

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
Academic Senate

RESOLUTION ON MANDATORY EARLY START PROGRAMS
#10-10/11-English Department – November 2, 2010

Background:

The CSU Board of Trustees has proposed mandatory Early Start Programs beginning in the summer of 2012. Eventually all incoming students deficient in English and/or Mathematics as measured by the EPT and ELM will be required to begin making up those deficiencies before matriculation.

Funding for these summer remediation courses is unclear. The Board of Trustees has indicated that there will be no additional funding provided for this instruction.

The Academic Senate of the CSU and the English Council of the CSU have opposed implementation of the mandatory Early Start Programs.

WHEREAS The CSU Board of Trustees has proposed mandatory Early Start programs beginning in the summer of 2012; and

WHEREAS The Academic Senate of the CSU has identified the following concerns regarding the mandatory Early Start Programs that have been proposed by the CSU Board of Trustees (AS-2895-09/APEP/AA):

- The legality of denying admission to fully qualified first-time freshmen (FTF);
- The limitation of access for economically disadvantaged students;
- The financial aid implications for students;
- The potential hardship for out-of-area students;
- The shift of mandatory instruction to a non-traditional instructional session;
- The presumed desirability of identifying reciprocal “early start” programs for the CSU system;
- The paucity of evidence-based, longitudinal data on the effectiveness and social impact of “early start” programs; and

WHEREAS The Academic Senate of Humboldt State University supports the commitments expressed by the Academic Senate of the California State University in AS-2895-09/APEPAA (“Opposition to Impending Implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs”) and in AS-2926-09/AA/APEP (“Recommendations Regarding the Implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs”) and the “CSU English Council Position Statement: Mandatory Early Start” (April 2010); and

WHEREAS The Academic Senate of Humboldt State University values the regional character of individual campuses and the diversity of their student populations, and affirms the necessity of diverse campus approaches to ensure that students who fully meet entrance requirements for first-time freshmen, but who require additional skill acquisition (remediation) in English, achieve proficiency during their first year of enrollment; be it

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University opposes the use of tests such as the EPT (English Placement Test), which were originally designed as placement instruments, to either grant or deny otherwise qualified first-time freshmen admission to HSU; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University urges that, prior to implementation of any “early start” programs in English, the CSU ensure that serious attention be paid to the financial consequences—both to campuses and to individual students—resulting from the various “early start” approaches; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University opposes the implementation of “early start” programs in English as a pre-condition for enrollment at the HSU campus; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University distribute this resolution to the CSU Board of Trustees, the Office of the Chancellor, the Chair of the Academic Senate of the CSU, campus Presidents, Provosts and Senate Chairs, the Chair of the English Council of the CSU, and the Chair of the Mathematics Council of the CSU.