Resolution in Support of the Standardization of Student Response Systems

WHEREAS, the California State Student Association (CSSA) is the single recognized voice for the students of the California State University (CSU) System; and

WHEREAS, the mission of CSSA is to maintain and enhance the accessibility of an affordable quality education for the people of California; and

WHEREAS, the CSU has long been recognized as a national leader and innovator in the development of high-quality, digitally delivered content; and

WHEREAS, the result of the significant increases in student fees in the past decade, cause many CSU students face economic challenges for completing their CSU degrees; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 California Bureau of State Audits Report indicates that the average CSU student pays an estimated $812 per year for textbooks¹, which is a significant percentage of students’ total cost for their education; and

WHEREAS, student response system, or “clickers”² are being increasingly utilized in the classroom and students purchasing multiple devices drives up the costs of supplemental materials required for all their classes; and

WHEREAS, the student response systems are often bundled with book packages that require the student to buy duplicate devices for classes that utilize the same device; and

WHEREAS, the student response systems or “clickers” implemented in the CSU provide an active learning formula that promotes student engagement and interaction through technology; and

¹California State Auditor, January 2008
²A student response system, or “clicker” is an instructional technology tool composed of a proprietary software application that is installed on the facilitator’s computer, a wireless receiver, and hand-held, remote control-like transmitter that have been assigned to students to record their responses to multiple choice or yes/no questions.
WHEREAS, students having multiple student response systems creates problems for staff and IT on campuses because they cannot share similar technical experiences or support one another to solve issues, which often leads to the student having to manage all of their devices on their own; and

WHEREAS, training new staff, teachers, and IT professionals with multiple devices will be different for every classroom, which can be detrimental in the implementation of Student Response Systems; and

WHEREAS, some campuses in the CSU have already standardized to a single student response systems by having a universal manufacturer and distributor in their campus bookstores and/or auxiliaries; and

WHEREAS, standardized features and hardware will improve technical support from IT departments or from the manufacturer themselves, that allow staff and students to maintain their own Student Response Systems devices; and

WHEREAS, the training and implementation of a single student response system will be streamlined into one device so that more faculty will be able to utilize the technology in their own classroom; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of applications in concert with the student response systems should be considered in the standardization process; and

WHEREAS, the campuses that do not utilize student response systems will potentially be subject to selecting one in the future and would benefit from other CSU campus models to standardize a device; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Learning Solutions Campaign goal to reduce the costs of instructional content by 50% for the CSU within the next five years will be supported by the standardization of Student Response Systems; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the CSSA urges each CSU campus to standardize a student response system or “clicker” to reduce the cost of supplemental materials for their classes; be it further

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RESOLVED, that the CSSA urges each CSU campus administration, faculty, bookstore and/or relevant auxiliary, and Associated Students to research, establish a process and pursue the standardization of a single student response system for their respective campus; be it further

RESOLVED, that the CSSA urges that the selection process of a student response system at each CSU campus must meet the ADA requirements to ensure unrestricted access to all students; be it further

RESOLVED, that members of student leadership of the 23 CSU campuses will act to support and promote the standardization of student response systems on their campus; be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited, to the Campus Bookstore Auxiliaries, the Chancellor’s Office, CSU Board of Trustees, System-wide and campus Academic Senates, Directors of Academic Technology, Directors of Information Technology, CSU Presidents, CSU Associated Students, and the California Faculty Association.