



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE FILED

The “Community College Governance, Funding Stabilization, and Student Fee Reduction Act” has been filed with the Attorney General as the next step for approval to seek signatures and place this important measure on the November 2006 ballot. Developed by a collaboration of CFT, CCLC, FACCC, and the LA Faculty Guild, this measure: 1) Allows community college funding to increase with the growing community college student population without hurting K-12 funding; 2) Enhances state leadership and secures local governance of the state-local community college partnership (bilateral governance); and 3) Provides for stable and predictable student fees (adjusted to \$20 per unit with modest increases consistent with the change in per capita personal income.)

The most urgent need at present is signature gathering, both through volunteer efforts of community college faculty, staff and students, as well as paid professional signature-gatherers. Contributions can be sent to: Californians for Improving Community Colleges, c/o Rix-Bradford Consultants, 912 N. Larchmont Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90004. For more information, go to www.californiansforcommunitycolleges.org. We expect signature gathering to begin in early April.

STATE BUDGET ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION

The system’s budget task force met again last month to determine an alternative use for excess growth funds in the budget. They determined that priorities should be: 1) \$30 M to increase the noncredit rate, \$9 M to fund part-time faculty office hours and health insurance, and \$5 M for rural colleges; 2) \$24M to partially restore matriculation cuts; 3) Restoration of the faculty and staff development line-item; 4) Funding for hiring more full-time faculty. They also agreed that the spending plan will be “revisited” if the \$130M for equalization is reduced or eliminated (which is highly unlikely.) The CEOCCC Board has endorsed this position, which will be considered by the Board of Governors [BOG] at its March 6th meeting.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO ADDRESS SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

System Office announced sponsoring four bills to carry components of the System 2006 Legislative Program. The sponsored bills are: AB 1943 (Nava): Stand Alone Course Approval; AB 2050 (Canciamilla): Concurrent Enrollment; SB 1304 (Runner): Facilities; and SB 1552 (Scott) Reauthorization of the Economic and Workforce Development Program.

GOVERNOR'S STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH PLAN

In regards to education, the Governor has proposed a multi-year bond, providing \$11.7 billion over a six-year period. The first bond, proposed for the 2006 ballot, would divide \$5.4 billion equally among the CCC, CSU, and UC; with additional \$200 million allocated for telemedicine at the UC. Assembly Speaker Nuñez authored a competing proposal, a 2-year \$2.887 billion bond, directing 50% to the CCC and 25% each to the UC and CSU.

The Joint Legislative Conference Committee on Infrastructure will meet on Monday, March 6, 2006 to hear testimonies on education bonds. Members of the committee are Senators: Murray (Chair), Chesbro, and Hollingsworth; and Assembly Members: Laird, Chu, and Keene. It is expected for the joint committee to hear reports from the Senate Education and the Assembly Higher Education (AHEC) committees.

Both the Senate Education and AHEC committees held informational hearings on the education bond proposals. The Senate Committee's recommendations for higher education are to:

- Enact no more than two education bonds, with the conference committee exercising the option of authorizing only a 2006 education bond;
- Maintain the Governor's \$5.4 billion, 4-year proposal for 2006 and committing funds to projected enrollment growth; no dedicated funding for specific projects, but instead each segment continuing to prioritize its use of the bond proceeds;
- Appropriate 45% to the community colleges, 30% to CSU, and 25% to UC of bond proceeds;
- Direct each segment to develop their capital outlay plan on expanded use of instructional facilities during the summer, annually report to the budget committee on year-round operation efforts. The committee recommended that the CCC assume summer term enrollments of at least 40% of fall/winter/spring enrollments.

Assembly Higher Education will report the following recommendations:

- Enact the Assembly Speaker's version of the K-University Bond Acts of 2006 and 2008;
- Allocation of funds should be based on enrollment. The Legislation should allocate: 40% for CCC and 30% for UC and CSU each;
- The 2006 Higher Education Bond should not include the biennial investment of \$200 million for UC telemedicine. The Legislature, in consultation with the UC Regents, should identify funding needed for the expansion of health and dental care facilities and programs;
- The Legislature should:
 - Monitor the MOU between the BOG CCC and the Division of the State Architect (DSA) before considering further legislative action on the Field Act;
 - Adopt up-to date higher education space standards; and
 - Provide funding incentives to encourage ongoing facility maintenance, year-round operations, joint-use of facilities, and use of technology for instruction.

Discussions on the Governor's Strategic Infrastructure Growth Plan continue as the March 10 deadline looms for placement on the June 2006 ballot. Political pundits believe there will be an agreement on investment needs for California, but whether it will be on the June or November 2006 ballot remains the question.

SYSTEM DEBATES UPGRADE OF MATH/ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR AA DEGREE

After four years of discussion, the statewide Academic Senate is recommending that the minimum mathematics and English requirements for an AA degree be increased from elementary, to intermediate, algebra and from one level below English 1A to the level of English 1A. This proposal would preserve the existing ability of local senates and boards to: set requirements above the minimum, use matriculation regulations to offer a testing option to satisfy competency requirements, and approve courses offered in other departments to satisfy these competency requirements. This issue will be under discussion at the CIO, CSSO, and CEOCCC board meetings, as well as Consultation in coming months; the Academic Senate expects to present it to the BOG in July.

CAMPAIGN FOR COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY LEGISLATION

Senator Scott, on behalf of the Campaign for College Opportunity, introduced SB 1709 (Scott): College Opportunity Act of 2006. The bill expresses legislative intent to renew the commitment to the Master Plan for Higher Education, and makes various declarations regarding access to higher education, general policy goals for college participation and completion, and the measurement of achievement of goals. SB 1709 requires the Governor to convene and chair a "State of College Opportunity" meeting on a biennial basis starting in March 2007, and each following odd year, to report on progress toward meeting state goals of access and success, adequacy of funding, improvements in efficiency and joint use of resources, meeting workforce needs. Directs the State Department of Education (SDE) to send a letter to all 6th, 8th, and 10th graders with information about higher education opportunities, with the CCC Chancellor required to develop statewide information advising 11th graders of what is expected in the 12th grade and on performance of college-level work. The segments would be required to work with the LAO to develop a joint 10-year enrollment growth plan, with CPEC providing the details and data necessary for the development of the targets and goals. Higher education segments would be required to annually report to the Legislature and Governor on student access and success, supported with data about related indicators. The bill will not address fee policies or some of the other controversial recommendations of the Campaign. We expect fee-related provisions to be addressed in separate legislation authored by Assembly Member Liu.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AND THE CAHSEE

In response to opinions that community colleges offering the high school diploma are not required to administer the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE), the Department of Finance has drafted "budget trailer" language intended to negate that possibility. Discussion continues in the system to determine the number and status of such programs, as well as a recommended system position on this matter.

COLLEGE TEXTBOOK PRICING CONSIDERED

The Assembly Higher Education Committee (AHEC) held an informational hearing on progress toward textbook affordability since passage of AB 2477/2004 (Liu) which required the three higher education systems to work with their respective academic senates to encourage faculty to consider the least costly textbooks; and required college bookstores to work with publishers, faculty, and the academic senate to create "economically sound" packages that deliver savings to students.

Testifiers agreed that textbook affordability is of interest to faculty, colleges, bookstores, students, and publishers as well as the Legislature. No immediate solutions were proposed, but cost reduction ideas include: textbook rental programs; subsidizing costs for needy students through grants; sharing costs with libraries or/and secondary markets (private businesses); and making textbooks available on websites, as well as printing them at a cheaper rate. There are no plans for further hearings; League staff will track legislation addressing textbook affordability, including SB 1819 (Figueroa), a spot bill to address college textbook pricing.

RECENT NEW REPORTS

California Community College Transfer: Recommended Guidelines, California Community College Transfer Center Directors Association (TCDA) Fall 2005.

Promoting Access to Higher Education: A Review of the State's Transfer Process. Legislative Analyst's Office, Jan 17, 2006. http://www.lao.ca.gov/2006/CCC_transfer/CCC_transfer_011706.pdf

Board of Governor's Study Session: Impacts of Student Fee Increase and Budget Changes on Enrollment in the California Community Colleges. (Analysis of Fee Increase from \$18 to \$26 per unit.) California Community College System Office, January 2006.
http://www.cccco.edu/executive/bog/agendas/agenda_0106.htm (Item 13)

Analysis of the 2006-07 Budget Bill. Legislative Analyst's Office. www.lao.ca.gov .

STAFFING CHANGES

- Leo Chavez, formerly chancellor of the Foothill-DeAnza CCD, has been named interim president of San Jose City College, replacing Chui Tsang, who is the new Superintendent/President of Santa Monica CCD.
- Jim Riggs will be stepping down as Columbia College's president in January 2007, to assume a full-time faculty position in fall of that year.
- Dean Colli, vice president of Academic Affairs at Grossmont College, has been named interim president of Grossmont College, replacing Ted Martinez.
- Gary Lewis, vice-president for Academic Affairs at Shasta College, has been named interim superintendent/president of the Shasta-Tehama-Trinity CCD, replacing Mary Retterer.
- Bernadine Chuck Fong has announced that she will retire at the end of the year.
- Randall Hernandez, a Republican, has been appointed to the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges. He is currently the senior government relations executive for California for the Bank of America.

BEREAVEMENT

- Margaret Lee, long-time trustee of the Napa Valley Community College District and former CCCT President, unexpectedly died last week.