

SBVC Resolution SP15.02 Vote of No Confidence for Chancellor

SBVC and CHC Academic Senates

Whereas, the SBVC and CHC Academic Senates believe the warning status issued to both colleges by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC) is the culmination of persistent and long-term district level deficiencies under the leadership and responsibility of Chancellor Bruce Baron;

Whereas, both colleges have distinct issues related to student success, staffing, and budgets that have been exacerbated by the chancellor's ineffective leadership and vision including poor oversight of the human resources department, questionable hiring practices including interim and permanent positions, creation of positions, demotions, promotions, layoffs, and the persistent disregard for collegial voices that have questioned and objected to such actions which have now been confirmed by ACCJC accreditation reports;

Whereas, the chancellor is responsible for ensuring that the SBCCD Board of Trustees understand their lawful roles and responsibilities consistent with SBCCD policies and bylaws, which includes keeping the Board informed in a manner that is candid and inclusive of collegial concerns and matters; and the ACCJC has cited the District to be deficient in the standards related to these policies and bylaws;

Whereas, collegial policies and procedures are the pillar and foundation of public higher education and the chancellor is responsible for understanding and abiding by these policies and procedures as detailed in California Code of Regulations Title 5 that directly grant primary authority to the faculty in matters of curricular design, program review processes, and student educational planning and success; and SBVC and CHC have the subsequent right to autonomy and independence from district interference which the chancellor has consistently disregarded, resulting in disorganization, uncertainty, a failure to best serve the needs of students, and an unprecedentedly low morale and high level of frustration among faculty in the district; and

Whereas, budgeting is an integral part of successful planning at both colleges, and the Chancellor has a responsibility for developing and maintaining a healthy District-wide budget process that supports college planning and operations, and the ACCJC and the College Brain Trust have found the District deficient in budgeting practices and procedures characterized by a lack of transparency and inclusiveness associated with District budget development; inadequate communications with the two colleges relative to their budgets; and a lack of integrated planning among the District's distinct entities;

Resolved, the Academic Senates at SBVC and CHC have no confidence in the ability of Chancellor Baron to lead our institutions in a collegial manner that best serves our students; and

Resolved, the Academic Senates request the SBCCD Board of Trustees provide a public response to the identified deficiencies and associated findings at their May 2015 board meeting.