Resolution 14.3.1 - Joint San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Academic Senate Resolution Regarding Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs): Kelly Mayhew

1st Reading: March 17, 2014

Mover: McLeod

Seconded: Miyoshi

WHEREAS Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) have been in the news in recent years as a new form of instructional delivery. MOOCs use Web-based tools and environments — referred to as platforms — to deliver education and classes in a new and questionable paradigm across geographic boundaries and time zones and to much larger "audiences"— in fact, tens of thousands of students, or more;

WHEREAS there is a scarcity of research and data on the outcomes and other measures of the educational effectiveness of MOOCs. The Chancellor, in consultation, with the District Governance Council (DGC), convened a task force to assess the merits of MOOCs and their suitability for the SDCCD, in both credit and non-credit programs. The district adopted a moratorium on offering MOOCs while the task force completed its investigation;

WHEREAS the MOOCs task force studied the nature, trends, characteristics, and examples of this new approach to educational delivery. The task force used multiple methods for finding information, from reading and research to interviews to visits from faculty who had designed MOOCs, to enrolling in various MOOCs courses themselves. During the course of this work, research data on MOOCs began to emerge, providing the group with some qualitative and quantitative information for their investigation. All of the materials reviewed and discussed by the task force as part of this assessment are stored in an archive (isp.sdccd.edu/moocs/);

WHEREAS although MOOCS have been promoted as a solution to budgetary, enrollment, and pedagogical problems, as well as being championed as "disrupters" of higher education by offering innovative ways of dealing with current educational challenges; according to the findings of the MOOC Task Force Report, they do not adhere to primary measures of quality, as established by the U.S. Department of Education, WASC/ACCJC, the California Education Code and Title V, and the Community Colleges State Chancellors Office in the following domains:

1. Regular and effective contact between instructor and student
2. Course quality
3. Teaching and learning strategies
4. Assessment of student learning and achievement of learning outcomes
5. Fit within the San Diego Community College District's Mission
6. Instructional resources and effective training for faculty;

And WHEREAS curriculum is reviewed and approved by faculty and driven through Academic Senate processes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Academic Senates of SDCCD recommend to the Board of Trustees that no MOOCs are developed or offered as courses for credit in any of the four SDCCD institutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Academic Senates of SDCCD recommend to the Board of Trustees that no SDCCD institution grants course credit to students who have completed MOOCs in other contexts.

Presented to the Academic Senate: March 17, 2014

Approved by the Academic Senate: April 7, 2014