

# AB 2427 (Butler) CSU Extended Education

## SUMMARY

AB 2427 (Butler) would ensure California State University (CSU) students are able to take the same required courses available during the regular academic year in the CSU Extended Education program at the same cost of tuition.

Specifically, this bill would prohibit special session fees at all campuses of the CSU for courses offered to CSU matriculated students for credit towards an undergraduate or graduate degree, such as a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree, from exceeding fees charged per credit unit for any other academic term.

## BACKGROUND

Extended Education has always co-existed with the CSU system. These "self-support" extensions of the public university were initially established to offer (non-traditional students) adults an opportunity to take college courses, usually off-campus, and were expected to be self-supporting, as opposed to publicly funded. Initially, extension course offerings specialized in career enhancement and non-credit courses. Over time, the Extended Education branches of the CSUs grew, serving larger numbers of adult professionals and expanding to CSU matriculated students.

In 2008-2009, Extended Education processed 174,665 registrations for Open University, degree programs and other credit activity, 92,000 registrations for students enrolled in non-credit and professional development activities for over a total of 266,706 registrations. As of 2010, Campus Extended Education programs offered 149 degree programs, providing similar courses to those offered in regular sessions and charging students at a higher rate.

According to the Board of Trustees report in September 2010, fees are higher in Extended Education because they are based on the premise "adults could afford to pay a modest amount for their education" and "for many students, it is the access to these programs...that can outweigh the higher cost" (BOT Report, Sept. 2010, Attachment B, p.1, Attachment A, p.1). The average annual undergraduate tuition for CSU Extended Education tuition was 51% higher than the average annual fees for the CSU in 2010. In addition to higher fees for the Extended Education program, students taking courses through Extended Education are not eligible for the State Cal Grant and CSU State University Grant programs.

By the 1980's, regular state-supported sessions and Extended Education session were offered simultaneously, all year round. Growth in offerings was also accompanied by substantial revenue. In 1984-85, revenues by Extended Education were \$37 million. In 2009-2010, revenues were almost \$190 million (BOT report, September 2010, Attachment B; Statistical Abstract 2009-2010, Table 125).

## NEED FOR LEGISLATION

With an average of 6% cuts to courses across 23 CSU campuses, it is taking students longer and longer to graduate and at a much higher cost. If "Extended Education's role is to support the mission of the CSU, complementing CSU programs with its own programs that together will benefit students and the state with affordable pricing and programming desired in the marketplace" (Board of Trustees report, September 2010, Attachment A, p.13), then in times like these, the cost of tuition should be reflective of that role.

## STAFF CONTACT

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