**Resolution S2025.02**

**Support of Retaining Full-Time Clinical Psychologists Faculty at Santa Ana College**

Moved:

Seconded:

**Whereas**, research consistently demonstrates the critical role of mental health services in supporting student success, retention, and academic achievement in higher education; according to the American College Health Association1, over 60% of college students report experiencing overwhelming anxiety, and nearly 40% report depression severe enough to impact their ability to function in college;

**Whereas,** Santa Ana College serves a highly diverse student population, with 55.4% identifying as Hispanic or Latino, 16.4% as White, 7.66% as Asian, 1.83% as Two or More Races, 1.55% as Black or African American, 0.289% as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 0.172% as American Indian or Alaska Native. Additionally, 51% of students are over the age of 25, and the majority of students are enrolled part-time, highlighting the need for accessible and culturally competent mental health services to address the unique challenges faced by this population;

**Whereas**, community college students, particularly those from marginalized and immigrant backgrounds, face unique mental health challenges, including financial insecurity, acculturative stress, and systemic barriers to accessing healthcare; research from the Healthy Minds Study2 indicates that students of color are less likely to seek mental health care due to concerns about cultural stigma and lack of representation among mental health professionals;

**Whereas**, psychologists of color play a vital role in ensuring culturally responsive mental health services, as numerous studies, including those by the American Psychological Association3, have found that students from diverse backgrounds benefit significantly from having mental health professionals who share their racial or ethnic identity, leading to improved treatment outcomes and greater engagement in mental health services;

**Whereas**, the proposed elimination of two full-time faculty clinical psychologist positions at Santa Ana College would disproportionately impact students who rely on these essential services, exacerbating existing inequities in mental health care access and contradicting the college’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion;

**Be it resolved**, that the Academic Senate of Santa Ana College strongly opposes the elimination of these critical mental health positions and affirms its support for the retention of full-time faculty clinical psychologists to ensure equitable, accessible, and culturally competent mental health care for all students. Furthermore, the Academic Senate condemns any efforts to reduce essential faculty student support services, particularly those that directly affect the well-being and academic success of marginalized and immigrant student populations.

Date Presented:

Date Approved: