

**CSU Northridge Faculty Senate Resolution of Protest
Concerning the Development and Implementation of
Mandatory Early Start Programs in Writing
(approved by Faculty Senate, March 8, 2012)**

WHEREAS: The Faculty Senate of California State University Northridge affirms the CSU Board of Trustees' desire to integrate fully-qualified first year students who need additional support in writing into mainstream academic life quickly, effectively and with a high degree of probability that they will graduate in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS: Substantial evidence from both California State University Northridge and other CSU campuses indicates that innovative first-year writing programs are successful at retaining students, achieving the mandated outcomes of EO 665, and improving graduation rates; and

WHEREAS: California State University Northridge already has an effective Stretch Composition program directed and taught by experts in the field; and

WHEREAS: There is no evidence that creating an additional mandatory summer program will be more effective in bringing students to proficiency compared to current academic year programs; and

WHEREAS: There will be significant financial impact to those students who will have to fully support the cost of the mandatory program (no state support) with no evidence of decreased time to graduation over a voluntary program; and

WHEREAS: There will be significant financial costs to campuses including time spent by faculty, staff, and administrators in implementing, managing, and assessing the Mandatory Early Start programs as well as the cost to each campus of running the facilities during the summer with no evidence of positive academic benefit to students; and

WHEREAS: The Academic Senate of the California State University has expressed grave concerns related to the implementation of Mandatory Early Start in Academic Senate Resolutions including AS-2895-09/APEPAA "Opposition to Impending Implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs" (May 7-8, 2009), which expressed opposition to the aspect of the program making participation a precondition for subsequent enrollment; and also including AS-2926-09/AA/APEP "Recommendations Regarding the Implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs" (November 5, 2009), which raised a number of implementation concerns; and also including AS-2993-10/FGA "Fiscal Concerns on Implementation of Early Start Programs" (November 4-5, 2010), with a title that describes its content; and

WHEREAS: The statewide CSU English Council has expressed its clear and repeated opposition to Mandatory Early Start in its position statements of April 2010 and October 2011; and

WHEREAS: The consistently demonstrated expertise and experience of the faculty of the CSU should be the predominant factor in shaping curriculum and academic programming within the CSU; and

WHEREAS: Over the objections of the CSU English Council, and in spite of grave concerns expressed by the Statewide Academic Senate, the Chancellor's Office has imposed the implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of California State University Northridge strongly endorse the Board of Trustees' own Collegiality Statement which affirms, in part, that "Collegial governance assigns primary responsibility to the faculty for the educational functions of the institution in accordance with basic policy as determined by the Board of Trustees. This includes admission and degree requirements, the curriculum and *methods of teaching*, academic and professional standards, and the conduct of creative and scholarly activities" (italics added; for the full statement, see http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System_Strategic_Planning/docs/Rpt2BOT-CollegialityResponsibility.pdf); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of California State University Northridge join our colleagues in the Statewide Academic Senate and the CSU English Council in urging that serious attention be paid to the financial consequences--both to campuses and to individual students--resulting from the Early Start implementation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of California State University Northridge declare that the Mandatory Early Start writing program focuses on campus and student compliance, not on the teaching and learning of writing; and be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of California State University Northridge recommend that in future, faculty across the CSU be included at the formative stage of drafting responses to challenges which confront the CSU in the future; and be it finally

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of California State University Northridge distribute this resolution of protest and recommendations to the Office of the Chancellor, the Chair of the Academic Senate of the CSU, CSU campus Senate Chairs, the President of the English Council of the CSU, the Chair of the Mathematics Council of the CSU, and the CSU Board of Trustees.