

Academic Senate

Consent Item for 11/15/2023 Academic Senate meeting

**Description:**

SRJC Faculty member and ESL Department Chair Dr. Bitá Bookman presented the following resolution regarding the prefix used for English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) to the ASCCC Area B meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The resolution was approved there for submission to the ASCCC Resolutions committee, and that committee has agreed to include this resolution as part of the Fall 2023 Plenary Resolutions Packet, which you can access and download at the [2023 Fall Resolutions Page](#). The asterisk next to the resolution indicates that at this time, the resolution is currently on the ASCCC Consent Calendar, but that may change at Plenary. While approval or recommendation of a resolution originating at a local District is not required, it is a way to indicate support for the resolution to the Plenary participants. Senators are asked to vote to approve this resolution by consent.

**Resolution:**

**\*+09.02 F23 Support of an Equitable Course Prefix in Lieu of 'ESL' in AB 1111 Common Course Numbering**

Whereas, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has affirmed its commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, anti-racism, and accessibility (IDEAA) through numerous resolutions and resources that prioritize inclusive and affirming practices that recognize and help remove deficit-minded language, policies, and practices;

Whereas, The term 'English as a Second Language (ESL)' portrays multilingual students through a deficit lens, highlights their perceived lack of proficiency in English language skills, ignores that oftentimes students already speak several languages before learning English, results in the development of negative stereotypes and biases against them, and contributes to their stigmatization; and

Whereas, The current scholarship in second language teaching<sup>58</sup>, along with an increasing number of community colleges and universities in California, such as Fresno City College, Ventura College, Santa Ana College, Los Medanos College, Bakersfield College, Santa Rosa Junior College, University of California Davis, University of California Irvine, University of California Santa Barbara, and the University of San Francisco have adopted more equitable terminology such as 'English for Multilingual Students' (EMS or EMLS); and

Whereas, AB 1111 (Berman, 2021)<sup>59</sup> may force these institutions to revert to the use of the stigmatized term English as a Second Language (ESL)' for transfer-level courses;

Resolved, That Academic Senate for California Community Colleges express its support for the adoption of a more equitable term such as 'EMLS' (English for Multilingual Students) in lieu of 'ESL' (English as a Second Language) in Common Course Numbering.

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