



[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

95th SESSION  
2019-2020

## SENATE RESOLUTION

# BC STUDENT HEALTH FEE

IN THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

MARCH 13, 2020

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR GAYATAO TO THE SENATE

### A RESOLUTION

#### Increase of the Bakersfield College Student Health Fee

1        *WHEREAS, the mission for Bakersfield College is to, "provide opportunities for students*  
2 *from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds to attain Associate and*  
3 *Baccalaureate degrees and certificates, workplace skills, and preparation for transfer";*

4        *WHEREAS, Bakersfield College serves over 35,000 students from diverse backgrounds,*  
5 *ranging from suburban Bakersfield (population over 300,000) to rural farming areas such as*  
6 *Arvin, Delano, Wasco, McFarland, and Tulare County;*

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

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

13       *WHEREAS, access to medical care promotes student retention and success. Some*  
14 *students may come to college with medical insurance, but for those who do not the incurred*

1 expense of an unexpected injury or illness may affect their ability to remain in college and  
2 progress towards graduation;

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

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

14 *WHEREAS*, BCSGA assessed the need and sought feedback from the student body  
15 regarding the student fee increase including promotion within BCSGA Spring 2020 Elections,  
16 student questionnaires, personal testimonies, and town hall meetings;

17 *WHEREAS*, the SHWC needs to increase current fee in order to sustain the current level of  
18 basic health care, medical amenities, and mental health services. The fact that while the average  
19 doctor’s visit for primary care is around \$100, SHWC provides unlimited medical and mental  
20 health services all semester long a low flat rate.

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

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

1        *WHEREAS*, in accordance with Education Code Section 76355 and KCCD Board Policy, the  
2 following category of students shall be exempt from the Health Services Fee:

- 3        a. Students who depend exclusively upon prayer for healing in accordance with the  
4            teachings of a bona fide religious sect, denomination, or organization;
- 5        b. Students enrolled in an approved apprenticeship training program;
- 6        c. Students enrolled only in courses of two weeks or less duration;
- 7        d. Students who are incarcerated; and
- 8        e. Students who are primarily attending high school;

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

13        *Be it resolved by the Senate of the Bakersfield College Student Government Association*  
14 *that all eligible students are assessed the increased student health fee at the time of registration;*

15        *Be it further resolved, the cost of the increased student health fee be set at the rate*  
16 *allowable by California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office of \$18 for fall and spring*  
17 *instructional semesters and \$15 for summer instructional semester;*

18        *Be it further resolved, the BC Director of Student Life be tasked to ensure all measures are*  
19 *conducted at the College and District levels for fee increase implementation no later than for the*  
20 *Spring 2021 instructional semester.*