[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

92st SESSION

2016-2017

S. R.

**BCSGA Endorsement of Measure J**

In the Senate of the Student Government Association

of BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

September 21, 2016

Submitted by Senator Cooper and Senator Rodriguez

on behalf of BCSGA Executive Cabinet

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**A Resolution**

BCSGA Endorsement of Measure J

*Whereas, the mission for Bakersfield College Student Government Association is to voice the future needs of our Renegade Community*;

*Whereas, Bakersfield College is an essential community resource and provides an outstanding education and career training to students in our area in Kern county*

*Whereas, high school graduates in Kern County* rely on Bakersfield College for higher education and to prepare for careers; and

*Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Kern Community College District (KCCD), has determined that certain educational facilities need to be upgraded, renovated, acquired, and equipped, in a fiscally prudent manner, to enable the District to maintain Bakersfield College as valuable community resource that provides an affordable education to over 30,000 local students and veterans per year who desire to learn job skills and transfer to four-year universities; and*

*Whereas, since the costs of attending California’s public universities has risen to at least six times that of attending a community college, more local students are relying on community colleges, such as Bakersfield College, and the high quality, affordable college option it provides; and*

*Whereas, in today’s tough economic times and competitive job environment, KCCD must continue providing important training and education for local residents entering the workforce for new professions, particularly in science, healthcare, technology and skilled trades, and increase opportunities for local students to earn college credits, certifications and job skills at a reasonable price; and*

*Whereas, Bakersfield College has served thousands of military veterans, many of whom have recently returned from war zones and face post-traumatic stress disorder and permanent disabilities and need better access to job training programs and facilities, and need to be trained or retrained as they re-enter the civilian workforce; and*

*Whereas, the State is not providing KCCD with enough funds to adequately maintain Bakersfield College’s educational facilities and academic programs; and*

*Whereas, even though the College has done an excellent job maintaining its facilities with limited funds, extensive improvements and upgrades are needed to continue providing quality education and career training; and*

*Whereas, such a local measure will include mandatory taxpayer protections, including an independent citizens’ oversight of all funds and mandatory annual financial audits to ensure funds are spent only as authorized; and*

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the Bakersfield College Student Government Association, the students at Bakersfield College stand with and support voting Yes on Measure J during the 2016 National General Elections on Tuesday, November 8th.*

*Be it further resolved by the Senate of the Bakersfield College Student Government*

*Association, that this resolution be sent to the Blue Ribbon Committee, the BC Academic Senate and Dr. Sonya Christian.*