ACADEMIC SENATE, BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE: RESOLUTION NO. 1

Re: AB 705 and Funding Model - Mitigating Forces Could Degrade Course Rigor

Whereas: A metric within the new state funding formula for California Community Colleges, combined with AB 705 default guidelines, are compelling colleges to direct students to take transfer-level math and English in the first year regardless of their ability or their educational goal(s);

Whereas: The default placement bands for students of certain high school grade point averages predict dismal success rates of less than 50% and in some cases less than 28% as illustrated within certain B-STEM high school grade point average student bands;

Whereas: The state funding formula and AB705 default guidelines place undue pressures on both the students who fail, particular those with lower grade point averages and the college, who has expended great resources focusing on transfer, leaving no clear path for such students nor institutions to help such student develop missing skills and gain true competency;

Whereas: Financial pressures, compounded with the need for student completion, will apply previously unheard of pressure on institutions and their faculty to pass students;

Be It Resolved: The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges urges local college disciplines effected by AB 705 to create processes to guarantee the rigor of coursework;

Further Be It Resolved: The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges address the issue of course rigor and student success in an upcoming breakout or institute (e.g. plenary or the next Academic Academy) to focus on innovative ways to guarantee rigor.