

Porterville College Academic Senate Resolution in Opposition to the KCCD Hiring a General Counsel and an Associate Chancellor, Communication and Governmental Relations

Whereas the Kern Community College District, citing as cause the current economic crisis, has required Porterville College and the other colleges of the district to increase class sizes and reduce class and course offerings to the students whom we serve; and

Whereas the Kern Community College District, citing as cause the current economic crisis, has reduced and/or eliminated funding to both instructional programs and support services on the campuses; and

Whereas the Kern Community College District, citing as cause the current economic crisis, has required the layoff of numerous classified employees and is forecasting the layoff of full-time faculty due to elimination of programs and further reductions in class and course offerings to the students whom we serve; and

Whereas the number of administrative positions at the District Office has increased dramatically (more than doubled) since the 2001 commissioned KH study from a Chancellor and two Assistant Chancellors in 2003 to a Chancellor, four Vice-Chancellors, and two Associate Chancellors; and

Whereas maintaining proper ratio and compliance under the "50% Law" component of Title V has been problematic for the Kern Community College District during the past several years, and additional positions at the District Office could put the entire District in jeopardy, particularly during the current economic crisis; and

Whereas the mission statement of the District and its colleges declares students and instruction as the primary purpose, and that this was reinforced by the recommendations of the KH Study in 2001; and

Whereas the proposed administrative positions at the District Office (Associate Chancellor, Communication and Governmental Relations *and* General Counsel) are not a part of the instructional component of the District or its colleges; and

Whereas the number and ratio of full-time faculty at Porterville College to its student population has decreased while the number of administrators at the college and District levels have increased during the years since the KH Study;

Therefore, be it resolved, the Porterville College Academic Senate calls upon the KCCD Board of Trustees to allocate sufficient resources to maintain educational programs and opportunities at the colleges, including adequate faculty and support staff, class sections, and student services, and to NOT commit any additional resources to hiring a General Counsel and a new Associate Chancellor until such time as the district can publicly document with objective data the cost savings and/or revenue generation that would justify these positions and that such positions are warranted based upon their existence at comparable districts.

Be it further resolved that the Porterville College Academic Senate attests to and supports the viability of existing academic programs and student services, on the Porterville campus and at the other colleges within the District, and calls upon the KCCD Board of Trustees to direct both campus and District administration to adhere to the tenets of the "50% Law" and to fully commit adequate resources to current, viable academic programs and student services, and toward the restoration of programs and services that may have been suspended or reduced during the current economic crisis.

Approved by Porterville College Academic Senate
February 5, 2010