[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

95th SESSION

2019-2020

Senate Resolution

**Increase of the Bakersfield College**

**Student Health Fee**

In the Senate of the Student Government Association

of BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

March 5, 2020

Submitted by Senator Gayatao to the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A Resolution**

Increase of the Bakersfield College Student Health Fee

*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 35,000 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*, Maslow's Hierarchy of needs have Physiological needs (food, water, warmth, and rest) and safety needs as two of the five basic needs for an individual to achieve one's fundamental goals;

*WHEREAS*, health care is an amenity that is crucial for students and is a potential differentiator that can not only save college students money, but also become a crucial component to a student’s education;

*WHEREAS*, access to medical care promotes student retention and success. Some students may come to college with medical insurance, but for those who do not the incurred expense of an unexpected injury or illness may affect their ability to remain in college and progress towards graduation;

*WHEREAS*, the average health care cost for a student attending a California Community College is between $X,XXX and $X,XXX per year, and the rising healthcare costs may push students away from completing an education; and

*WHEREAS*, section 76355 of the Education Code gives the governing board of a district (KCCD) to require community college students to pay a fee for health supervision and services, including direct or indirect medical and hospitalization services, or the operation of a student health center;

*WHEREAS*, the mission of the Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) at Bakersfield College is “to further the health equity of the educational opportunity. This is accomplished by providing access to high value, student centered and culturally competent health services. Services which promote the physical, emotional and spiritual wellness of its students and their academic environment. This wellness contributes to the educational aim of our college by promoting student persistence and academic success in congruence with the college’s mission, core values and strategic directions”;

*WHEREAS*, the SHWC needs to increase current fee in order to sustain the current level of basic health care, medical amenities, and mental health services. The fact that while the average doctor’s visit for primary care is around $100, SHS provides unlimited medical services all semester long for $85, or what will be $150.

*WHEREAS*, with various flus and medical needs on the rise, the fact that BC students can depend on the SHWC to provide vaccinations and information proves how much students actually benefit from this student service and program. Additionally, more services and needs are needed to be provided which can accommodated by telehealth providers for college campuses;

WHEREAS, the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS) recommends set the ratio of mental health professionals to students of 1 to 1,600. While fully matching this ratio may not be a realistic goal, hiring 4-5 qualified, full-time licensed or credentialed professionals would meet the demands of this service and move BC closer to the desired ratio.

*WHEREAS*, the SHWC is solely funded on the student health fee which is currently $13 for Fall and Spring instructional semesters, and $10 for Summer semester. This amount to $36 per year ranks as the lowest student health fee for the California Community Colleges and has not changed in over 10 years, while over one-third of BC students currently use the SHWC.

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the Bakersfield College Student Government Association that all students are assessed the increased student health fee at the time of registration of classes except for students who either (1) depend exclusively upon prayer for healing in accordance with the teachings of a bona fide religious sect, denomination, or organization, or (2) students who are attending BC under an approved apprenticeship training program.*

*Be it further resolved by the Senate* *of the Bakersfield College Student Government Association that the increased student health fee be placed on the Spring 2020 BCSGA General Elections for majority vote passage;*

*Be it further resolved that upon approval at the Spring 2020 BCSGA General Elections, the cost of the increased student health fee be set at the maximum rate allowable by California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office ($21 for fall and spring instructional semesters and $18 for summer instructional semester) and be increased or decreased as the State recommends;*

*Be it further resolved that upon approval at the Spring 2020 BCSGA General Elections, the BC Director of Student Life be tasked to ensure all measures are conducted at the College and District levels for fee increase implementation no later than for the Spring 2021 instructional semester.*

○