June 12, 2012

The Honorable Marty Block, Chair
Assembly Committee on Higher Education
State Capitol, Room 3091
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 1456 (Lowenthal, as amended 6/11/12) Community Colleges: Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012 -- SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Block:

On behalf of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, I am writing to urge your support of Senate Bill 1456 (Lowenthal, as amended 6/11/2012), the Student Success Act of 2012, which will be heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on June 19, 2012. This bill is the “centerpiece” legislation resulting from recommendations of the 2011 Student Success Task Force established by SB 1143 (Liu) of 2010.

Implementation of the Student Success Task Force recommendations is a complex and multi-faceted task. This legislation is an important component of the implementation of the recommendations and not only places renewed emphasis on matriculation services, but also acknowledges the role that advisors, counseling faculty, teaching faculty (full- and part-time), and all student support services play in ensuring the best outcomes for our students as they seek to achieve their varied goals. It also recognizes the diverse goals that students may have and that the state should support. It is critical that we be mindful of ensuring the access of those for whom our colleges are the only means of reaching their educational or workplace goals; this bill effectively achieves that balance, focusing on success without sacrificing access.

For these reasons, we ask you to support community college students of California by supporting Senate Bill 1456.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Pilati, Ph.D.
President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Members of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education