Note: "whereas" statements are justifications for the goal in the "be it resolved" statement at the end. Please add any notes, suggestions, changes to the document.

RESOLUTION DRAFT

1. Whereas, students whose first language is not English often need additional English language skills to succeed in English 1 and many other courses offered across the college;

2. Whereas, Santa Monica College has a much higher number of international students who do not possess a GPA from a U.S. high school or an international high school where the language of instruction is English compared to most colleges in the California Community College system creating unique challenges to the implementation of AB 705;

3. Whereas, "Default Placement Rules for English are not appropriate for international students who are English language learners and are best served by being directed to the ESL placement process"[1];

4. Whereas, "administering assessments to establish language proficiency for placement is a well-established practice" to better serve the students and to provide the instruction needed to improve reading, writing, and listening skills needed for success in college and community[2];

5. Whereas, the ESL and English faculty hold that the current protocol of allowing new international students to utilize the "Five Filter Questions" is an ineffective means of determining their appropriate class placement in ESL or English;

6. Whereas, the ESL Department provides the language skills, cultural knowledge, community and guidance needed for both personal and academic success for our F1 student population at Santa Monica College;

7. Whereas, data indicating F1 student success rates in English 1 were higher when students had completed ESL requirements or had used the ESL Assessment test, Accuplacer, for placement into English 1;

8. Whereas, according to Title 5 Section 53200(c), "the Academic Senate makes recommendations with respect to academic and professional matters" including standards or policies regarding student preparation (10 + 1);

Be it Resolved, it is within the purview of the ESL Department to determine the most effective method of placing new international students into the appropriate ESL course level (or English 1) with Academic Senate approval;

Be it Resolved, the ESL Department does not support the use of the current “Five Filter Questions” as a tool for directing new international students to the ESL Assessment or English Guided Self Placement;

Be it Further Resolved, it is the position of the ESL Department that new international students are best served by having their English proficiency assessed in order to ensure their academic success at SMC and beyond.

1. (*per Memorandum regarding Credit English as a Second Language Guidance, from Marty Alvarado, Executive Vice Chancellor, Educational Services & Support, John Stanskas, President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Sept. 26, 2019*)

Reference:

2020 Filter Questions

1st question-Did you graduate from high school in the United States or receive your GED in the United States?

2nd question-Did you take and pass four years of academic English courses in a U.S. high school or college, or an international high school where all courses are taught in English?

(Academic English courses are different from English as a Foreign Language classes or English Language Development classes)

3rd question-Do you feel very confident that you will be able to understand college-level lectures that are given in English?

4th question-Do you successfully write essays and/or complete research projects in English at a U.S. high school or college, or an international high school?

5th question-Do you think you are able to read college-level academic English without needing a translation tool or dictionary?

(If students answer yes to questions they are directed to the English GSP)