



Faculty Senate of the California State University Maritime Academy

Resolution 23-24/01

First Reading: April 20, 2023

Vote (For/Against/Abstain): 14/0/3

RESOLUTION - Cal Maritime at an Existential Crossroads: The Time to Act is Now

WHEREAS: The California State University Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime) has experienced a significant decline in enrollment, from 1107 students in 2016 to under 800 students in April 2023. Additionally, the overall percentage of women students has remained low over the past 30 years despite efforts to recruit more women, and a call by WASC, our accrediting agency, to increase the percentage of women students; and,

WHEREAS: The California State University (CSU) has given Cal Maritime a target of 1400 full-time-equivalent students and funds the campus at that level. Starting in AY 2024-2025, the CSU will reduce Cal Maritime's funding if this target is not met; and,

WHEREAS: Colleges and universities throughout the country, including service academies, are experiencing enrollment challenges, making recruitment efforts even more challenging; and,

WHEREAS: Cal Maritime contracted with the Art & Science Group (A&S) to conduct a marketing positioning study which found that we are at a crossroads, an existential crisis, and that significant changes are necessary to reverse the decline in enrollment and increase the number of women on campus. A&S further states that Cal Maritime has two options moving forward:

- Option A) intensify our focus on the traditional maritime academy experience OR
- Option B) expand programs to attract more, and a broader range, of students; and,

WHEREAS: A&S reported that the pool of potential applicants for Option A is shrinking, **and will not be enough to reverse our declining enrollment numbers**, and Option B is the only viable option for growing our campus enrollment long-term; and,

WHEREAS: A&S suggests that in order to grow, we must expand our degree programs into maritime-*adjacent* fields, including those that cover the environmental, policy, engineering, and commerce elements of the industry, and provide two different sorts of experiences: A highly structured and revitalized Cadet experience for license students and a moderately structured student experience for those in other programs; and,

WHEREAS: Immediate action to grow the University beyond the licensure programs is needed now; A&S states that gradual change will not solve our existential crisis. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of Cal Maritime will work closely with all campus-community stakeholders including students, faculty, administration and alumni to identify and implement solutions to our existential crisis, advocating for sufficient recruitment resources to grow enrollment of students in non-license programs; and be it further

RESOLVED: The Faculty Senate of Cal Maritime will work with campus-community stakeholders to strongly support growth in license programs by advocating for sufficient funding for recruiting and retaining licensed faculty members; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of Cal Maritime will work closely with all campus-community stakeholders to revitalize the Corps experience and leadership and professional development opportunities for cadets; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of Cal Maritime recommends the administration set deadlines of:

- February 29 2024 to identify the concrete outcomes
- April 2024 to finalize a plan for implementation
- Full implementation in the 2024-2025 academic year; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Senate of Cal Maritime distribute this resolution to the following stakeholders: Cal Maritime Faculty, Staff, Administrators, Students and Alumni Association.