

ACADEMIC SENATE
SCREENING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

For review at the 11th Academic Senate meeting

BIOs Submitted for the VPI Screening Committee (in order of received)

Name: **Bryan Hirayama**

Optional Bio: I have served the college in a number of capacities including EODAC Faculty Chair, Rising Scholars Program Lead, ATD Team Member, EEO Committee at the District, Accreditation, I have served IEPI for close to 10 other California Community Colleges. I am currently the Head Coach for Women's Water Polo at BC and my wealth of experiences and knowledge at the college, district, and state level would help the screening committee tremendously make a recommendation for the next VP.

Name: **Grace Commiso**

Optional Bio: I bring a broad, integrated perspective of instructional leadership, governance, and institutional effectiveness that positions me well to serve on the Vice President of Instruction hiring committee. As a tenured faculty member, I understand the central role of faculty voice, shared governance, and academic integrity in advancing student learning and institutional excellence.

Currently, I serve as Faculty Chair for the Accreditation and Institutional Quality Committee, the Guided Pathways Strategies Team, and Starfish. In these roles, I work closely with faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to align academic programs, student success initiatives, and assessment practices with institutional goals and accreditation standards. This work has strengthened my ability to evaluate instructional leadership through the lenses of evidence-based decision-making, continuous improvement, and cross-functional collaboration.

In addition to my faculty leadership, I have served as both Dean of Counseling and Dean of Instruction. These administrative experiences have provided me with a deep understanding of curriculum, scheduling, program development, enrollment management, and student support services. I have worked directly with faculty and staff through new initiatives, resource constraints, and institutional planning, giving me a practical appreciation for the challenges and opportunities facing a Vice President of Instruction.



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My commitment to the college's mission, goals, and priorities is demonstrated through sustained service and leadership focused on student success, the implementation of guided pathways, and institutional effectiveness. I value transparent communication, mutual respect, and collaborative problem solving, and I approach leadership selection with a strong sense of responsibility to the college community.

Serving on this hiring committee would allow me to contribute a balanced perspective that integrates faculty experience, administrative expertise, and a strategic understanding of both instruction and student services. I am committed to helping identify a Vice President of Instruction who embodies effective leadership, equity-minded practice, and a shared commitment to advancing the institution's educational mission.

Name: **James McGarrah**

Optional Bio: Dr. James McGarrah is a Professor of Chemistry who has been teaching in the Chemistry and Research Laboratory Technology (RTEC) baccalaureate programs since 2017. He led the curriculum development of the RTEC program, the College's second baccalaureate program.

He has directed and co-directed several Hispanic-Serving Institution STEM grants from the National Science Foundation and Department of Education totaling more than \$3.3 million. These initiatives focus on expanding access, persistence, and completion for first-generation and historically underrepresented students in STEM.

On campus, he served on the Academic Senate, Program Review committee, Curriculum committee, Guided Pathways Strategies group, and AB 928 task force.

As a representative from the STEM Pathway, he brings a broad perspective shaped by his roles as faculty and grant leader. He is committed to supporting hiring that strengthens the college in its Core Value of Diversity.



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Name: **Klint Rigby**

Optional Bio: Dear Academic Senate,

I would like to be on the screening committee for the next vice president of instruction.

I have been a faculty member at Bakersfield College since the fall of 2005, teaching in the Industrial Technology department. Before that, I taught for ten years at South High School in Bakersfield, California. I have a bachelor's degree in industrial arts and a teaching credential from Fresno State and a master's degree in educational leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University.

I have worked my entire career with students of varying ability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic status. South High School was over 75% Hispanic when I taught there and currently has minority enrollment of over 95% of the students. Bakersfield College currently has a Hispanic population of approximately 70% and the total minority population is over 80% of enrollment.

Through the years, I have taught classes in construction, industrial drawing, industrial technology, and woodworking. I have served as the department chair for Industrial Technology for over six years, and I manage programs at several locations, including the BC main campus, Delano, BCSW, prison, and high school locations. I have served on various committees, including the Academic Senate and Program Review. I am the current representative to the academic senate for Industrial Technology.

I believe it is important to have a representative from CTE on the screening committee.

Thank you for considering my inclusion on this committee.