

## **Version 2: Crafton Hills College President's Cabinet Response to Academic Senate Resolution S18.01 – Online Course Caps**

The Crafton Hills College President's Cabinet wants to commend the Academic Senate and the Crafton Hills College Faculty for their concern for students and student success. Moreover, the Crafton Hills College Faculty have developed an exemplary process for training faculty to teach online sections at Crafton Hills College that has helped students to succeed at a higher rate than the statewide average.

In developing the response to the Academic Senate Resolution S18.01, the President's Cabinet reviewed the data provided in S18.01 as well as [research](#) examining the relationship between online section average class size to online course success in the fall terms from Fall 2013 to Fall 2017. When controlling for stacked, online, and cross-listed sections, the research indicates that as the average class size increased from Fall 2016 to Fall 2017, so did the online course success rate. Specifically, the average class size increased from 26 in Fall 2016 to 29 in Fall 2017, a 12% increase. At the same time, the online course success rate increased from 67.6% to 69.7%, a 3% rate increase. In addition, when examining the relationship between online average section size and online course success rate, there did not appear to be a relationship (Pearson's  $r = .080$ ,  $p = .173$ ). Indicating, that other factors are related to online course success at Crafton Hills College.

In addition to examining the course success rate, the President's Cabinet also considered how the flexibility in cap helps Crafton to serve students. For example, running low enrolled courses that provide opportunities for students to complete a degree and certificate is an important component for student success. Also, many programs and courses at Crafton have lower caps as part of accreditation requirements and to increase student success. Flexibility in the caps, especially in online courses, helps Crafton to serve these students and increase the likelihood that these students will complete their programs.

Based on the available data and a conversation with the Crafton Hills College Academic Senate Executive, the Crafton Hills College President's Cabinet will move forward with setting online course caps based on attrition rate in online sections to reach a class average of 35 in online sections at census. Moreover, the attrition rate and the online section cap will be evaluated each year over the summer. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning will add the required research to its annual calendar to help ensure that the research is conducted each summer. Based on the methodology defined below, the cap size for the 2018-2019 academic year in online sections will be 46. Each year the cap size will be evaluated in relation to the target of reaching a class average at census of 35. Instructors will also have the discretion to increase their section caps.

The President's Cabinet realizes that the research only provides an indication of the relationship between online cap size and online course success. Accordingly, moving forward, Crafton will continue to monitor and examine online course success. Again, the Cabinet wants to commend the Crafton Hills College Faculty for their concern for student success and bringing this concern to the Cabinet.

Mike Strong  
VP, Administrative Services

Dr. Rebecca Warren-Marlatt  
VP, Student Services

Dr. Keith Wurtz  
Interim VP, Instruction

Methodology for Calculating Cap Size: Subtract the census enrollment from the maximum enrollment for summer, fall, and spring for each individual section. Calculate the average and standard deviation from the difference. Add one standard deviation to the average. The methodology may be revised based on data and feedback. Any recommended changes will be communicated to the Academic Senate.