

Upcoming Events:

American Association of Community Colleges Conference

April 2nd – 4th
Chicago, IL

Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education Conference

April 6th – 8th
Oakland, CA

CA Promise Legislation Hearing

Assembly Committee on
Higher Education
April 12th
Sacramento, CA

Community College Public Relations Conference

April 13th – April 15th
Santa Rosa, CA

Consultation Council

April 21st
Sacramento, CA

Last Day for Bills to be Heard by Policy Committee

April 22nd
Sacramento, CA

Annual Trustees Conference

April 29th – May 1st
Desert Springs, CA

Student Senate General Assembly

April 29th - May 1st
Ontario, CA

Have an event you would
like to highlight? Send event
info to ryan@ccleague.org.

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Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

April 2016 Newsletter

Legislative Update

For the past few months, legislators have introduced numerous bills impacting community colleges. These pieces of legislation range from collective bargaining and student safety to academic affairs. Below is a list of significant bills impacting your college, for a comprehensive list please go to the League's website by clicking [here](#).

AB 1594 (McCarty) Public postsecondary education: prohibition of using tobacco and smoking on campuses

League Position: Watch

Would prohibit smoking or e-cigarettes at California's Community Colleges and the California State University.

AB 1985 (Williams) Postsecondary education

League Position: **Oppose Unless Amended**

Would require the California Community Colleges to develop, and each community college district to adopt, a uniform policy to award a pupil who passes an Advanced Placement exam with a score of 3 or higher credit for a course within this curriculum with subject matter similar to that of the Advanced Placement exam.

AB 1995 (Williams) Community colleges: homeless students: access to shower facilities

League Position: Watch

Would require community colleges that have shower facilities to grant access to those facilities for enrolled students who are homeless. Additionally it would add a question to the BOG Fee Waiver application asking if a student is homeless.

AB 1690 (Medina) Community colleges: part-time, temporary employees

League Position: **Oppose**

Would mandate that all new collective bargaining agreements contain re-hire rights for part-time faculty members.

AB 2017 (McCarty) College Mental Health Services Program

League Position: **Support**

Would establish a dollar match program funded revenues generated by Proposition 63 to increase mental health services on public universities.

California Promise - Time to Get Involved!

Last month, Assemblymember Jose Medina introduced a package of legislation intended to help implement the California Promise and make community college more affordable to financially needy students. AB 1791 (Medina) and AB 1891 (Medina) would make targeted reforms to the state's Cal Grant system to create more competitive grants, increase grant levels to help pay for living expenses, and make it easier for non-traditional students to qualify for the Cal Grant transfer entitlement award.

Your role in getting these important pieces of legislation passed will be key in convincing legislators to make this a state priority. We are asking for your letters of support. Included are draft position letters for both of the bills and a sample resolution in support of both bills. AB 1721 (Medina) and AB 1891 (Medina) will be heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee later this month and in order to demonstrate the widespread support of both of these bills please ask you're your district to **fax these letters to (916) 319-3961**.

- Sample Letter of Support for AB 1721
- Sample Letter of Support for AB 1892
- Sample Resolution Supporting AB 1721 and AB 1892

Once you have faxed these letters to Assembly Higher Education Committee, please send a copy to the League at (916) 444-2954. If you have any questions please contact Ryan McElhinney at either ryan@ccleague.org or (916) 245-5039.

Plan to Overhaul System of Accreditation

The Board of Governors has taken action to move to a new model of accreditation for California Community Colleges. It is a two-pronged approach that will fundamentally reform the accreditation process in California. The presidents and chancellors of the California Community Colleges have played a crucial leadership role leading up to the action taken by the Board of Governors, assuming a clear leadership role in moving forward.

The first prong will be to form a committee to identify ways the current accreditor for our colleges, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges can better serve its member institutions. The group will analyze needed reforms around issues such as the commissioner selection process, commission leadership and culture, commission operations, and how the commission communicates to its membership.

The second prong is the establishment of a workgroup that will focus on better aligning accreditation for community colleges with accreditation of four-year institutions. With the expansion to baccalaureate programs at several colleges and the creation of the associate degrees for transfer, our system will start shifting towards policies and standards more similar to universities or four-year colleges. This workgroup will consider whether the system should migrate to another regional accrediting body.

News Impacting the University of California and California State University

Two significant reports critical of the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) were released late in March. The first, an audit of the UC practices regarding enrolling out of state students found that this had negatively impacted California residents. The second was a fact-finding

report recommending siding with the California Faculty Association (CFA) and that the CSU should meet their demands of 5 percent pay raise.

In a report released in late March 2016, the California State Auditor indicated that the University of California is not meeting its commitment to California by failing to put residents first. The audit recommended that the university should 1) revise its admission standard for nonresidents to reflect the intent of the Master Plan so that campuses admit only nonresidents with admissions credentials that place them in the upper half of the residents it admits, and 2) amend its referral process by taking steps to increase the likelihood that referred residents ultimately enroll. The complete audit can be read at: <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2015-107.pdf>

The fact-finding report found that the CSU has enough room in its budget to pay for the raises by reallocating funding from other projects and delaying them by a year or two. It also suggests that the CSU and the faculty jointly approach the legislature to receive funding for faculty pay increases. The CSU and CFA have until April 13th to reach a deal or the union is threatening go on a statewide strike for one week. The full report can be found by clicking the link below: <http://www.calstate.edu/hr/employee-relations/bargaining-updates/documents/2016/CFA-CSU-Fact-Finding-Report.pdf>

For more information, contact the League's Government Relations and Communications staff:

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