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December 9, 2014

Dr. Sam Foster
President, Faculty Senate
Fullerton College

Dear Dr. Foster:

While the Board very much appreciates the Faculty Senate's concern regarding process, we want to unequivocally state that the Board has honored the faculty's role and responsibility in collegial consultation on academic and professional matters. According to AB1725 and our own Board policies, the Board has consistently honored the right of the academic/faculty senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards, while still maintaining the Board's role as "the ultimate decision-maker" (BP 2510). In matters of curriculum and academic standards, the NOCCCD Board has historically accepted the great majority of the recommendations made by the academic/faculty senates. It is very unusual for the Board to disagree with the District Consultation Council's recommendations, however, in the case of the Bachelor's degree pilot proposal, the Board found compelling reasons to do so.

This decision was not an easy one. While a recommendation was made from the collegial consultation process to advance the Fullerton College program, that choice was clearly split evenly between the two credit colleges, each of which believed strongly in their campus proposals. In the absence of a majority vote by DCCC (which would require five favorable votes out of a total of eight votes to constitute a simple majority), and with the deadline of submitting an "Intent to Apply" the day after the November 11 Board meeting, the Board took many things into consideration, including: the breadth and scope of the proposals, the direct market need, as well as the demonstrated support of the faculty and students at previous Board meetings. In the end, the Board decided that the unique and rare nature of the Mortuary Science Program at Cypress College made that program the most competitive and viable one for NOCCCD at the state level. We believe we acted in the best interest of the entire District.

Again the Board appreciates the Fullerton College Faculty Senate's concern on the issue, and hope this written response has provided you with sufficient explanation as to the reasons why the Board took the action that we did on November 11, 2014.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Brown
President
NOCCCD Board of Trustees