



Senate Bill: 2012-13-07

Date: December 4th, 2012

Author: Tina Zeidan, Senator for the College of Science and Math

Referred To: Academic Affairs

Committee Action: Approved (4-0-0)

Senate Action: Senate approved on 12/07/12 (votes: 19-0-0)

Subject: Better Correlating Lab Material with Lecture Material for Science Courses

1. Whereas: The Associated Students (A.S.) is the primary advocate for students who attend California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and aims to provide students with an enhanced learning experience; and
2. Whereas: CSUN is one of the top universities in the nation for teaching sciences according to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and views education as a blend between classroom lecture and hands on activities; and
3. Whereas: The Academic Affairs Committee conducted a survey in the last four weeks of the Fall 2012 semester to students in Physics and Chemistry 100 level courses; and
4. Whereas: These surveys show that over 50% of students found a problem with material covered in lab not progressing at the same pace as lecture material; and
5. Whereas: Students in Physics and Chemistry 100 level courses also found that this discontinuity made it difficult for them to absorb the material and properly participate in hands on activities; and
6. Whereas: From survey results, more than 50% of students found the inability to coincide lecture material with lab material has not given them a full opportunity to earn a good grade in labs; and

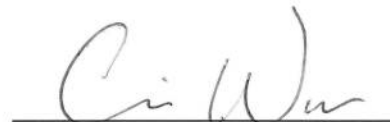
¹ <http://www.csunas.org/about/>

² <http://www.csun.edu/csm/>

7. Whereas: The Chemistry and Physics lab manuals focus on tedious computations and make it difficult for students to enjoy and understand the experiment; therefore let it be
1. Resolved: That the Associated Students urges the lab assistants in charge of Physics and Chemistry 100 labs to better collaborate with lecture professors to make sure lecture and lab material are taught at the same pace; and let it be further
2. Resolved: That Associated Students encourages the lab assistants are made aware of this problem and seek solutions to help aid students in understanding complex science courses such as Physics and Chemistry; and let it be further
3. Resolved: That Associated Students encourages the Chemistry and Physics department provide tutoring available for lab courses instead of offering only tutoring for lecture courses; and let it be further
4. Resolved: That Associated Students encourages the Chemistry and Physics department update lecture and lab manuals with clearer instructions and more experiment based labs for the following courses: Physics 100A/B, Chemistry 101/102; and let it be further
5. Resolved: That Associated Students encourages Department Chairs implement pre-semester training on how to conduct a 100 level course and how to properly aid students who find these courses difficult; and be it finally
6. Resolved: That copies of this resolution, as well as surveys given, will be available to all who seek it and copies will be sent to:
- Physics Department Chair Say-Peng Lim,
 - Chemistry Department Chair Eric Kelson,
 - Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Harold Hellenbrand
 - Daily Sundial



Sydni Powell
President, 2012-2013



Christopher Woolett
Vice President, 2012-2013

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