

Date of Hearing: April 18, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Jose Medina, Chair  
AB 847 (Bocanegra) – As Amended April 6, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Academic senates: membership rosters

**SUMMARY:** Provides for the disclosure of the membership of academic senates at campuses of the state's community colleges and universities. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the academic senate of each campus of the California State University (CSU) or of a California Community College (CCC) to post its membership roster on its website.
- 2) Requires any CSU and CCC campus academic senate, to make available to the public upon request, demographic data on the gender and race or ethnicity of its members.
- 3) Requests that the academic senate of each campus of the University of California (UC) comply with (1) and (2).

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Provides that statutes related to UC (and most other aspects of the governance and operation of UC) are applicable only to the extent that the UC Regents make such provisions applicable. (Education Code (EC) Section 67400.)
- 2) Confers upon the CSU Trustees the powers, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, and control of the CSU system. (EC Sect. 66606.)
- 3) Requires the Board of Governors of the CCC to establish standards requiring governing procedures established by community college district boards to, in part, ensure the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards. (EC Sect. 70901(b)(1)(E).)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown.

**COMMENTS:**

*Background.* Academic Senates represent the official voice of faculty in the shared governance of colleges and universities, particularly with respect to the formation of policy on academic and professional matters. UC, CSU, and the CCC each have an academic senate, representing all faculty of the respective segment, on matters of systemwide concern, and each UC, CSU, and CCC campus has its own academic senate for matters pertaining to that college or university.

*Purpose.* According to the author, this bill seeks to address difficulties the public has in obtaining information about various academic senates. For example, according to the Campaign for College Opportunity, for academic senates of the state's community colleges, 13 rosters are unavailable, eight are outdated, and five are only partial rosters. The Campaign argues that, because executive leadership positions and academic senate bodies are empowered to enact

policy and drive hiring decisions that affect the diversity of the faculty on campus, transparency regarding the membership of these bodies is important.

AB 847 requires the academic senate of each UC, CSU, and CCC campus to post its membership on its website and to make specified demographic information about its membership available on request.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Alliance College-Ready Public Schools  
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education  
A Place Called Home  
Campaign for College Opportunity  
Center for Urban Education  
Greenlining Institute  
Imperial Community College District  
Student Senate for the California Community Colleges, Region III  
United Way of Greater Los Angeles  
Women's Foundation of California  
Youth Policy Institute

**Opposition**

None on file.

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