



Senate Bill: 2012-13-11

Date: March 29, 2013

Authored by: Kevin Phan, Senator Engineering and Computer Science

Committee Action: Approved on 03-27-13 (votes: 3-0-0)

Senate Action: Approved on 04-05-13 (votes: 15-0-0)

Title: Resolution Advocating Extending Writing Assignments in Classes

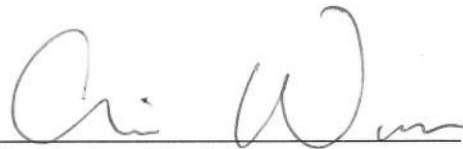
1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students is the primary advocate for students at California State University, Northridge and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning-focused campus environment; and
2. WHEREAS: It has been reported that students are struggling in classes that require extensive writing assignments; and
3. WHEREAS: According to a survey conducted by the Academic Affairs Committee of 200 level courses throughout all colleges at CSUN during the spring 2013 semester, 200 level courses did not express in their syllabus writing requirements that adequately prepare students for 300 level course writing assignments; and
4. WHEREAS: According to the same survey, certain colleges at CSUN, such as the College of Science and Mathematics, demonstrated that there are more 200 level courses that do not sufficiently require writing assignments than in other colleges such as the College of Humanities; and
5. WHEREAS: For example, in the Family Consumer Science department of the College of Health and Human Development, the 232 class requested in its syllabus short lab reports that are based on observations whereas the 301 class in the same department requires a much more intensive 2,500 word paper writing assignment; and
6. WHEREAS: In a two-semester survey conducted by Undergraduate Studies at CSUN, it was determined that students perform better in their writing coursework and become more confident in their learning experience when given more

time to write, revise, and discuss writing with an instructor; therefore let it be

1. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students encourages faculty in lower division classes to offer incentives for students to use on-campus resources to improve their writing skills; and let it be further
2. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students encourages professors of lower division classes to incorporate more writing assignments in the syllabi in order to prepare students for future higher level course writing assignments; and let it be further
3. RESOLVED: That the Academic Affairs Committee continues to conduct surveys each year in order to observe the progress of this resolution to ensure that the need for students in 200 level courses throughout the university to improve their writing skills is addressed properly; and let it be finally
4. RESOLVED: That the copies of this resolution be sent to:
 - Undergraduate Studies Dept.
 - Dr. Dianne Harrison, CSUN President
 - Dr. William Watkins, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Dean of Students
 - Deans of Academic Departments
 - Rashawn Green, Director of Learning Resources
 - Maria Turnmeyer, Coordinator for Writing Class
 - Daily Sundial



Sydni Powell
President, 2012-2013



Christopher Woolett
Vice President, 2012-2013