



MEMORANDUM

To: BCSGA Senate
Esteemed Library Faculty

From: Cindy Ceja Miranda, BCSGA President

CC: Dr. Nicky Damania, Dean of Students
Leonardo Ayala, BCSGA Advisor

Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024

Subject: Executive Opinion: Non-Denominational Multi-Faith(s) Meditation Area(s)

By the powers vested to me by the Codes of the Bakersfield Renegade Association (COBRA) 202.01(b), the BCSGA President, "shall have the power to issue proclamations, or opinions of the Office of the President," it is my opinion as the 99th session BCSGA President that there is a significant need for a designated indoor space for spiritual and faith-based practices that promote student wellness, wellbeing, and welfare to be recognized.

The mission for Bakersfield College is to, "provide opportunities for students from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds to attain Associate and Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer." Bakersfield College serves over 40,000 students from diverse backgrounds, ranging from suburban Bakersfield (population over 300,000) to rural farming areas such as Arvin, Delano, Wasco, McFarland, and Tulare County, making students the largest constituent group on campus.

It is my recommendation that the BCSGA Senate and the Bakersfield College Library support the designation of a non-denominational multi-faith space in the Library commons. It is understood that a space for spiritual and religious practices can serve as a private safe space for faith-practicing students during large spiritual seasons. With various spiritual and faith-based celebrations throughout the year, it is important that the College fosters an environment where all students are celebrated and supported through their tenure. This includes the ability to practice their faith-based practices in a safe and convenient space while attending classes.

The BCSGA Office of the President aims to affirm the value of the practices of multiple spiritual and faiths of the students at Bakersfield College and seeks to submit this opinion to the next BCSGA Senate Meetings for review and creation of an official resolution in support of a non-denominational multi-faith space.