

1 [Supporting Assembly Bills 404 (Chiu), 1385, and 1397 (Ting) - Community Colleges and
2 Accreditation]

3 **Resolution supporting Assembly Bill 404, authored by Assembly Member David Chiu,**
4 **and Assembly Bills 1385 and 1397, authored by Assembly Member Phil Ting, to reform**
5 **rules and procedures in California’s community college accreditation process.**

6
7 WHEREAS, City College of San Francisco is an essential and significant institution
8 serving San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Budget and Legislative Analyst found that City College of
10 San Francisco contributes more than \$300,000,000 annually to the Bay Area economy and
11 that jobs attained by its 2011-2012 graduates are valued at an additional \$123,000,000 per
12 year; and

13 WHEREAS, The average median wage for those jobs is \$11,100 more than positions
14 requiring a high school diploma; and

15 WHEREAS, The broader social and economic impact the City College of San
16 Francisco has on its students and the community is immeasurable; and

17 WHEREAS, All of the state’s community colleges will benefit from a fair and objective
18 accreditation process; and

19 WHEREAS, A number of governmental agencies, including the United States
20 Department of Education, the California Bureau of State Audits and a California Superior
21 Court have found that the current accreditation process for California’s community colleges is
22 deeply flawed and has violated state law and federal regulations; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera brought suit against the
24 Accrediting Commission for California Community and Junior Colleges in response to their
25

1 decision to terminate City College of San Francisco’s accreditation, alleging conflicts of
2 interest within the accrediting body and misinterpretation of federal policies; and

3 WHEREAS, The California State Auditor found that a lack of transparency and
4 incongruent application by the Accrediting Commission for California Community and Junior
5 Colleges in the decision process undermines the value of the accreditation process; and

6 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 404 (Chiu) would require the Board of Governors of the
7 California Community Colleges to solicit anonymous system-wide feedback on the
8 performance of the regional agency that accredits community colleges and communicate this
9 feedback to the federal body that oversees and reviews accrediting agencies, the National
10 Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI); and

11 WHEREAS, AB 1385 (Ting) would require notification to and the approval of
12 community college member institutions before an accrediting agency increases membership
13 fees, special assessments, or other payments, such as legal fees or costs of suit, charged to
14 a community college; and

15 WHEREAS, AB 1397 (Ting) would reform aspects of the Community College
16 accreditation process to bring it into compliance with state and federal laws and regulations
17 and ensure that fairness, consistency, and transparency guide the manner in which
18 accreditation procedures are conducted, thereby protecting the interests of community college
19 students, our community, and the state; and

20 WHEREAS, It is critical that the City and County of San Francisco supports this
21 legislation for protecting City College of San Francisco and the educational opportunities it
22 provides; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports Assembly Bills
24 404, 1385, and 1397, and urges the Legislature and Governor to enact them.

25