



[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

96th SESSION
2020-2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

BC STUDENT HEALTH FEE

IN THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

JUNE 17, 2020

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR MARTINEZ 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 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 *supports the 95th Senate Session passage the Student Health Fee increase to all eligible students;*

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.*