



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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GOVERNOR TO PROPOSE \$130 MILLION FOR EQUALIZATION; COMMITTED TO SIGNING SB 361

In his 2006-07 budget proposal release, the Governor will propose \$130 million for credit equalization in the next fiscal year, League staff has learned. The proposal follows a meeting League and System Office staff held with the Governor’s staff in December to discuss SB 361 (Scott), which would implement the funding formula reforms crafted by a League-convened workgroup of CBOs. The budget proposal will also fully fund a cost-of-living adjustment of between 4.8% and 4.98% and enrollment growth of 3%. A separate proposal to address noncredit education and basic skills is being considered for the Governor’s May Revise.

In December, advisors to the Governor from his internal office, the Department of Finance and the Secretary for Education’s office initiated a series of meetings to discuss the implementation of SB 361. The governor is committed to funding formula reform as part of the 2006-07 budget, and made a commitment to Senator Jack Scott that SB 361 would be the vehicle. In a schedule established by the Governor’s Office, a workgroup consisting of League and System Office staff, representatives of the Governor and staff to Senator Scott will work through several outstanding issues over the next five months, with the goal of implementing SB 361 in conjunction with the 2006-07 budget.

BUDGET TO PROPOSE ED BOND ; \$491.7 MILLION IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROJECTS

Governor Schwarzenegger will propose 58 projects in 38 colleges for a total of \$491.7 million in the 2006-07 budget, League staff has learned. The funding would be provided from a K-University general obligation bond as part of the governor’s Strategic Growth Plan. The Governor’s budget will provide \$315.4 million for UC projects, \$400 million for UC medical education telemedicine; and \$234 million for CSU. We have received conflicting information from the administration whether the bond would be on the June or November ballot.

Meanwhile, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez has amended his education bond bill, AB 58, to provide \$1.5 billion for community colleges in a bond proposed for the November 7, 2006 ballot. The bond would provide a similar amount as a combined allocation for UC and CSU.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE FILED WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL

On December 29, representatives of Californians for Community Colleges filed the community college initiative with the Attorney General's office, in the first formal step in qualifying the measure for the ballot. The Attorney General will prepare an official title and summary before signature gathering begins in mid-February.

Californians has hired the law firm of Olson Hagel & Fishburn, LLC to provide legal advice and campaign finance compliance throughout the campaign and the firm of Rix-Bradford Consulting to coordinate fundraising efforts.

The text of the filed measure can be found at www.ccleague.org/initiative/.

OUT OF STATE STUDENTS SUE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

In mid-December, a group of out-of-state students sued the California Community Colleges, CSU and UC, claiming that these institutions are violating federal legislation which requires states that provide in-state rates to undocumented immigrant students to offer the same benefit to out-of-state students. (The defendant-colleges reply that the basis for in-state tuition is not lack of documentation, but attendance in a California high school for three years in California, and it is available to boarding school students and others who may have remained in the state after high school even after their families have left. While the number of undocumented students in higher education is unknown, the plaintiffs' attorneys contend that this suit could cost higher education hundreds of millions of dollars to recompense out-of-state students for the higher tuition they have paid. The League is closely following this case for potential impact on local districts.

SB 55: "NO CONFIDENCE" VOTES AND LOCAL BOARD AGENDAS

Senator Lowenthal's SB 55 would require that, when a "no confidence" vote has been adopted by an academic senate against the CEO of a college or district and the executive officer of that local governing board has been notified of the vote by the Academic Senate president, an item regarding the "no confidence" vote must be placed on the governing board's next agenda. It would further require a second hearing on that motion between one and two months afterwards, to "determine whether any improvements have occurred since the matter was brought to the governing board's attention and whether any outside technical assistance should be sought." The bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on January 11, 2006 at 9:30am, and we've been told that amendments may be provided by the sponsor (Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges) to address the League's concerns.

GOVERNOR NAMES GARY REED TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Governor Schwarzenegger has named Gary Reed of Porterville to the Community College Board of Governors. Mr. Reed has been a partner in the investment management firm of Reed, Shoemaker & Brookshire since 1993. He previously served as chief of staff to Assemblyman Bill Jones from 1991-1992 and as a Tulare County Supervisor from 1988 -1990. He is a member of the CSU Bakersfield Advisory Committee as well as the Porterville Chamber of Commerce and the Porterville Education Foundation.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AWARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

The *Sacramento Bee* has reported on the ability of community colleges to award high school diplomas without requiring passage of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). Data indicate that four community colleges (Santa Ana, Mira Costa, City College of San Francisco and North Orange) each award approximately 200 degrees annually. They do so as the sole providers of adult education in their areas, and often at the request of local high schools. (As many as 50,000 students may not receive a diploma due to failure to pass the exam this year.) The System Office is analyzing the standards of these colleges; it appears that each has established standards which are equal to, or more rigorous than, the

CAHSEE. The Chancellor will be meeting with Department of Finance staff and Education Secretary Bersin to assure that they are aware of the high standards in these programs.

HIGHER EDUCATION AS A GOOD INVESTMENT

The Campaign for College Opportunity has released a new study “Return on Investment: Education Choices and Demographic Change in California’s Future” which quantifies the potential benefits of state investment in higher education and the cost of failing to do so. For every new dollar California invests to allow more students in and through college above current levels, it will receive a net return on investment of three dollars. These gains will yield more than \$3 billion to the state for each additional annual cohort of students. Conversely, the cost of not investing will be a long-term loss of \$2 for every dollar not invested in the short run, a potential loss of \$1.5 billion over the lifetime of the 2015 cohort of potential college entrants. The full report can be accessed at: www.collegecampaign.org.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

The following upcoming hearings and key legislative dates are of interest for California’s community colleges.

January 10

Governor releases 2006-07 budget proposal.

January 12th: 1:30 p.m. - Assembly Higher Education Committee

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 444

January 18th: 9:30 a.m. – Senate Education Committee

SUBJECT: Career Technical Education Programs: Best Practices and Barriers

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 4203

January 20th: 9:30 a.m. Senate Education Committee

SUBJECT: Math and Science Education in Our High Schools

WHERE: Jet Propulsion Laboratory 4800 Oak Grove Drive Pasadena

January 31st

Last day for the Senate and Assembly to pass bills introduced in 2005 in their respective house.

STAFFING CHANGES

- Chui Tsang, president of San Jose City College since 1997, has been appointed superintendent/president of Santa Monica CCD.
- Rosa Carlson, vice president of academic affairs and executive vice president of College of the Sequoias, has been appointed president of Porterville College.
- Nicki Harrington, superintendent/president of Yuba Community College District since 2002, has been named chancellor of the district, as Paul Mendoza assumes the presidency of Yuba College and Angela Fairchilds is the president of the newly-approved Woodland Community College.
- Jose Leyba, provost of Maricopa County (Arizona) Downtown Campus, has been appointed interim president of LA Mission College, effective December 1.
- Bob Garber, currently vice president of student services at San Diego Miramar College, has been appointed president of LA Pierce College, effective February 1, 2006.
- Dr. Tod Burnett, former deputy appointments secretary for the Office of the Governor, has been appointed as vice chancellor for strategic planning and policy analysis in the System Office.
- Jose Millan, former deputy secretary for enforcement with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, has been appointed vice chancellor for the economic and workforce development division in the System Office.

2006 Annual Legislative Conference

January 29-30, 2006
Sheraton Grand Hotel
Sacramento, CA

Conference Info: www.ccleague.org/leginfo/conference/

Conference Rates: \$310/person

\$285/person advocacy team rate

(a team consists of a trustee, faculty member, administrator, classified member,
and a student, or five or more students from the same college.)