Whereas: President Horace Mitchell is approaching retirement after fourteen years leading California State University, Bakersfield and helping it to excel in terms of academics, access, and diversity; and

Whereas: President Mitchell has served as an effective, industrious, and collaborative leader; and

Whereas: President Mitchell has fostered a welcoming campus culture, supported academic achievement, and extended and enhanced the physical infrastructure so that CSUB has been recognized for its excellence by the Wall Street Journal, the Economist, Washington Monthly, Hispanic Outlook, The Brookings Institute, Time magazine, and the Carnegie Foundation most notably for its equality of opportunity, student inclusion, value, and community engagement; and

Whereas: President Mitchell effectively led the transition of CSUB from the quarter system to the semester system in record time with no actual loss of life; and

Whereas: President Mitchell promoted and worked tirelessly to advance CSUB to Division I Athletics and has thereby enhanced campus and community enthusiasm and increased our ability to recruit students and engage the student body, staff, faculty, alumni, and the Bakersfield community; and

Whereas: President Mitchell has cultivated esprit de corps among students, staff, faculty, and alumni and encouraged free and respectful discourse among our University culture; and

Whereas: President Mitchell has been a benevolent and positive influence, whose unceasing gentleness and dignity have enhanced the level and nature of campus discourse; and

Whereas: President Mitchell has enriched campus diversity and respect for cultural understanding and interchange, while also maintaining a high standard of academic freedom and respectful dissent; and

Whereas: President Mitchell has engaged in shared governance and respected the decisions of the Academic Senate; therefore be it

Resolved: That the CSUB Academic Senate express appreciation for President Mitchell’s many contributions during his service to CSUB; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUB Academic Senate wish President Horace Mitchell, his wife First Lady Barbara Mitchell, and their children and grandchildren all the best as they continue to thrive and embark on the next phase of their journey.