

**Resolution: Oppose Formal Transfer Partnership with Arizona State University Online**  
(Approved by SCC's Academic Senate on 11/12/2019)

Whereas, the state of California, recognizing that higher education is a key lever for economic growth in California, in 1960 codified in the California Education Code §§ 22500-22705 (also known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act)<sup>i</sup> the creation of a coherent, high-quality public system in California as a single pathway of educational opportunity;

Whereas, the demand for online education is on the rise in California, yet students in the California Community College system have few online transfer options within either the California State University<sup>ii</sup> or the University of California systems, causing districts such as the Los Rios Community College District to look for alternative options, such as Arizona State University (ASU) Online, for our students who are interested in online transfer opportunities;

Whereas, ASU Online, while a public institution, has been shifting its business model towards an approach that increasingly bears resemblance to the model used by for-profit higher education institutions<sup>iii</sup> in the following ways:

- ASU Online is creating a for-profit venture, backed by an investor who was charged in the 2019 college admissions bribery scandal, that will promote its online programs to large-scale employers<sup>iv</sup>;
- ASU Online has made misstatements on their website such as “ASU partners with the following community colleges in California” and lists all 114 colleges in our system even though formal partnerships (other than course articulation agreements) may not necessarily have been mutually agreed upon<sup>v</sup>;
- ASU Online engages in aggressive and manipulative marketing tactics, such as requiring prospective students to share their contact information in order to get meaningful information about the institution, and repeatedly calling prospective students multiple times a day for weeks;
- ASU's Action Lab, in conjunction with the Boston Consulting Group, released a study<sup>vi</sup> that contains misleading and sometimes inaccurate statements about the success rates in online courses provided by the institutions in the study, including ASU<sup>vii</sup>;

Whereas, ASU Online is bound by the laws and policies of the state of Arizona, some of which negatively impact people of color; people who are undocumented; people who are incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, or who have a criminal record; and LGBTQ+ people, among others; and which directly conflict with the values and the social justice mission of the California Community College system;

Whereas, online education as a whole continues to be plagued by significant equity gaps<sup>viii</sup> and accessibility issues, both of which need to be addressed in order for students to be successful in online courses at SCC and at a future online transfer institution;

Resolved, that the SCC Academic Senate recognizes the urgent need for online transfer options for our students;

Resolved, that the SCC Academic Senate honors the intent of the California Master Plan for Higher Education/Donahoe Higher Education Act by supporting local and statewide efforts to work with our CSU partners to increase the number of online transfer degree options available to our students;

Resolved, that the SCC Academic Senate recommends that significant improvements to our online infrastructure, including embedding practices that reduce equity gaps in online courses and ensuring accessibility in all online course materials, be made before creating formal online transfer partnerships with any institution; and

Resolved, that while the SCC Academic Senate supports continuing our existing course articulation agreements with ASU-Online, and while we support our students' individual right to choose where they wish to transfer, we are in opposition to forming a formal 2+2 transfer pathway to ASU-Online and marketing such a partnership as Los Rios' signature online transfer pathway, and we are in opposition to actively encouraging the funneling of our student dollars out of California and into a state whose values conflict with the values of the California Community College system.

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<sup>i</sup> Text of the 1960 Donahoe Act, Amendment to the California State Education Code: Sections 22500-22705:

[https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb5b69n9fm&brand=oac4&doc.view=entire\\_text](https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb5b69n9fm&brand=oac4&doc.view=entire_text)

<sup>ii</sup> Cal State Online: <https://www.calstateonline.net/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/12/21/569269123/for-profit-and-online-education-whats-going-on>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Arizona-State-Will-Create-a/245929>

<sup>v</sup> <https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/gpa/california>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://edplus.asu.edu/sites/default/files/BCG-Making-Digital-Learning-Work-Apr-2018%20.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/dereknewton/2018/06/13/dont-buy-the-arizona-state-report-on-digital-learning/#6e7cbd036758>

<sup>viii</sup> [https://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_514HJR.pdf](https://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_514HJR.pdf)