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ABSTRACT

This testimony describes existing efforts to promote community college student transfer from the Los Rios Community College District to the University of California (UC), Davis. Since the mid-1980's, UC Davis has participated in collaborative efforts with California community colleges to implement the following transfer-related services: (1) articulation through a Web-based Articulation System Stimulating Interinstitutional Student Transfer (ASSIST) program; (2) transfer centers; (3) the Transfer Opportunity Program; (4) transfer admission agreements (TAAS); (5) Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)/California Community College Program (CCCP) for non-traditional students; (6) the Early Academic Outreach Program; and (7) counselor institutes. UC Davis proposes several more initiatives to continue promoting transfer: (1) faculty-to-faculty-articulation dialogues; (2) transfer student recruitment, Web-page campaign and degree navigator; (3) Early Academic Outreach Program/Transfer Opportunity Program Adviser; (4) UC Davis/UCOP-Fresno virtual advising collaboration; (5) expansion of the transfer opportunity program to the Santa Clara County region; and (6) expansion of the transfer admission agreement program. Appended are a memorandum on enhancing student transfer, a description of ASSIST software, the Transfer Opportunity Program mission statement, and the UC Davis Transfer Admissions Agreement. (AS)

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**Transfer Opportunity Program.
 Written Testimony [to the]
 Little Hoover Commission
 Public Hearing on Community Colleges.**

Linda B. Case

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LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION
Public Hearing on Community Colleges
Thursday, March 25, 1999, 9:00 a.m.

Written Testimony

Linda B. Case, MS, Program Coordinator
University of California, Davis/Los Rios Community College District
TRANSFER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Existing Efforts to Promote Community College Student Transfer

The University of California at Davis has, since the mid-1980's, participated in collaborative efforts with California Community Colleges, which meet many of the University of California/California Community Colleges initiatives of the Memorandum of Understanding, (Attachment A).

- **Articulation based in ASSIST**

Articulation is the foundation of a successful transfer process. UC Davis has long supported, and continues to support articulation efforts. Articulation exists, through Web-based ASSIST, with every community college in the state. This comprehensive articulation effort focuses on major preparation, (Attachment B).

- **Transfer Centers**

The Transfer Centers in the Los Rios Community College District are supported by the District and each campus. A physical location with a counselor/director, administrative support, and a collection of important transfer resources are provided to support the transfer function. Appointment schedules for visiting university representatives are maintained, College/Transfer Day programs are organized, counselors and the campus at large are kept informed of transfer issues, and the Community College Student Talent Roster Program is organized through the Transfer Centers.

- **Transfer Opportunity Program**

The Transfer Opportunity Program is a jointly funded collaborative effort with nine Northern California community colleges. Unlike other kinds of outreach efforts, the Transfer Opportunity Program provides a UC Davis Undergraduate Admissions advisor to the community colleges, on a regular basis, for the comprehensive support of transfer services to non-traditional and traditional students, counselors, and community college staff, (Attachment C).

- **Transfer Admission Agreements**

Transfer Admission Agreements (TAAs) guarantee admission to UC Davis, in writing, to community college students, one year in advance of their transfer, in their chosen major. TAAs reinforce the importance of the counseling relationship and focus on completion of transfer admission requirements and preparation for the

major. Students best served by the TAA program are those who meet University admission requirements, are academically prepared for their major, and have a competitive GPA. TAAs are available at 56 participating community colleges, including all nine Transfer Opportunity Program colleges. Currently, UC Davis signs about 1300 TAAs each academic year, (Attachment D).

- **MESA/CCCP**

The Math, Engineering, Science Achievement/California Community College Program is an important transfer support program for non-traditional students in the sciences. Students are strongly supported by faculty, staff and fellow students in their transfer classes, as well as exposed to leadership and scholarship opportunities. In addition, students are introduced to University academic programs, expectations and services.

- **Early Academic Outreach Program**

The University of California at Davis Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) provides 6 program coordinators to sixty-nine high schools, middle schools, and (2) elementary school sites, in seventeen school districts. Program coordinators work with students, parents, teachers and school officials to provide guidance and university preparation to students and their families. Many of these students enroll in community colleges and their knowledge and preparation for a university education is an important foundation to their transfer readiness.

- ***Ensuring Transfer Success Counselor Institutes***

In collaboration with the California Community Colleges and the California State Universities, the Transfer Opportunity Program staff works with the University of California Office of the President to plan and present three counselor institutes, per year throughout the state, for community college counselors and staff. The conferences focus on transfer preparation issues.

Efforts Underway to Improve the Transfer Process

The “best practices” in promoting the transfer of community college students to four-year institutions comes from the strength of the partnerships with community colleges. In 1998, President Atkinson provided each UC campus with \$275, 000 for community college outreach activities; the University of California at Davis proposes the following initiatives.

- **Faculty-to-Faculty Articulation Dialogues**

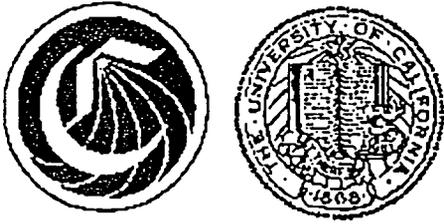
Developing and implementing faculty workshops for discipline-based discussions of curriculum issues and issues regarding preparation and selection will enhance articulation efforts.

- **Transfer Student Recruitment, Web-page Campaign, and Degree Navigator**
Working with community colleges, students will be identified for delivery of information that will inform students how to gain information through advising and Web-based programs such as ASSIST, Pathways, and UC Davis Web pages.
- **Early Academic Outreach Program/Transfer Opportunity Program Adviser**
A new position, EAOP/TOP Adviser, will work with EAOP students who enroll in Los Rios District colleges, as they prepare to transfer to UC Davis. This position will provide continuity in support from high school and have links with Puente.
- **UC Davis/UCOP-Fresno Virtual Advising Collaboration**
Technology will be used to link transfer students from the Fresno area to admissions advising opportunities at UC Davis through computer/video links.
- **Expansion of the Transfer Opportunity Program to the Santa Clara County Region**
The Transfer Opportunity Program will be expanded to provide a UC Davis admission advisor to seven additional community colleges, in Santa Clara County, to provide transfer support services on a frequent and continual basis.
- **Expansion of the Transfer Admission Agreement Program**
New partnerships will be formed to increase the opportunity for the written guarantee of admission program to 15 additional community colleges.

Transfer Barriers

My experience, since the early 1980's, in the Los Rios Community College District has been a positive and strongly supported relationship. I feel lucky to be associated with a district that has been a leader in the state on the transfer function.

- Community colleges might examine ways to broaden the scope and method of disseminating information to students about the transfer process. Make more students aware of expectations and services available on campus, which support an interest in transferring.
- Financing a university education is a primary concern of most transfer students. Helping students to understand the process and have a realistic concept of their financial aid eligibility would help students to move to the next level of thinking about their opportunity to transfer to a baccalaureate institution.
- Summary
UC Davis has a long and proud history of nurturing successful relationships with community college partners. We expect the new initiatives to expand the services to the transfer function, while at the same time, supporting our commitment to diversity on our campus.



Enhancing Student Transfer

A Memorandum of Understanding Between the California Community Colleges and the University of California

The California Community Colleges and the University of California recognize student transfer from community colleges to public and independent universities as central to providing accessibility to a baccalaureate education for the citizens of California. Building on collaborative efforts of the past decade, the California Community Colleges and the University of California are prepared to work together to reinvigorate and to strengthen transfer student academic success across the two systems, and to continue their commitment to provide access and educational opportunities to a diverse student body.

The *Master Plan for Higher Education* establishes transfer as a priority for California's colleges and universities, and beginning in 1985, the higher education community undertook a number of initiatives to strengthen the transfer process. In 1991 Senate Bill 121 (Hart) emphasized that a strong transfer function was the shared responsibility of the California Community Colleges, the California State University and the University of California, and included a number of provisions designed to enhance collaboration in support of student transfer.

Also in 1991 the California Community Colleges, California State University and the University of California agreed upon a Statement of Common Principles for strengthening the transfer process. Within these principles the systems recognized transfer as critical to providing access to higher education, and as "central and essential" to California's commitment to educational equity.

In order to build on these efforts and to further their commitment to ensuring students an efficient transfer process and a quality transfer education that leads to attainment of the baccalaureate degree, the California Community Colleges and the University of California adopt the following understandings.

I. Providing Access and Opportunity

The California Community Colleges and the University of California have a shared commitment to providing both access and opportunity for students seeking to transfer and to obtain a baccalaureate degree, including students from groups that have had traditionally low University eligibility rates. As such, the California Community Colleges and the University of California establish a mutual goal to increase enrollment of community college transfers from 10,900 in 1995-6 to 14,500 or more students by the year 2005-6, representing an increase of approximately 33% over 1995-6. Together, the California Community Colleges and the University of California will need to ensure that students preparing for transfer meet University admission requirements,

and complete the appropriate prerequisites for the program and/or college to which they are applying.

II. Ensuring Success

The California Community Colleges and the University of California have long recognized and supported a proven combination of elements that define an effective transfer system. These elements, as identified in the systems' 1991 Statement of Common Principles and reiterated in SB 121 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- enrollment and resource planning;
- specific efforts to improve student diversity;
- intersegmental faculty curricular efforts;
- course and program articulation;
- coordinated student counseling;
- financial aid;
- transfer services; and
- intersegmental data collection and evaluation. In support of enhanced collaboration and to promote and increase transfer opportunities for community college transfer students, the California Community Colleges and the University of California draw upon these proven elements and commit to initiating or expanding the following systemwide and local activities:

A. Improve Articulation Procedures

Articulation agreements are fundamental to the transfer process and provide the "road maps" students need to understand University requirements and to prepare for transfer. Focused effort is needed to continue to increase the accuracy and timeliness of course articulation information available to students. Special emphasis needs to be placed on major articulation, particularly in academic majors where there are large numbers of transfer students.

The California Articulation Number System (CAN), a system of common course identifiers assigned to like (articulated) courses across segments, is one means of establishing major articulation agreements among higher education systems. The University will explore ways in which major articulation can be advanced, using CAN or other mechanisms.

B. Develop ASSIST as the Official Statewide Repository for Articulation Information

ASSIST (Articulation System Stimulating Interinstitutional Student Transfer) electronically stores and conveys articulation information to students, counselors, faculty and staff. The California Community Colleges and the University of California, as well as the California State University, should establish the ASSIST database as the official statewide repository for articulation information. Having one "official" place where articulation information resides that is easily accessible through World Wide Web-based technology will enable students to plan for and meet their transfer goals and thus enhance progress toward their baccalaureate degree. Should "official" status be adopted, the systems will commit to maintaining current, accurate and complete

articulation information in ASSIST.

C. Reinvigorate Transfer Center Partnerships

The California Community Colleges have established transfer centers on each of the system's 106 campuses. The University of California will commit to increased participation at transfer center sites, and both California Community Colleges and the University of California will work collaboratively to enhance the provision of information and services to students intending to transfer.

D. Enhance Transfer Alliances

Various transfer alliances have been established between California Community Colleges and University of California campuses over the years. The California Community Colleges and the University of California will work collaboratively to enhance transfer alliance activities, and to ensure the participation of every California Community College campus in at least one alliance. Alliances will delineate an agreed upon set of services and activities designed to ensure a seamless transition for students from initial enrollment at California Community Colleges to the baccalaureate degree.

E. Create More Part-Time Options at the University of California

The California Community Colleges and the University of California will work together to identify the needs of part-time students planning to transfer, and the University of California will develop additional options by which transfer students' part-time plans can be accommodated. Individual University of California campuses will consider the development of such options and communicate them to transfer students.

F. Develop "Baccalaureate" Financial Aid Packages

In order to provide a seamless system of transfer for students, the California Community Colleges and the University of California will work to provide entering California Community College students financial aid that considers the full scope of California Community College and University of California academic work. Such packaging would allow transfer students to plan for their financial needs to reach baccalaureate degree completion.

G. Intensify Outreach Activities

A number of academic development and outreach programs are currently in place that encourage and provide support services to high school students preparing to enter college. Such programs include the Puente Program (both at the high school and community college levels), Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), and the University of California Early Academic Outreach Program. Many of the students in these programs opt to attend a community college, hoping to transfer at a later date. The California Community Colleges and the University of California will develop a means of identifying and tracking community college bound students who

participate in these programs, and will jointly provide information and support services through their transfer to the University. In addition, the California Community Colleges and the University of California will collaborate and expand on a number of these academic development programs including Community College MESA and the Puente Program.

H. Increase Data Collection and Exchange

In order to monitor and evaluate the usefulness of agreed upon transfer activities and student progress toward the baccalaureate degree, California Community Colleges and the University of California will collect and share data as appropriate and consistent with state and federal privacy laws, for communicating with potential transfer students; the University of California will provide information on the progress of students who transfer through attainment of the baccalaureate degree. The California Community Colleges will assure that students with transfer aims can receive information needed to plan course work, and their progress toward transfer goals will be monitored. University of California reports on transfer students who apply and enroll will include, but will not be limited to, data on applicants, admits and enrollees; retention, graduation and performance. In addition, the University of California will provide transfer data as required by the community colleges in order to complete Student-Right-To-Know reporting for the Department of Education.

I. Enhance Cooperative Admissions Programs

Many high school graduates who are eligible to attend the University would like -- or need -- the option of attending a California Community College and transferring to a University of California campus at a later date. California Community College fees are low, and students can continue to work to save for University expenses, or prepare academically for high-unit or competitive University majors. The California Community Colleges and the University of California will develop agreements that will allow California Community College students, University of California eligible from high school, to receive advising plans tailored to the selection criteria for University of California campus programs of choice. These transfer students will be guaranteed a place on one of the University's campuses provided minimum University of California transfer requirements for admission are met.

The University will also work to expand its programs guaranteeing admission to California Community College students who enter into joint University of California/California Community College contract agreements for specified programs.

III. Implementation and Review

The California Community Colleges and the University of California recognize that additional resources will be needed to fully realize the goals and activities specified in Sections I and II of this Memorandum of Understanding, and will work together to identify and secure the necessary resources. The California Community Colleges and the University of California will convene a committee consisting of systemwide officers as well as campus administrators, Academic Senate representatives and students to monitor implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum of

Understanding and to assess progress and effectiveness of activities.

IV. Signature Agreements

Thomas J. Nussbaum
Chancellor, California Community Colleges

Richard C. Atkinson
President, University of California

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ATTACHMENT B

ASSIST Software

ASSIST is a computerized student-transfer information system that can be accessed over the World Wide Web. It displays reports of how course credits earned at one California college or university can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California's colleges and universities and therefore provides the most accurate and up-to-date information available about student transfer in California.

ASSIST is available at www.assist.org.

History of ASSIST

In 1985, the University of California began to explore using computers to store, maintain, and display transfer-related data. With funding from the California State Legislature, ASSIST was created under the guidance and counsel of the three California postsecondary educational segments: the University of California, the California State Universities, and the California Community Colleges. The goal was to use the computer to provide students and counselors with an easy way to access accurate and complete information about transferring from one California college or university to another. The initial project, with a small number of colleges and universities participating, was evaluated and approved. Since that time, ASSIST has grown to include information about all of the public postsecondary educational institutions in California. In addition, it is the official repository of articulation information for California's public colleges and universities.

Funding and Management

ASSIST is funded by the California state legislature. The ASSIST Board of Directors, made up of representatives from each of the public postsecondary educational segments, oversees development and establishes policy for ASSIST. The daily implementation and project operations are managed by the ASSIST Coordination Site. The Board of Directors and the ASSIST Coordination Site work together with participating campuses to ensure that ASSIST continues to meet the needs of students transferring among California's institutions of higher education.

ASSIST Mission

Our mission is to bring accurate transfer information to students attending California postsecondary institutions through easy-to-use computer software and a complete and regularly maintained database of articulation and transfer information for postsecondary educational institutions throughout California.

ASSIST Vision

ASSIST will become an integrated, student-centered information system which includes degree requirement information and is maintained as the official, complete repository of California articulation. This system will provide 1) ubiquitous on-line access, 2) an open system supporting access by other information systems, and 3) electronic interaction between students and institutions.

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THE TRANSFER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Transfer Opportunity Program's (TOP) mission is to work with students at our partner community colleges to develop their awareness of the educational options available at UC Davis, to prepare them to transfer successfully, to increase the number of students who transfer, and to help broaden the campus population so that it reflects the many facets of the people of California.

PROGRAM GOALS

- To develop a heightened awareness of UC Davis at each of our partner community colleges through reliable, long-term contact with students, teaching and counseling faculty, and staff.
- To deliver accurate information regarding UC Davis programs to students, counselors, and Transfer Center staff.
- To advise students in individual and group sessions on issues affecting transfer, such as: academic preparation, financial aid, housing, campus life and activities, research opportunities, study abroad options, and special campus programs (for example, Transfer Student Fellows Program and MURPS).
- To educate counselors on the types and quality of academic preparation their students need to transfer successfully and to increase the likelihood that they will complete their degrees.
- To be a liaison between UC Davis faculty and staff and the students, teaching and counseling faculty, and staff at our partner community colleges by developing events that bring these groups together to increase transfer opportunities for students.
- To work with individual students to help solve problems that block their progress toward transferring to UC Davis.
- To increase the number of well-prepared students from varied backgrounds who transfer to UC Davis from our partner colleges.

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DO I NEED A TAA TO BE ADMITTED TO UC DAVIS?

A TAA has many benefits, including an admission guarantee and the assurance of strong academic preparation because of good counseling. While we encourage students to arrange for a TAA if possible, an agreement is not required for admission.

LIST OF MAJORS

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

African-American and African Studies
American Studies
Anthropology
Applied Physics
Art History
Art Studio
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
Cell Biology
Chemistry
Chicana/Chicano Studies
Chinese
Classical Civilization
Communication
Comparative Literature
Computer Science
Dramatic Art
East Asian Studies
Economics
English
Evolution & Ecology
Exercise Science
French
Genetics
Geology
German
History
Individual Major
International Relations
Italian
Japanese
Linguistics
Mathematics
Medieval Studies
Microbiology
Music
Native American Studies
Nature and Culture
Philosophy
Physics
Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior
Plant Biology
Political Science
Political Science--Public Service
Psychology
Religious Studies
Russian
Sociology
Sociology--Organizational Studies
Spanish
Statistics
Women's Studies

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Agricultural and Managerial Economics
Agricultural Systems and Environment
Animal Biology
Animal Science
Animal Science and Management
Atmospheric Science
Avian Sciences
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
Biotechnology
Cell Biology
Community and Regional Development
Community Nutrition
Crop Science and Management Design
Dietetics
Entomology
Environmental and Resource Science
Environmental Biology and Management
Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry
Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning
Environmental Toxicology
Evolution and Ecology
Fermentation Science
Fiber and Polymer Science
Food Biochemistry
Food Science
Genetics
Human Development
Hydrology
Individual Major
International Agricultural Development
Landscape Architecture (not available for TAA)
Microbiology
Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior
Nutrition Science
Plant Biology
Soil and Water Science
Textiles and Clothing
Viticulture and Enology
Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Aeronautical Science and Engineering
Biological Systems Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Chemical Engineering/Biomedical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Civil Engineering/Materials Science and Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Science and Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Electrical Engineering/Materials Science and Engineering
Food Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering/Materials Science and Engineering

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Visitor's Services
Buehler Alumni and
Visitors Center
752-8111

Colleges
Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences
228 Mrak Hall,
One Shields Ave.
752-0108

Engineering
1050 Engineering II,
One Shields Ave.
752-0553

Letters and Science
200 Social Sciences &
Humanities Bldg., One
Shields Ave.
752-0392

Disabled Student Services
Disability Resource Center
South Silo
752-3184

Educational Opportunity
Program
178 Mrak Hall, One Shields
Ave.
752-2993

Financial Aid Office
752-2390

Housing
Community Housing
Listing Office
252 South Silo, One Shields
Ave.
752-4699

Student Housing Office
752-2033

Student Family Housing
752-4000

Scholarships
Scholarship Office
752-2804

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