



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

June 2014 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

June 15 — Budget must be passed by midnight.

June 27 — Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills.

Advisory Committee on Legislation Meeting
June 27, 9AM-11AM

Classified Leadership Institute
June 19-21, 2014
www.ccleague.org

John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Awards
July 8, 2014
www.cccco.edu

Follow bills tracked at:
www.ccleague.org/bills

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

League Happenings



Importance of Student Equity Plans

In January of 2014, in recognition of the importance of identifying and supporting equity and success for all students, the Governor's 2014-15 budget proposed to target \$100 million of additional Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) funding to close achievement gaps in access and success of students from underrepresented groups. If the Legislature approves this proposal, the Chancellor's Office is likely to be charged with developing a process for allocating targeted funding to districts and colleges. Currently, the 2014-15 budget bill SB 852, specifies that the Chancellor's Office shall allocate funds to districts "in a manner that ensures districts with a greater proportion or number of students who are high-need, as determined by the Chancellor's Office, receive greater resources to provide services to these students."

System Response

In March 2014, the Chancellor's Office issued an extensive template to assist colleges in conducting a self-evaluation of their status and proposed activity for improving successful outcomes for all students. This memo and template provided background on student equity planning, instructions for completing the updated required college student equity plan, and a template to assist colleges in developing their plans. The current proposal calls for each district to coordinate its Student Equity Plan with its Student Success and Support Program Plan, then have its local governing board review and adopt the district's final Student Equity Plan, and submit it to the Chancellor's Office by November 21, 2014.

Student Equity Plan Institute, May 29 -30, Los Angeles

The Center for Urban Education and CCLC co-sponsored a "hands on" institute which was attended by 24 colleges and over 150 participants. Each college sent a team with a goal of leaving the event with a plan for addressing each requirement of the Student Equity Plan, an understanding of what makes the most effective plan, and tools for implementing the plan.



The guest speaker on Thursday, May 29th was Dr. Helen Benjamin, Chancellor, Contra Costa Community College District and CEO Board President. Dr. Benjamin began the day with an inspirational reflection by the late Dr. Maya Angelou and recited for conference attendees the following quote “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”. The quote provided an inspirational context for the important work to be undertaken by institute participants in the interest of increasing the success of our community college students.

CUE Website: <http://cue.usc.edu/>

CCLC 2015-16 Budget Priorities

On Tuesday, May 13th the Administration released the May Revision and budget deliberations have been moving at a frenetic pace as each legislative house finalized their budget actions. Conference committee is set to begin on Monday, June 2nd and the big question for the community college system is how much over the Governor’s May Revision will the colleges be funded? The CCC budgeted amounts in both the Assembly and Senate are \$246 million MORE than what was provided by the Administration. There is some speculation that a modest amount of one-time money in the current year and some additional ongoing funds in the budget year may be available to the community colleges.

The League has consistently advocated for the following budget priorities NOT included in the Administrations May Revise proposal:

- A one-time augmentation to cover the first year STRS increased contribution for employers; longer term engage in discussions with Administration & Legislature to fund increased STRS contribution rates.
- Resources to convert part-time faculty to full-time status
- Resources for professional development
- Resources to restore EOPS, DSPS, and CalWORKS
- With increased non-Proposition 98 GF, resources to increase the number of Competitive Cal Grant B awards and increase the award level.

CCLC Budget Priorities letter:

<http://www.ccleague.org/files/public/LegUpdates/CCLCBudgetLtr060314.pdf>

Capitol Context

Two major legislative deadlines have determined the fate of several bills and policy areas tracked by the League. On May 23, the Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees convened to act on fiscal bills that had been placed on the suspense file. Generally, bills with a state fiscal impact in excess of \$150,000 are referred to the suspense file. The deadline for bills to pass their house of origin was May 30 and bills approved will head to the second house for the next round of policy and fiscal committee hearings. Bills that were held in committee are considered dead for the legislative session. The League remains engaged in several policy areas, including the following:

Accreditation: A number of bills were introduced earlier this year in response to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) terminating the accreditation of the City College of San Francisco (CCSF). The League opposed all of them because it is important that there is one accrediting commission that judges every college by the same standards. Through the legislative process, all of the bills were amended to be significantly better pieces of legislation or have been held in committee. See below for what the bills are and what each does:

- AB 2087 (Ammiano) would mandate that if the Board of Governors instituted a special trustee that usurped a locally elected trustee board, specific benchmarks of returning to local control would be set and that the special trustee have meaningful consultation with campus stakeholders.
- AB 1942 (Bonta) would mandate that the ACCJC report to the legislature any changes in standards of accreditation that would increase costs to colleges.
- SB 965 (Leno) would have provided stability funding for CCSF, but was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee last week. Stability funding for CCSF will be taken care of via the 2014-15 state budget.
- SB 1068 (Beall) would have mandated that the Board of Governors form a taskforce studying the idea of having an accrediting commission run by the state. It was held in Senate Appropriations Committee and is no longer going forward.

Financial Aid: A number of League-supported bills aimed at improving the Cal Grant program have been amended to be less costly to the state. AB 1976 (Quirk-Silva) would have increased the number of competitive Cal Grant awards from 22,500 to 50,000 and given the California Student Aid Commission flexibility when awarding those awards. It now only gives CSAC the flexibility and no longer increases the total amount of awards. SB 1028 (Jackson) would have increased the tuition portion of the Cal Grant C awards to \$5,000 and permitted students to use any remaining money from the award for living expenses. It took amendments cutting the language raising the award to \$5,000. While both SB 1028 (Jackson) and AB 1976 (Quirk-Silva) took amendments narrowing their scope, the League still believes that if passed, they will improve the Cal Grant program for community college students.

Higher Education Goals & Funding: This month, the League will be seeking amendments on SB 1196 (Liu), a bill that would require the CSU Trustees, the CCC Board of Governors, and, as a condition for receiving General Fund appropriation from the state, the UC Regents, to each develop and adopt a 5-year plan for making progress toward statewide goals. The League is concerned with provisions in the bill that would require a working group appointed by the Governor, or designee, in consultation with private industry and policy research entities, to establish attainment goals and a target date for each segments to achieve these goals. This would in essence move goal development out of the hands of the CCC system and into an outside group with only one community college representative. In addition, it is unclear how resources, if any would be allocated to colleges who did not meet the goals and metrics set by the working groups. It is unknown what data would be used and if one-size fits all metrics would be applied for all 112 colleges.

Stay informed about legislation tracked by the League: <http://www.ccleague.org/bills>.

Rainy Day Fund Deal

By Rita Mize, Director of State Policy & Research

The Legislature and the Administration have reached a compromise on the proposed Rainy Day Fund, as an alternative to the measure adopted in 2010. This measure, ACA1 X2 (Perez), was approved by both the Senate (36-0) and the Assembly (75-0) and will be on the November General Election Ballot. It includes the following:

- Removes ACA 4 (Gatto), Res. Ch. 174, Statutes of 2010, from the 2014 General Election ballot.
- Establishes two reserves within the rainy day fund – one for up to 10 percent of General Fund spending and the other for up to 10 percent of Proposition 98 funding.
- Requires that 1.5 percent of General Fund revenues and revenue from capital gains over 8% of General Fund revenues be deposited in the rainy day fund.
- Prohibits more than 50 percent of the rainy day fund from being used in the first year of a recession.
- For the next fifteen years (2015-16 through 2029-30), half of the money transferred to the rainy day fund would be used to accelerate payment of state debt.
- Beginning in 2030-31, up to 50 percent of the amounts may be used for debt obligations -- including Proposition 98 settle-up; existing General Fund loans that had balances on January 1, 2014; prior year mandated costs and unfunded retirement liabilities -- with the balance deposited into the Budget Stabilization Act (BSA).
- Limits suspensions of transfers into, or withdrawals from, the BSA to years in which there is a disaster declared by the Governor. Any withdrawals would be limited to 50 percent of the fund's balance so there would always be a balance in the fund.
- Once the BSA reaches 10 percent, any funds that otherwise would be deposited into the BSA would be used for infrastructure appropriations, including deferred maintenance.
- The Proposition 98 Reserve, called the Public School System Stabilization Account, would capture revenues derived from capital gains and attributed to Proposition 98 only when specific criteria is met.
- Requires the Department of Finance to submit five-year General Fund revenue and expenditure projections as part the budget and display the overall balance of the BSA in the Budget Act.

Board of Governors Update

New Board Members Welcomed

Several new members have recently been appointed to the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges by Governor Brown. The Governor also reappointed Danny Hawkins to the Board. The new board members are: Arnoldo Avalos, Jena Barrera, Thomas Epstein, Cecilia Estolano, Nancy Sumner, and Colin van Loon (student representative).



Arnoldo Avalos. Arnoldo Avalos has been the founder and chief executive officer of the Avalos Foundation since 2013. He was head of compensation at Facebook from 2008 to 2013 and senior global compensation manager for Google from 2006 to 2008. Avalos is a member of the Latino Community Foundation Board of Trustees and a founding member of Hermanos Unidos. He earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Thomas Epstein. Thomas Epstein is vice president, public affairs of Blue Shield of California, a 3.3 million-member not-for-profit California health plan that provides health and life insurance products for the commercial, individual and government markets. He oversees government relations, philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. Prior to joining Blue Shield, Mr. Epstein was vice president of communications for the Public Broadcasting Service. Mr. Epstein earned a J.D. from UCLA School of Law and a bachelor's degree in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



Cecilia V. Estolano. Cecilia V. Estolano is an expert in sustainable economic development and urban revitalization. She is co-founder of Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors LLC (ELP Advisors) which provides consulting services to public agencies, foundations, business associations and other stakeholders seeking to grow thriving, healthy and vibrant communities. Ms. Estolano is a graduate of UC Berkeley School of Law and holds an M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA. She received her undergraduate degree in Social Studies with honors from Harvard-Radcliffe Colleges.



Nancy Sumner. Sumner has been critical care transport coordinator and registered nurse for the Schaefer Ambulance Service since 1987 and disaster coordinator and registered nurse at the Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center since 1979. She served in multiple positions in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard from 1981 to 2012, including colonel and staff sergeant. Sumner is a committee member of the Glendale Veterans Coalition, serving veterans and military families by advocating for the veteran population and resolving gaps in service such as access to education.



Colin van Loon. Colin van Loon is a student at Willow International Community College Center pursuing a degree in philosophy. Van Loon has served as the vice president of finance of the Associated Student Government of Willow International Community College Center since 2013 and is an active member of Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors Society. He is a committee member of the State Center Community College District Budget and Resource Allocation Advisory Committee and has been since 2013.

Must Reads

By Rita Mize, Director of State Policy & Research

The two reports that we highlight this month contain particularly important information on the kinds of leadership and change needed in California as well as some recommendations on what California policy leaders can do to improve higher education in this state.

From Master Plan to Mediocrity: Higher Education Performance & Policy in California. Joni E. Finney, Christina Riso, Kata Orosz, and William Casey Boland. Institute for Research on Higher Education, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania. April 2014.

http://www.gse.upenn.edu/pdf/irhe/California_Report.pdf

This report cites data and statistics from many studies on the preparation, participation, affordability, completion, research and equity in California in the past few years and notes that “California continues to boast the lowest-priced public higher education system in the nation, but a marked decline in affordability – as well as persistent disparities in college preparation, participation and completion by race, ethnicity and income....”

This report does not provide specific policy recommendations but suggests that any proposal should address the three themes that are identified as “driving the decline:”

- 1) A complex political environment and political indifference, which has led to a lack of statewide higher education policy leadership.
- 2) The absence of a coordinated statewide finance policy, which undermines chances of improving degree attainment rates and threatens affordability.
- 3) Inadequate attention to educational transition points between high schools and postsecondary education and between two- and four-year institutions, which is an obstacle to increasing higher education attainment in the state.

The author contrasts this with “state leadership from the 1960s through the 1980s.” (We note that former Assemblymember John Vasconcellos, who passed away last weekend, and his staff led the way during those years.)

A New Vision for California Higher Education: A Model Public Agenda. Nancy Shulock, Colleen Moore, and Connie Tan. Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy, CSUS. March 2014.

http://www.csus.edu/ihelp/PDFs/R_PublicAgenda_0314.pdf

This report presents data of “an emerging consensus for transformative changes,” noting that “California’s approach to structuring and financing higher education is out of sync with the needs of students and the state.” The authors then cite a number of current structures which make change difficult, including:

- A lack of capacity in baccalaureate programs.
- An under-resourced community college system serving 70% of public enrollments.
- A poorly structured approach to financial aid for community college students.
- An incomplete and disjointed financial policy structure.
- Structurally inseparable research and baccalaureate missions at UC.
- Lack of state policy leadership for a system built on interdependence.
- Insufficient differentiation of mission and program.

The authors then cite an “emerging consensus” to suggest a “three-part strategy of regionalism, specialization, and technology that requires leadership and collaborative mechanisms that do not exist.” They further recommend that regional consortia of K-20 representatives set enrollment and completion targets and determine appropriate roles and contributions from each provider-segment. These consortia would also guide program specialization to recognize the distinctive capabilities of each institution in the region. And, finally, each consortium would identify how technology would be used to ensure that students maintain access to a broad complement of academic pathways within their region. These authors recommend that an office of higher education be included within the Governor’s Office so that “segment leaders would have a clear

point of access in working with the administration to develop well-informed fiscal and other policies.”

Another portion of the proposal includes:

- Financing funding streams for regional consortia.
- Adopting and requiring common, recognized definitions and accounting procedures to shift the focus from cost per enrollment in each segment to the cost of producing the desired outcomes in each region.
- Collecting and analyzing finance data to translate regional needs to state-level budgets.
- Development of a coherent policy framework.
- Monitoring the impact of fiscal incentives and indicators of financial health.

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