

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3466-21/FGA
January 21-22, 2021

**CALL FOR INTERNET BANDWIDTH EXPANSION FOR CSU STUDENTS,
FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATORS**

- RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) commend the Chancellor’s Office (CO) on its diligence in monitoring the system’s and individual campus bandwidth capacity, and urge the CO to continue this diligence, especially in light of the COVID–19 pandemic and its importance to “virtual” classroom instruction within the CSU; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU urge support of California AB-14 and quick implementation of the [California Broadband Action Plan](#), which proposes that “all Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses; all Californians have access to affordable broadband and the devices necessary to access the internet; and all Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion,”; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU urge the CO, the CSU Board of Trustees, and individual campuses to design and implement a plan whereby all CSU students and faculty, along with staff and management, have ready access, **now** and in the future, to **internet service providers (ISPs)** with **adequate bandwidth** for virtual education, scholarship, and professional activities; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU recommend that the Chancellor’s Office continues in its efforts to ensure that those students, faculty, staff, and administrators who (for example, currently during the COVID–19 pandemic of 2020-21) do not have adequate equipment or access to engage in successful education, whether due to geographical location or inequitable circumstances, be provided with such equipment and access in whatever ways deemed appropriate, and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor, CSU campus Presidents, CSU campus Senate Chairs, CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, CSU Vice Presidents of Student Affairs, CSU Chief Information Officer (CIO), CIO Council, the California Faculty Association (CFA), California State Student Association (CSSA), Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (ERFSA), Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges (CCC), and the Academic Senate of the University of California (UC).

RATIONALE: During the current COVID–19 pandemic, CSU began almost all instruction as virtual, which requires strong and reliable internet connections for both students and faculty. While this is not a “legal” requirement, it is a practical requirement, which means that for those faculty or students who did not or do not have adequate equipment, bandwidth, or training, their education was seriously impaired. We know that this virtual world will continue for the CSU at least through spring 2021 and could continue longer. In addition, the pandemic has already altered our modes of education and there is every reason to believe that significant elements of how we teach and learn will not return to as it was pre-COVID situation. As a result, adequate bandwidth, both on and on and off campus, for all within the CSU is a standard which must be initiated as quickly as possible.

Governor Newsom issued [Executive Order \(EO\) N–73–20](#) on August 14, 2020 noting that “deploying affordable and reliable broadband networks throughout California will accelerate continuous improvements in economic and workforce development, infra structure, public safety, education, economy, and an engaged citizenry.” That EO recognized the importance of the following facts:

- broadband access, adoption, and training are essential components of digital equity for California's diverse populations;
- over 2,000,000 Californians do not have access to high-speed broadband service at benchmark speeds of 100 megabits per second download, including 50 percent of rural housing units;
- the COVID-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning.

That EO also lists 15 separate action items that the CSU should consider especially those which concern students and faculty having adequate bandwidth. Such action should enable education by the CSU to continue as a vital element of success for the State of California. The CSU should also consider lobbying for AB-14 and ask the Legislature and Governor to enforce a reduced rate from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for CCC/CSU/UCs as well as K-12 institutions. Finally, given that the Governor’s January Budget Proposal specifically provides \$15 million to the CSU precisely for the purpose of addressing “digital equity” and mental health, we have the perfect opportunity to bring about such an outcome.

Approved Unanimously – January 21-22, 2021