

Modesto Junior College
Academic Senate
Resolution: SP08-C
Location of Student Services Building on the North Drive Shift

“The Academic Senate has noted that the proposed construction of a new Student Services Building implies the expenditure of a large amount of public funds and a significant impact on the character of the Modesto Junior College campus that will last for decades to come; and

The Academic Senate has protested that the process of locating the proposed Student Services building has thus far taken place outside the campus development process and input has not been sought from all campus stakeholders via the methods by which those stakeholders operate; and

The Measure E Advisory Committee, which may have served to facilitate communication and consensus, was disbanded by the MJC Administration, despite opposition by the Academic Senate, and then reconstituted, only to have its subsequent meetings cancelled by the Administration; and

The “open forum,” designed and scheduled by the MJC Administration for the express purpose of achieving consensus on this issue, was an inappropriate and inherently ineffective venue for doing so, as it was outside the normal decision-making processes, and indeed, its results were rejected by the Administration as being non-representative; and

The Academic Senate, which is charged with representing the MJC faculty, and is constituted to do so, expressed the near unanimous opinion of its membership in Resolution SP08-B that the proposed new Student Services Building, if its construction is necessary, should not be located on the East Campus; and

Faculty concerns about that location have not received adequate response, including that:

- (1) The proposed building would eliminate the natural lighting to the art classrooms that were situated and designated for that very purpose,
- (2) The Art Glade, with its mature trees, which is integral to much of the Art curriculum, would be eliminated, and cannot simply be replaced by locales farther from the Art Building,
- (3) The proximity of a new building next to the ceramics and sculpture labs would likely create significant problems with noise, and with the ventilation of fumes from those rooms which requires adequate air movement outside the Art Building,

- (4) Needed improvements and expansion of the facilities in the Art Building would be precluded,
- (5) The proposed location would add to the congestion in the area of the campus that contains the auditorium and the great majority of FTE generation on the East Campus and the attendant lengthy construction process will only exacerbate those problems while adding more.

Be it resolved that the Academic Senate express to the YCCD Board of Trustees its official position that the proposed Student Services Building should be constructed in such a way as to minimize harm to academic programs and the elimination of developed green-space.

To that end:

1. First, if feasible, existing building space/footprint should be used for the needs the proposed Student Services Building is meant to provide.
2. If that is not feasible, any new building should be constructed on the West Campus.
3. If it is determined that a new building must be constructed on the East Campus, it should be constructed on the north side of the Campus Quad area, preferably on the North Drive Shift site, from among the East Campus sites presented for consideration.

First Reading: May 13, 2008

Final Reading:

Disposition: Failed, due to lack of action