The 2014 Discipline Assignment Resolution
Key Factors and 12 Facts for Faculty Consideration

The following elements of the current disciplines resolution (italicized), many of which were included in previous CIC discipline assignment proposals and rejected by Mesa’s Academic Senate, should be of concern to faculty:

Whereas: Title 5 of the California Department of Education’s Code of Regulations gives the responsibility for Assigning Courses to Disciplines to the Academic Senates.

Whereas: SDCCD Board of Trustees Policy 2510 indicates that the Assignment of Courses to Disciplines falls under the purview of the Academic Senates for Mesa, City and Miramar Colleges and Continuing Education.

1. Fact
Title 5 (Section 52300, Article 2) and SDCCD Board Policy 2510, indicate that the faculty (Academic Senates) are responsible for assigning disciplines to courses. In the SDCCD, discipline faculty has assigned courses to disciplines through an informal process that most community colleges follow in the region and throughout the State.

Whereas: SDCCD Board of Trustees Policy 5020 regarding Curriculum currently does not include a formal process for the SDCCD to Assign Courses to Disciplines.

2. Fact
SDCCD BP 5020 defines the role of the curriculum committees. It does not indicate that curriculum committees are responsible for deciding minimum qualifications nor discipline assignments. Therefore, BP 5020 would not include information regarding a formal process for discipline assignment since curriculum committees have not been, by law, deemed responsible for discipline assignment.

3. Fact
Assigning courses to disciplines is not new and the College is in compliance with the law with its current informal process in assigning disciplines to courses. This information was confirmed with Craig Rutan, who is the chairperson of the Statewide Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Standards and Practices Committee. The ASCCC Standards and Practices Committee is responsible for the Disciplines List and also assists “local academic senates with compliance issues associated with state statutes and their implementation.” Mr. Rutan confirmed that we (Mesa College/SDCCD) are currently in compliance with the law as it relates to discipline assignment. Mr. Rutan also confirmed that it is not necessary to align discipline assignments with our sister colleges due to course alignment.
4. **Fact**
The College has not received any sanction from WASC/ACCJC upon accreditation renewal because of an issue with discipline assignment. The College and District has been in compliance for the 50 plus years of Mesa’s existence and the 100 plus years of City’s existence.

*Whereas:* The Academic Senate for California Colleges (ASCCC) suggests that the Curriculum Review Committee (CRC), under the auspices of the Academic Senate and with the expertise of the Discipline Faculty, would be the most suitable group to make decisions about the Assignment of Courses to Disciplines

1. The agreed-upon Discipline(s) Assignment for each course is forwarded to each college’s Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) for review and feedback.

2. Each college’s discipline experts will submit any concerns regarding the Discipline Assignment to the Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) either in writing or with a presentation.

3. If the discipline experts and Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) cannot agree on a particular discipline assignment, the matter is brought to the individual colleges’ Academic Senate for resolution.

5. **Fact**
Because of the membership of curriculum committees, adoption of the resolution would relinquish sole authority of Mesa’s faculty over Mesa’s discipline assignments to administrators, faculty and staff throughout the entire District.

6. **Fact**
A suggestion by the ASCCC is not law. The “Disciplines Resolution” proposal contradicts Mesa’s Senate Resolution 14.4.2 which reaffirms the Senates’ Responsibility for Assigning Courses to Disciplines” in May 2014 and states that discipline assignment determination is the sole responsibility of the discipline faculty.

7. **Fact**
Within its own structure, the responsibility for discipline assignment in the ASCCC is with the Standards and Practices Committee and not the Curriculum Committee.

**Question**
What knowledge and skills do curriculum committees possess in discipline assignment that is above and beyond the expertise of discipline faculty?
Whereas: The ASCCC also suggests that the Assignment of Courses to Disciplines should be a part of the official Course Outline of Record.

Whereas: The Course Outlines of Record for SDCCD’s courses are located in the CurricUNET curriculum database.

8. Fact
Including discipline assignments on the course outline of record will be reviewed and voted on by curriculum committees. Because of the membership of curriculum committees, adoption of the Resolution would relinquish sole authority of Mesa’s faculty over Mesa’s discipline assignments to administrators, faculty and staff throughout the entire District.

9. Fact
A suggestion by the ASCCC is not law. The “Disciplines Resolution” proposal contradicts Mesa’s Senate Resolution 14.4.2 which addressed the concern with including discipline assignment in CurricUNET. Because disciplines were assigned to courses in CurricUNET from someone other than the faculty originator, there is a lack confidence in those who abused their authority by making unauthorized changes to course discipline assignments. The administration took over the discipline assignments of Black Studies and Chicana/o Studies courses through the use of CurricUNET. Therefore, it has been determined that the COR and CurricUNET are not the best repository for discipline assignment.

Whereas: Individual Faculty members originate updates to the Course Outlines of Record, which are then reviewed and approved by each college’s Faculty at the campus level via the Academic Senate or its designated subcommittee (CRC) and collectively by the three college Faculties at the district level via the Curriculum and Instructional Council (CIC).

10. Fact
Adoption of the Resolution would create layers of bureaucracy which includes submission through an already cumbersome and lengthy curriculum approval process. In addition, the COR is voted on by curriculum committees which includes administrators and staff. Mesa approved Senate Resolution 14.4.2 – “Reaffirming Local Academic Senates’ Responsibility for Assigning Courses to Disciplines” in May 2014 and states that discipline assignment determination is the sole responsibility of the discipline faculty.

11. Fact
Adoption of the resolution would have discipline faculty answer to any SDCCD curriculum committee, including the District curriculum committee (CIC).
Be it resolved that:

The Academic Senate supports the following formal process for Assigning Courses to Disciplines at the SDCCD:

1. For all existing courses, the full-time discipline experts from all three campuses must reach agreement on the discipline(s) to which the course shall be assigned as the first step:
   a. Discipline experts use the ASCCC Minimum Qualifications Handbook to determine the appropriate discipline(s).
   b. A course may be assigned to a single discipline, more than one discipline (one discipline OR a second discipline) or as interdisciplinary (one discipline AND one or more additional discipline(s)).

12. Fact
Acceptance of the resolution will be unprecedented as it will enact more restrictive guidelines for discipline assignment, above and beyond that which is required in the Statewide adopted minimum qualifications, which has not occurred anywhere in the entire California Community College system. The resolution predetermines how disciplines are to be assigned which again, takes away the sole authority from discipline assignment from discipline faculty.

Additional Concerns

- Continued efforts are being made to re-organize the previous CIC discipline assignment proposals for the approval of SDCCD Academic Senates. The Assigning Courses to Disciplines Resolution is the 2014 version of the CIC 2011 “Formalizing the Process to Assign Courses to Disciplines”, and the 2013 “Guidelines for Assigning Courses to Disciplines” proposals, both created by the same authors.

- The “Disciplines Resolution” is a continued attempt by administrators to change the responsibility of discipline assignment from the sole authority of faculty to include administrators and staff, though the vehicle of curriculum committees.

- Unfortunately, District and college leaders have continued to provide false information about discipline assignment. Faculty has been told that SDCCD colleges are in violation of the law for not having a formalized discipline assignment process and for not having aligned discipline assignments, which is false.

- The administration appears to have completely ignored the concerns and decisions of the Mesa Academic Senate by presenting a resolution that is in direct opposition to the December 2013 rejection of the “Guidelines for Assigning Courses to Disciplines” proposal and the May 2014 Mesa Senate Resolution 14.4.2. --“Reaffirming Local Academic Senates’ Responsibility for Assigning Courses to Disciplines”.
The proposed resolution is administration driven and is in complete contradiction to the May 2014 Mesa Senate Resolution 14.4.2. –“Reaffirming Local Academic Senates’ Responsibility for Assigning Courses to Disciplines

The proposed resolution is a hostile attempt by the administration, who are using the vehicle of the Senate leadership, to take over discipline assignment.

So desperate to take over discipline assignment, when a member of the District curriculum committee and guests showed up for a curriculum meeting to address the abuse of authority by administrators in taking over discipline assignment without authority, they were met by police upon entering the building.