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Resolution in Support of Reforming the Sonoma County Junior College District Trustee Areas

Approved by the Executive Council on March 12, 2014

WHEREAS the Sonoma County Junior College District currently has a seven-member Board of Trustees, with four Board members elected in separate Trustee Areas and three board members elected at-large in Trustee Area 345;

WHEREAS a Board that is more broadly representative of the district it serves will better serve all populations in our County;

WHEREAS the District serves a diverse County and will soon be designated a Hispanic Serving Institution;

WHEREAS broadening the ability of the Board to reach more of the community will promote student success and help to close achievement gaps;

WHEREAS the Mission of Santa Rosa Junior College requires the College to "foster critical and reflective civic engagement and thoughtful participation in diverse local and global communities";

WHEREAS Trustee Area 345 is not proportionate to the other Santa Rosa Junior College Trustee Areas, or similarly divided as are districts for other elected bodies in the County, such as the districts for Board of Supervisors or the Office of Education;

WHEREAS the current at-large election process for Trustee Area 345 dilutes the voting strength of underrepresented populations, minimizing the ability of the citizens of that Trustee Area to elect representative candidates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the All Faculty Association urge the Board of Trustees to reform the District into seven distinct Trustee Areas that will each elect one member to the Board, and to do so in a manner that reflects a spirit of democracy and supports the diversity of the District.