Sacramento City College
Campus-Wide Issue/Concern Form

Committee or Individual  Commencement Committee  Date submitted  3/3/06

Issue/Concern  Certificate-holders participation in Commencement ceremony.

Signature of Initiator(s)  Victoria Rosario

Provide information, which succinctly but fully discusses the issue/concern (if necessary, add additional pages).

A. Describe the issue/concern:
Historically, Sacramento City College has honored those students with associate degrees at its annual commencement ceremony. Additionally, individual academic departments conduct separate ceremonies recognizing the achievement of those students completing certificate programs (i.e. Nursing, cosmetology, dental, and library to name a few).

In a survey conducted in January 2006 through the CSSO distribution list, colleges were asked if they held separate ceremonies for students earning certificates. Of 30 responses, 15 indicated that they include certificate-holders in their commencement ceremonies. The response rate is roughly 30% of all California Community Colleges.

B. What do you recommend or suggest solving this issue/concern?
In an attempt to include students who have earned the professional certificate, and who do not belong to departments that have a separate certificate recognition ceremony, the following options have been suggested:
1) consider allowing these students to participate in the annual commencement ceremony. This would allow those students who have successfully completed their course requirements in their professional certificate programs to receive the recognition and honor bestowed upon their peers from other academic departments. It would expand the commencement ceremony to recognize the multifaceted mission of the community colleges: to bestow associate degrees and certificates. This option would not impact the pre-existing ceremonies that individual departments currently deploy;
2) recognize certificate holders in a separate ceremony. It has been observed that this activity used to take place at the college; interest eventually diminished due to poor attendance. Individual departments then arranged for their own programs. This option maintains the status quo for the annual commencement ceremony and requires the coordination/resources/personnel to organize another event;
3) combine all certificate programs into one event doing away with individual department ceremonies in an attempt to garner the attendance and interest of all certificate holders.

The number of professional certificates awarded are as follows: 145 in Fall 2005; 181 in Spring 2005; 136 in Fall 2004. While it is unknown how many of these students participated in the separate certificate ceremonies mentioned,

C. How will this recommendation support the success of SCC students and benefit the campus community?
Either of these options will yield a different impact on student recognition, and the use of college resources, as mentioned above.

Please return this form to the Process Coordinator, Nelle Moffett, RN 221. The Initiator will be notified within 5 working days as to the committee or council that will review this issue/concern.

Official Use Only

Date received by Process Coordinator  3/10/06  Tracking #  05-06-10

Date Initiator Notified  3/10/06

Forwarded to Executive Council  Date  3/15/06

Revised: 5/17/04