

Senate Resolution on Keeping Budget Reduction Impacts "Furthest from the Students"

Whereas, the Bakersfield College mission defines our "core" purpose as providing "the high quality education necessary for our socially and ethnically diverse students--whether they be vocational, transfer-oriented, developmental, or some combination of these--to thrive in a rapidly changing world," a charge mirrored in the KCCD mission, as "to provide outstanding educational programs and services;" and

Whereas, the current anticipated budget shortfall for FY2012-13 and FY2013-14 could do substantial harm to that "high quality education" by damaging or eliminating many of the programs and services mentioned in the KCCD mission; and

Whereas, the process for budget development is a Title V 10+1 item for which the Bakersfield College administration and the KCCD Board of Trustees must "rely primarily upon the Academic Senate," including any ad hoc or emergency processes responding to the current anticipated budget shortfall; and

Whereas, instructional and student services units have been assigned to complete forms identifying "core" courses and services and most, if not all, instructional and student services units have already been reduced to "core" courses and services after the "unit audits" in 2003 and the severe course section reductions in 2009, 2011, and 2012; and

Whereas, no evidence is available showing that a comparable review has occurred of reductions down to the bare minimum of administrative or compliance tasks that must be done in order to bring no net financial harm to the district and the direct instruction and support of students; and

Whereas, best practices of leadership in education call for the smallest size and fewest layers of administration between the student and the top administrator in order to devote a greater proportion of resources to the direct instruction and support of students and that, contrary to such best practices, KCCD has increased the number, scope, staffing, and cost of administrative units and layers of administration since 2003; therefore

Resolved, that the Bakersfield College Academic Senate, as part of its 10+1 responsibilities related to the budget process, establishes "cutting furthest away from the students," as an overarching criterion for budget reductions in FY2012-13 and FY2013-14, and

Resolved, that the Bakersfield College Academic Senate, as part of its 10+1 responsibilities related to the budget process, avers that expenditure reductions which impact instructional programs and services must be a last resort, made only after all other options are exhausted, including taking the highest possible ratio of cuts to non-academic college and district operations; and

Resolved, that the Bakersfield College Academic Senate expects, as part of the budget reduction process, transparency and timely and ongoing disclosure on the part of the KCCD in the following areas: plans and rationales for budget reductions for all segments of the district including district

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administration, the value of all assets and investments owned by the district (stocks, bonds, land, reserves for unfunded liabilities, etc), and the legal uses of such resources; and

Resolved, that the Bakersfield College Academic Senate requests that the Chancellor conduct an audit of administrative tasks, particularly at the district level, to determine which tasks can be eliminated without net financial harm to the direct instruction and support of students including a cost/benefit analysis showing that compliance tasks save more money (due to avoiding potential penalties) than the expense of the staffing required to complete such tasks; and

Resolved, that the Bakersfield College Academic Senate, in addition to affirming and expecting adherence to the approved Program Discontinuance Policy, shall institute mechanisms to develop, review and respond to alternatives to program discontinuance and reductions to the core academic mission of Bakersfield College.