

Porterville College Academic Senate Resolution – Minimum Reserve Levels

WHEREAS the Academic Senate of Porterville College recognizes the difficult financial period the Kern Community College has recently endured, and

WHEREAS the Academic Senate recognizes that reserve funds helped KCCCD through the most difficult part of this financial crisis, and

WHEREAS the Academic Senate appreciates the efforts made by KCCCD and its Board of Trustees to avoid catastrophic staff reductions, and

WHEREAS the Academic Senate recognizes that the state's fiscal crisis made necessary budget cuts in programs, majors, services, and staff hour, and

WHEREAS these cuts have rendered some programs and areas unsustainable, which undermines student success and creates inequities among our students and among our campuses, and

WHEREAS the state is requiring that all community colleges increase student success and reduce inequities among students in order to be funded at the highest possible level, and

WHEREAS KCCCD has committed itself through participation in Achieving the Dream to implementing and sustaining college initiatives and innovations to increase student success that will require college budget flexibility and on-going financial commitments, and

WHEREAS Title 5 regulations, Section 53200 defines the Academic Senate role in institutional planning and budget development, and

WHEREAS the Academic Senate believes the minimum levels proposed are not warranted based on the overall stability and predictability of revenues from the state of California as compared to other government agencies (i.e. HHS – adult mental health agencies) and expenditures as outlined by the Government Finance Officers Association Best Practices document, and

WHEREAS any discussion of strict language changes to board policy on reserve funds should also include other sizable and relatively liquid assets such as the Debt Service Fund, and

WHEREAS a fixed minimum reserve requirement would restrict the Board's flexibility in times of financial stress,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Academic Senate strongly urges the Board to refrain from establishing in board policy more stringent minimum levels for district-wide and college reserves.

Approved 3-28-2014: Porterville College Academic Senate