





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: January 19-20, 2016

SUBJECT: Regulations Authorizing the Establishment of the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook		Item Number: 3.2	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	X
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	

ISSUE: This item is a first reading of new regulations that would authorize the establishment of the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook. The proposed regulations would authorize the Chancellor to prepare and maintain a handbook of baccalaureate degree pilot program requirements including, but not limited to, requirements related to admissions, curriculum, student services, and financial aid. The handbook would be incorporated by reference into title 5 and would prevail when there is a conflict with other provisions of title 5 for purposes of administering the baccalaureate degree pilot program.

BACKGROUND: The Academic Affairs Division has been working with the 15 colleges selected to participate in the baccalaureate degree pilot program to support the implementation of their baccalaureate programs. To provide colleges with guidance as it relates to the requirements of title 5, the Chancellor’s Office proposes developing a handbook that contains necessary changes to title 5, clarification of legal requirements, as well as information about best practices. The proposed regulations would incorporate the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook by reference into title 5, consistent with the approach used for the Program and Course Approval Handbook (PCAH) found at title 5, section 55000.5. *(Background cont’d)*

RECOMMENDATION: The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for a first reading. The Board of Governors must hold a public hearing for receipt of comments, both written and oral, which are offered concerning the proposed action. It is anticipated that the regulations will be presented to the Board of Governors for adoption at its regular meeting on

March 21-22, 2016.

(Background cont'd)

The pilot program handbook concept was vetted through monthly conference calls held between the 15 pilot colleges, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and staff in the Academic Affairs and Student Services Division of the Chancellor's Office. A workgroup was formed to work on the development of the handbook. Members of the workgroup include staff from the Academic Affairs, Student Services, and Fiscal Divisions of the Chancellor's Office, representatives from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, and three representatives from the 15 pilot colleges (college president, chief student services officer, and program director). The workgroup has met several times to discuss the handbook, and each workgroup member contributed to the development of the handbook. The Legal Division of the Chancellor's Office has worked with workgroup throughout the process. The draft handbook will be distributed to the 15 pilot colleges for review and to provide input; thereafter, the workgroup will discuss any input received and continue to edit and improve the handbook as necessary.

The proposed regulations would incorporate the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook by reference into title 5. This would give the provisions of the handbook the force of law, as if they were fully set forth within the text of title 5 itself.

By incorporating the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook into title 5 by reference, the proposed regulations provide a degree of flexibility and assurance for the colleges participating in the pilot program. The existing provisions of title 5 applicable to California Community Colleges are generally geared toward programs that award traditional two-year associates degrees. Each of the 15 colleges participating in the pilot program is now offering a four-year baccalaureate degree. Many program requirements, including requirements related to admissions, curriculum, student services and financial aid are different for a four-year program than they would be for a traditional two-year program. The creation of a Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook places the new requirements for the pilot programs into one convenient document. The handbook also allows the Chancellor's Office to respond quickly to issues that arise or changes that need to be made as the pilot programs begin to offer baccalaureate degrees for the first time. From an administrative perspective, it is much more efficient to create a handbook for the pilot program than to separately modify and amend each provision of title 5 that would be necessary for the pilot programs to operate. This is especially true since the pilot program, as currently authorized by statute, is limited and temporary in nature. In the event that the program is approved or expanded in the future, the Board of Governors may consider a different and more permanent regulatory approach.

The Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook is still under development, but a draft is attached for your reference and information.

Attachments: Proposed text of title 5, section 55009 (Attachment 1); and the draft "Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Handbook" (Attachment 2).