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The Academic Senate of Sierra College

Title: Resurrection of a Study Abroad Program

Resolution Number: 2019-01

Assigned to: Sierra College Board of Trustees and President Willy Duncan

WHEREAS Many academic institutions include “global citizenship” as a specific learning outcome or student development competency for undergraduate students. The social awareness and new state of consciousness that the students acquire are as valuable as the benefits of the exposure to a new language and culture;

WHEREAS Colleges and Universities around the United States have made global citizenship a priority in student learning outcomes and mission statements (Stebbleton 2013). Study abroad programming is often considered to be a primary means for achieving this goal (Dolby, 2008; Rundstrom Williams 2005);

WHEREAS Students develop equity-mindedness through service learning and a global immersion experience. Students develop the ability to take into account and critically engage with complex, multicultural perspectives and develop a level of respect and acceptance of cultural perspectives different from their own (AAC&U 2018);

WHEREAS In 2018, 73 California community colleges offered study abroad trips to their students in 28 different countries;

WHEREAS The Board of Governors and ASCCC previously awarded the Exemplary Award for Outstanding Programs to Santa Barbara City College’s Study Abroad program as a model for the



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development of Study Abroad programs system-wide by offering at least two programs per academic year plus additional summer programs;

WHEREAS In the Guided Pathways Scale of Adoption Self-Assessment, reported to the Chancellor’s office, Study Abroad programs are listed as an example of Guided Pathways Essential Practices under the pillar “Ensure Students Are Learning”: “Students have ample opportunity to apply and deepen knowledge and skills through...study abroad and other experiential learning activities...”;

WHEREAS Sierra College offered a robust Study Abroad program for decades prior to the recession, enlisting 38-64 students per semester. After 2015, Sierra College has been referring its students to the Los Rios District to participate in their Study Abroad program, but only 1-2 Sierra College students enroll each semester. Without campus community support and faculty leadership, our students are not accessing these valuable experiences; and

WHEREAS Ethics, Diversity, and Global Awareness are listed as some of Sierra College’s Institutional Goals (ISLO’s) under “Citizenship.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sierra College Academic Senate ask the Board of Trustees and President Willy Duncan to support the formation of a Study Abroad Workgroup whose mission is to explore and identify a viable program option to reinstate a sustainable Study Abroad program on campus.