be it further resolved

RESOLVED, that the adoption of an EAS will be focused on academic progress and support for students enrolled in courses with high D/F/W rates and different from CARE (Campus Access, Retention & Equity) reports[16]; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that Student Government urges CSUCI's Academic Senate to create a Taskforce for the implementation of an Early Alert System; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that Student Government emphasizes the initial implementation of an EAS for courses with high D/F/W rates and encourages future implementation campus-wide in all courses when feasible; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that Student Government supports campus-wide academic retention efforts that will contribute to successful student outcomes for students enrolled in courses with high D/F/W rates; and let it be further

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[11] https://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/faculty-development/early-alerts

[12] https://web.csulb.edu/colleges/cnsm/advising/early-alert.html

[13] https://csumb.edu/css/

[14] https://oneci.csuci.edu/t/IRPEGuest/views/Admissions/AdmissionsFunnel?%20%20%20%20%20%20%3Aembed=y&%3Aiid=1&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y

[15] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HKP9Ie_doriA_8gwKhrM6vH-azQxr3sl/view

[16] https://csumb.edu/css/

RESOLVED, that Student Government urges CSUCI's Academic Senate to meet with Student Government Leaders to ensure their input is included in policies, resolutions, and practices adopted by the Academic Senate in regards to an Early Alert System; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the Student Government encourages multiple departments who support student success initiatives and faculty to collaborate with implementing an Early Alert System; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that departments who utilize an Early Alert System may provide the following interventions:

- Create coordinated care network that facilitates student support with the departments/people best suited to support students' needs
- Provide academic advising outreach to create an academic plan to support their academic success
- Connect students with tutors at the Learning Resource Center, Writing & Multiliteracy Center or other tutor support
- Connect students with peer mentors who can help with study skills and navigating the campus community; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that students are provided resources with, but not limited to the following: time management skills, connection to appropriate resources specifically tailored to the students needs, referral to CAPS for test and general anxiety or stress reduction, note-taking and study strategies and goal setting; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the Student Government will continuously and actively engage with CSUCI's Academic Senate and campus administration for policy changes that address the root causes of detrimental retention outcomes of CSUCI students; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that Student Government Leadership will attend the upcoming CSUCI Academic Senate Meeting to uphold the contents of this Resolution, and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the Student Government urges the Academic Senate to prioritize current and future CSU Channel Islands students by implementing the use of an Early Alert System with the intention of campus-wide implementation in all courses after the success of an Early Alert System has been witnessed; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that CSUCI's Academic Senate stand in solidarity with our students by assisting them to achieve their educational aspirations with the assistance of a formal Early Alert System; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that Student Government encourages the implementation of an Early Alert System in anyway feasible within the capacity of Academic Advising, Faculty, and other student support departments; and let it be finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to the following CSU Channel Islands departments, divisions, and/or entities for their support and consideration: Academic Senate, Office of the Provost, Office of the President, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Division of Academic Affairs, Academic Advising Department, Division of Business &

Financial Affairs, Office of the Vice President for University Advancement, Office of the Dean of Students, CSU Channel Islands Student Body, and California Faculty Association.

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