



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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LEGISLATURE IN ADJOURNMENT UNTIL AUGUST

With completion of the budget, the Legislature has adjourned until August 7th. When members reconvene, bills must be approved in the fiscal committees by August 18th; then there will be floor hearings until August 31 when the Legislature recesses for the year. Following is a summary of the status of ten of the most important bills affecting community colleges.

AB 318 (COMPTON COLLEGE) SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

AB 318, which would allow the Chancellor to continue to provide apportionments to Compton College while it is a satellite campus of an accredited neighboring college, has been signed by the Governor. The college-center will be overseen by an accredited college until such time that it regains accreditation and can function once again as a free-standing college.

AB 2168 (NEW COMMON CORE FOR TRANSFER) HELD IN COMMITTEE

AB 2168 (Liu) which would replace IGETC and GE-breadth as transfer paths, did not meet the legislative deadline for approval by the Senate Education Committee last week, and is dead unless the author receives a rule waiver. Senator Scott indicated last week that its approval by the Senate Education Committee was unlikely due to opposition from all three academic senates (community colleges, UC and CSU) as well as FACCC. While the author’s intent was positive, the bill would have created further confusion for transfer students because of the need for numerous exceptions to the “common” path.

AB 2951 (UTILITIES FEES) STILL MOVING DESPITE OPPOSITION

AB 2951 (Goldberg) which would reverse an earlier compromise that limited utility districts to negotiating and demonstrating that any new fees or charges levied are for facilities which actually serve the education agency, continues to move through the legislative process with strong legislative votes, despite significant opposition from education groups, including the League. It will be heard in the Senate

Education Committee on August 9th. This bill repeals the earlier provisions and therefore would allow utilities to charge excessive fees for these facilities to community colleges and other education entities.

AB 2987 (TELECOMMUNICATIONS) TO BE AMENDED WITH PEG PROVISIONS

AB 1987 (Nunez) which would allow local utilities to obtain state franchises for the sale of digital and online services, and thus compete with the local cable companies for servicing the state, will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee in August. In the policy committee last week, Senators Murray and Simitian committed that they would work with education entities and other local public channel providers during the recess to assure that PEG (public, educational and government) channels would not be disadvantaged if this measure were to be adopted.

SB 361 (COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING FORMULA) ESSENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

SB 361, which would replace the current system of program-based funding for community colleges with a new funding system that would take into account the number of colleges and centers in each district; and utilize new formulas for equalization, overcap growth and noncredit funding, will be considered for removal from the Assembly Appropriations Suspense file in August. Upon the insertion of amendments reflecting the final agreements reached by the system and the administration, the bill will go to the Assembly floor for approval in late August. This bill is essential for the distribution of equalization and noncredit funding as well as for a growth formula which more closely reflects the actual needs of the colleges.

SB 652 (TRANSFER TO UC) AMENDED TO REFLECT LEAGUE CONCERNS

SB 652 (Scott), which is modeled after SB 1785/2004, would create an additional transfer path from community college to UC for students who know their preferred campus and major early in their college careers. While this will serve only a small percentage of students, it is an important addition to encourage student transfer. The author accepted a number of amendments proposed by the AHEC staff which make it more consistent with the transfer path to CSU; these are not yet in print, but will be before the bill is heard in the Appropriations Committee in August.

SB 709 (EX-OFFICIO ON BOG) SQUEAKS THROUGH POLICY COMMITTEE

SB 709 (Speier) which would add the Lt Governor as an ex-officio member of the Board of Governors, passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee last week due to the crush of bills and a “courtesy vote” from a member who had not heard the opposition testimony from the League and other groups. The author (Speier) has announced her intention to expand this bill to include the Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the board, similar to the UC and CSU boards; however, community colleges already have locally-elected boards and fear politicization of the BOG if these members are added.

SB 845/SB 1709 (COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY ACT) TO BE HELD OVER FOR NEXT YEAR

SB 845 (formerly SB 1709, Scott which did not meet policy committee deadlines) which has the goal of increasing the number of college graduates in the coming years, will not be moved further during the 2005-06 legislative session. The author and sponsors have decided to take up this bill in a revised form next year

SB 1309 (NURSING) MOVES TO THE ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SB 1309 (Scott) which would provide: one-time stipends for Cal Grant recipients in registered nursing pre-licensure programs; state assumption of loans for those who teaching nursing for three consecutive years; grants for distribution to cc nursing instructors; and lessening of the 60% law requirements for those serving as clinical nursing faculty if it does not result in an increase in the ratio of part-time to full-time faculty in that district, will be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee during August.

SB 1563 (EARLY ASSESSMENT) IN CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS

SB 1563 (Escutia) which would establish a pilot project for 25 colleges to provide assessment information to 11th graders regarding their readiness for community college, will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee in August. This bill has been the subject of several meetings involving the League, FACCC, Academic Senate, and the System Office, but continues to have difficulties because the test proposed (the CSU California Standards Test – CST augmented) does not sufficiently measure mastery of English as a second language or reading; nor does it recognize the importance of local control for placement in community college classes. Finally, it is not funded and there is concern that the effort necessary to accomplish the goals of this measure are severely underestimated.

STAFFING CHANGES

- Bill Scroggins, interim president of Modesto Jr College, has been selected as the superintendent/president of Sequoias.
- Douglas Garrison, the vice president of the Petaluma Campus, has been appointed president of Monterey Peninsula CCD.
- Jess Carreon, chancellor of the Dallas County CCD since 2003, has been named interim president of San Jose City College.
- Gary Lewis, vice president for academic affairs at Shasta College, has been appointed superintendent/president of the college.
- Frank Chong, president of Mission College since 2003, has been named president of Laney College.
- Mary Retterer, formerly superintendent/president of Shasta-Tehama-Trinity CCD, has been named interim president at Cerro Coso College.
- Mark Rocha, interim vice president at LA Mission College, has been named president of West Los Angeles College.
- Roland “Chip” Chapdelaine, president of Cuyahoga College in Cleveland, Ohio, has been named president of LA Trade-Tech.
- ♦Ernest Moreno, president of East LA College, has been named president of LA Mission College.
- ♦Leige Henderson, vice president of academic affairs at LA Southwest College, has been named acting president of that college.
- Governor Schwarzenegger has announced two new appointments to the Board of Governors: John Koeberer of Redding who is co-owner, CEO and president of the California Parks Company which manages park facilities under contract with various governmental agencies; and Bridget Howe, a Foothill Community College student and a biogeochemistry research assistant at the NASA Ames Research Center.
- Board of Governors’ member Lou Monville has been appointed to the CSU Board of Trustees.