

Berkeley City College

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April 10, 2019

To the PCCD Board of Trustees, District administration, Faculty, Staff, and Citizens of Alameda County,

 We, the Berkeley City College Department Chairs Council are writing to express a vote of full confidence in our current college level administration and to urge the Peralta Board of Trustees to extend their contracts for the customary 2 year period immediately.

 At the Tuesday, March 16, 2019 PCCD Board meeting, the Board opted in closed session to renew all college administrators’ contracts for only one year, rather than the customary 2-year period. While the board claims this action was taken due to the fiscal instability of the district, we at the colleges see a different side of this issue that we find vital to express.

 The ACCJC report cited high executive level administrative turn over as problematic and leading to the ongoing district instability. The report made no mention of college level administrative turn over. This leads the faculty, staff, students and college administration to believe that the goal of the Board is to cut at the college level, rather than the district level, which would be harmful to our colleges on every level.

Indeed, at Berkeley City College, we have reached a level of stability not seen for over a decade. Additionally, if high administrative turnover is an issue, why choose to make this change, thereby implicitly encouraging deans at the college to be forced to seek employment elsewhere? This would simply compound the administrative turnover and all of the problems that come with that turnover.

Leadership stability is vital to the health of any institution. With the introduction and implementation of AB705, the new Student-centered funding model, and Guided Pathways, we need administrators who know Berkeley City College, and have seen us through changes such as the enrollment decline and implementation of various state-initiatives. Our Deans Lisa Cook and Francisco Gamez, have earned the trust of faculty, staff, and students alike. They know our college and have innovative ideas as to how to improve enrollment and success. They all spend countless hours working on projects to improve student success and college moral, outside of their contracted job descriptions. In sum, we trust them. We have worked hard in the last few years to build a culture of collegiality at BCC, and the administration is an integral part of this culture. To lose them—any of them—would irrevocably damage our institution.

With this vote of confidence, we urge you, on behalf of the BCC Department Chairs Council, and Academic Senate to reconsider this decision and give our administration the respect and security they have earned and deserve.

Sincerely,

The Department Chairs Council

Academic Senate



