

President's Report

For the September 2nd Regular Meeting of the Academic Senate

Updates:

- Summer 2026 Summary
 - Academic Senate Special Meetings – 5/18 & 6/29 (See minutes)
 - Interim Director of Transfer Pathways (Management)
 - Interim Executive Director of Categorical Programs (Management)
 - Counseling - Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)/Veteran's Counselor (Faculty)
 - Philosophy, Full-Time Temporary (Faculty)
 - Computer Science, Full-Time Temporary (Faculty)
 - Program Manager for Student Identity and Student Parents
 - Concern was brought forward about specific program manager screening committee but job description is generic program manager (COF)
 - [Board of Trustees Report – May 21](#)
 - District Wide Budget Committee - 6/3 & 6/24
 - 6/3 - Committee members expressed concerns regarding Bakersfield College's estimated \$3 million budget reduction despite the funding floor remaining unchanged. Discussion focused on the challenges of hiring 53 new faculty members without corresponding increases in classified staff support or additional administrative leadership. Members also discussed the need to evaluate workloads across various employee groups using both quantitative and qualitative measures.
 - UPDATE: 26-27 Adopted budget shared at BC Budget Committee shows an \$8M (4%) increase for BC, rather than the decrease previously presented.
 - 6/24 – Data to Dollars Presentation
 - Districtwide Accessibility Planning Retreat – 6/9
 - Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (ACMM) Education & Planning
 - District Early College Taskforce – 6/23
 - AS Presidents from all 3 colleges brought up concerns and shared positives. Next District Early College Taskforce meeting scheduled for 9/2; additional updates will be shared as available.
- General Updates
 - 2026–27 Senate priorities and goals will be discussed/confirmed this semester, including continued work on Early College, faculty purview, participatory governance, and implementation of newly established Senate committees/processes.
 - Co-Chair Call for nominations – Nominations close 9/3
 - Accessibility Goals & Milestones Committee (AGMC) [two-year term, 2026-28]
 - Enrollment Management Committee (EMC) [two-year term, 2026-28]
 - Campus Culture Advisory Task Force (CCATF) [two-year term, 2026-28]
 - Standing Call for Committee Nominations – Forms will remain open through the academic year
 - Faculty participation is especially important as several newly established and ongoing committees begin/continue their work this fall.
 - AVPI Screening Committee – Nominations close 9/8
 - [Additional Screening Committee Opportunities](#)
 - Recently Ratified [Constitution](#) & [By-Laws](#) posted
 - Drop for Non-Payment Workgroup

- Drop for Non-Payment Workgroup met multiple times over the summer. Multiple messages were sent to students about the drop for non-payment process. Currently, BP/AP calls to drop students after 10 days of non-payment instead of a one-day non-payment drop. The work group will continue to meet. Expect any BP/AP proposals related to this to come through senate. Please refer to the Drop for Non-Payment webpage for more information. [Drop for Non-Payment | Bakersfield College](#)
- District Consultation Council – 8/25 – Please email feedback directly to AS President
 - [BP 2730 - Board Member Health Benefits](#)
 - Revises post-service health benefit provisions for former trustees, allowing qualifying former Board members to continue District health benefits under statutory eligibility criteria and allowing other former members to participate on a self-pay basis. The revision removes the prior separate provisions providing District-paid retiree health and dental coverage until age 65.
 - Concern was raised that the proposed language may provide more favorable retiree health benefits to qualifying former Board members than are available to faculty retirees, particularly after age 65. Clarification was requested regarding District contributions and Medicare requirements.
 - Updated version from [what was shared in May](#)
 - [AP 4235 - Credit for Prior Learning](#)
 - Updates the CPL procedure to align with current Title 5 requirements, including clearer definitions, required periodic review/reporting, and clarification that CPL may apply toward general education, major, or elective requirements. The revisions also explicitly reinforce discipline faculty authority to evaluate and approve CPL and determine whether prior learning demonstrates mastery of the Course Outline of Record.
 - [AP 4232 - Pass/No Pass](#)
 - Clarifies Pass/No Pass grading, including how P/NP affects GPA and academic standing, how courses offering the option are identified, and advising students about potential transfer implications. It also establishes that students may select or change the grading option only through the District's published deadline, after which the grading option cannot be changed.
 - [AP 5013 – Students in the Military](#)
 - Revises how credit for military training and experience is awarded by replacing the previous automatic allocation of up to 12 units in specified areas with evaluation through the District's Credit for Prior Learning process and appropriate discipline faculty review. Credit may be applied to GE, major, or elective requirements based on documented learning and course equivalency, with no automatic maximum number of units.

Ongoing Conversations

- Regular Meeting with Interim Vice Chancellor, Human Resources + KCCD Senate Presidents – Plan to restart
- Regular Meeting with Interim Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Student Success + KCCD Senate Presidents – Plan to restart

Upcoming Items

- Equivalency Request Process & Equivalency Committee Procedures

Faculty Recognition

- BC Opening Day – Great turnout!
 - Margaret Levinson Award – Tom Greenwood

- Shirley Trembley Distinguished Teaching Award - Thomas Mieh

We are here to support!

- Ways to contact us:
 - academicsenate@bakersfieldcollege.edu – inquiries, concerns, etc. received by Rebecka Zepeda (AS Pres), Wade Ellis (AS VP) and Tarina Perry (AS Admin Secretary)
 - Senate Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-3pm in AS 170B – [Book an appointment](#) or come by!

Respectfully,

Rebecka Zepeda, M.S. (She/Her/Hers)