

**Associated Students of Fullerton College
Resolution 006
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Voted on: April 12, 2016
Vote Count: 15-5-1
Revised Vote Count: 14-0-0**



Resolution in Support of "Smaller Class Sizes"

A Fullerton College resolution in support of facilitating smaller class sizes for Fullerton College courses.

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of Fullerton College (Student Senate) expresses the general will of the students to the administration and Board of Trustees and works for the betterment of the students-at-large, which includes short-term and long-term policies that affect instruction; and

WHEREAS, national studies have shown direct correlations between class size and course success rates¹; and

WHEREAS, faculty and staff were consulted about the proposed average class size increases, but the students, who are directly affected by this, were never informed nor involved in the negotiation process; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students has a right under state law to be involved in any and all policies that affect the academic well-being of its student constituents; and

WHEREAS, ideal class sizes vary for different courses, depending on each individual course's pedagogical needs, demands, and characteristics; and

WHEREAS, the current status of Fullerton College's successful course completion rate has fallen from the last cohort year-to-year, and smaller class sizes may improve student success by increasing retention and increasing interaction with professors, facilitating greater educational development ²; and

¹ <http://ncde.appstate.edu/sites/ncde.appstate.edu/files/RiDE%2020-4.pdf>

² <http://research.fullcoll.edu/2015%20FC%20Institutional%20Effectiveness%20Report.pdf>

WHEREAS, the mission of the college is to "prepare students to be successful learners" and increased average class sizes are pedagogically in direct conflict with this mission; and

WHEREAS, many courses, from college transferrable to basic skills to technical, heavily rely on student and professor interactions to be successfully completed; and

WHEREAS, Fullerton College's current cohort displayed an average faculty-student ratio of 33:1, which is not an effective ratio for student success for many courses; and

WHEREAS, average class sizes are not only a budgetary question but also primarily a pedagogical issue linked to student success;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Orange County Community College District involve the Associated Students of Fullerton College in the shared governance process in regards to average class sizes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Associated Students urge that the North Orange County Community College consult the Fullerton College Curriculum Committee in order to form pedagogically sound policies regarding average class sizes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Associated Students of Fullerton College demand smaller class sizes in courses where personal interaction with the professor is paramount to success, as appropriately determined by the Curriculum Committee; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Fullerton College Curriculum Committee, Faculty Senate, Planning and Budget Steering Committee, the President's Advisory Council, and the Vice President of Instruction.