

Resolution FA09.01

Professional Standards for Counseling and Current Evening Facilities

From: Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, San Bernardino Valley College

Whereas, parts of Title 5 Section 51018 direct California community colleges to offer counseling services to students that include academic counseling, career counseling and personal counseling;

Whereas, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has adopted Standards of Practice for California Community College Counseling Faculty and Programs that recognize the core functions of counselors as being “inextricably related” and that “any given counseling session, counseling faculty use their understanding of human and student development, as well as counseling theories, to provide the combination of services that address each student’s particular needs in an integrated fashion” (pg 10) (pg 9) and recognizes that “counseling faculty and staff should maintain strict adherence to the ethical code of the American Counseling Association (ACA)” which values confidentiality and privileged communication as the guiding ethical principles of the counseling profession (pg 17);

Whereas, the current facilities in the Admissions and Records Office for evening counseling are not compliant with the code of ethics of the counseling profession nor the adopted Standards of Practice for California Community College Counseling Faculty and Programs by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges which directs counseling faculty to be provided with private offices to assure student confidentiality wherever counseling services are offered, including outreach and off-site centers (pg 22 or Section E);

Whereas, the SBVC Academic Senate’s Faculty Ethics Statement (adopted 4/27/05) indicates the primacy of student confidentiality in the faculty’s interactions with students and the community; and

Whereas, the decision to change the mode of service occurred on August 31 without consultation with the professional faculty of the area and after the ethical concerns of the faculty were raised to the administration;

Resolved, that the Vice President of Student Services cease immediately the use of facilities that compromise student confidentiality and abide by Standards of Practice for California Community College Counseling Faculty and Programs;

Resolved, that the Vice President of Student Services consult with discipline faculty in the area of counseling to ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect the integrity of the counseling session and adhere to the code of ethics that govern the behaviors and responsibilities of counseling faculty (pg 31); and

Resolved, that the Vice President of Student Services make future decisions that directly affect the integrity of the counseling session only after appropriate consultation with discipline faculty to ensure the Standards of Practice are met.

Standards of Practice for California Community College Counseling Faculty and Programs, The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, Adopted Spring 1997; Revised and adopted Fall 2008