



MEMO

To: Bakersfield College Academic Senate

From: Shehrazad Barraaj, BCSGA President

CC: Leonardo Ayala, BCSGA Advisor

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Subject: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

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 2022-2023 BCSGA President that Bakersfield College Student Government Association does not support the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

WHEREAS, 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";

WHEREAS, Bakersfield College serves over 23,000 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;

WHEREAS, the mission for Bakersfield College Student Government Association is to be the student voice of our Renegade Community;

WHEREAS, the Bakersfield College Student Government Association passed Student Senate Bill: 15; ADDRESSING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, ACCESSIBILITY AND ANTI-RACISM EFFORTS, ensuring the equal educational opportunity of all students, we embrace diversity among students, faculty, staff, and the communities we serve. We are committed to fostering an anti-racist environment that offers equal opportunity for all.

The importance of equality and our right to free speech is significant in our world . This new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee is limiting students' right to take action, voice our concerns, and be involved in Bakersfield College matters. This committee actively silences the students, the largest group on this campus. If Bakersfield College faculty truly cared for diversity and equity, understand the importance of defending students' voices on all campus committees. This institution is to serve our students. Bakersfield College faculty must give more value to and invite students in as many conversations as possible-- especially on the topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is students 9+1 right to be included in these conversations.



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