

My name is Edith Mata and I am the former Bakersfield College Student Government Association President FY 2021-2022. Due to my Job I am not able to make the meeting in person thus offering my public comment in opposition of the proposed DEI committee on today's senate agenda.

I support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. During my term as BCSGA president I was a pioneer in guiding and supporting BCSGA in passing SB 15 to address equity, inclusion, accessibility and anti-racism efforts. Because at the time that is what our institution needed and required of us to do for the welfare of everyone.

However, the proposed DEI committee before the senate today should raise concerns for all senators. If supported, this withdrawal of faculty from EODAC would afflict the collaborative efforts of faculty, staff, administration, and student leaders who have relentlessly and persistently worked to ensure that Bakersfield College embraces a racial equity agenda in accordance with the state chancellor's office Vision for Success. Another Concern is the absence of key words related to DEI work in the proposed committee, i.e., anti-racism, social justice, and race consciousness. These are key concepts relevant to doing DEI work by actual DEI practitioners across California Community Colleges. I ask all senators to do their jobs and take a closer look, listen to the needs of students and do what is right.

I demand senators to reject diluted versions of DEI work and to deliberately promote DEI efforts to end racial barriers for underrepresented groups at Bakersfield College. And to create an inclusive, diverse and anti-racist campus for students, staff, faculty, and administrators.

Thank you.