



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED UNTIL DECEMBER 4

The Legislature adjourned from its two-year session on Thursday, August 31st with the usual flurry of bills and lots of last-minute amendments. Those approved have been enrolled and sent to the Governor’s desk; he has until September 30th to sign or veto legislation. The 2007-08 session will begin on December 4th. Below is a brief summary of bills most closely-watched by the League and an indication of whether the League is seeking a signature or a veto. The full list of League’s bills of interest will be distributed and posted on the League’s website after September 15.

SB 361 (NEW CC FUNDING FORMULA) APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

After more than two years of constant work and unanimous votes during the final week of the legislative session, SB 361 (Scott), which will provide the authority to release \$209 million [for equalization, an enhanced non-credit rate, and one-time transition funds] and implement a simpler and fairer distribution of community college funds, has moved to the Governor’s desk. Although Governor Schwarzenegger is anticipated to sign SB 361, local district contacts to the Governor’s Office are important. *League Position: Signature.*

AB 473 /SB 160 DOUBLE-JOINED

During the last weeks of the session, AB 473 (Liu) and SB 160 (Cedillo) were double-joined, with significant amendments to each. AB 473, which had included language to establish a community college fee policy, was amended to extend the exemption from non-resident fees for displaced “Katrina” students, require the BOG to develop an affordability policy and provide an annual report to the Legislature, as well as authorize audit fees to increase from the present \$15 per unit to 150% of the credit fee per unit. SB 160 would allow “AB 540” students to be eligible for all state student aid programs including the

BOG fee waiver. These two bills are tied together so that neither becomes effective unless both are signed and further stipulates that AB 473 be signed later than SB 160. *League Position: Signature.*

AB 2951 WOULD INCREASE CAPITAL FACILITIES FEES FOR CCS

AB 2951 (Goldberg), which was strongly opposed by the League as well as the UC and CSU systems, would remove current restrictions which prevent public utilities from charging “capital facilities fees” to public institutions, including community colleges, in excess of their use. It would also remove the requirement that capital facilities fees charged to public agencies be negotiated between parties. *League Position: Veto.*

AB 2987 TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL INCLUDES PEG CHANNEL PROTECTION

AB 2987 (Nuñez) would allow telephone companies to compete with cable companies for servicing homes and industry and require that the public, education, and government (PEG) channels (including those operated by community colleges) will be receivable by all subscribers without the need for any equipment other than that necessary to receive the lowest cost-tier of service. *League position: Neutral.*

SB 652 WILL IMPROVE TRANSFER TO UC

SB 652 (Scott) would request UC, and require community colleges, to facilitate articulation of the lower-division BA-level courses at each community college that meet the lower-division transfer path (LDTP) requirements for at least the 20 highest-demand majors at UC and for the UC Academic Senate to notify the CCC when an articulation request has been denied. *League Position: Signature.*

SB 709 DEFEATED IN ASSEMBLY

SB 709 (Speier), which would have added the Lt. Governor to the Board of Governors (BOG), was defeated in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in early August with the League arguing that it would be inappropriate to add an ex-officio member to a coordinating body such as the BOG.

SB 1303 TO EASE CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT LIMITATIONS

SB 1303 (Runner) would expand the exemption for high school students attending summer session, currently set at 5%, for credit lower-division college level courses designated as part of IGETC or applicable to the GE breadth requirements of CSU; or credit, college-level occupational courses as part of a sequence of courses leading to a vocational degree or certificate; or coursework necessary to assist students who have not passed the CA High School Exit Examination. The bill was amended late in the session to require the System Office to report annually on the number of students who receive a passing grade. *League Position: Signature.*

ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM EXTENDED

SB 1552 (Scott) would extend the sunset of the Economic and Workforce Development Program until 2013, as well as require an independent evaluation of the program. *League Position: Signature.*

EARLY COLLEGE ASSESSMENT BILL APPROVED

SB 1563 (Escutia) would create a pilot program, beginning in 2007-08, to select 25 colleges to partner with school districts and CSU to provide feedback to students in the 11th grade on their readiness for transfer-level coursework at a community college. This bill, as negotiated by the ASCCC during the legislative session, delays implementation for one year to provide time for funding to be included in the 2007-08 budget. *League Position: Signature.*

SENATE OFFICE OF RESEARCH (SOR) WORKING ON INTERSEGMENTAL ANALYSIS

At the request of Senator Jack Scott, the SOR staff is working on a study on prioritizing higher education facilities' needs across the systems. They are also seeking a means to align the CSU/UC Compact accountability requirements with those in community colleges' AB 1417.

HEARINGS

- There will be a joint hearing of the Assembly Higher Education and the Senate Education Committees on higher education in Pasadena on October 17th. The sponsors are Assembly Member Carole Liu, Senator Jack Scott, and State Secretary of Education Alan Bersin. For more information, contact Bruce Hamlett at bruce.hamlett@asm.ca.gov or call 916/319-3960;
- The US Department of Education has announced that they will convene four committees to propose changes to regulations concerning the Higher Education Act (HEA). It is expected that these committees will include the recommendations from the Spelling Commission and that Congress will not complete its work on the reauthorization of the HEA since session will adjourn shortly. Therefore, according to ACCT, the reauthorization "playing field" has shifted from the legislative to a regulatory arena. The Department is holding four hearings at California, Illinois, Florida, and D.C. to solicit input and additional regulatory changes to pursue. UC Berkeley will be hosting the first hearing on Tuesday, September 19 from 9am-4pm. Full information on this hearing is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2007/hearings.html> (refer to the section on reports, below).

NEW REPORTS THIS MONTH:

- *Transfer Access to Elite Colleges and Universities in the United States: Threading the Needle of the American Dream.* Alicia C. Dowd. Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. June 2006.
This report indicates that selective four-year colleges enroll a smaller percentage of transfer students than they did 20 years ago, despite the growing number of students who start their postsecondary education at community colleges. The author indicates that while she is not sure why transfer opportunities are fewer now than in the past, she believes it may have to do with universities' focus on recruiting elite high school graduates to keep their selectivity rankings competitive in publications such as US News and World Report. A copy of the report is available at: <http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/>.
- *The Spellings Commission* (otherwise known as the Commission on the Future of Higher Education) has issued a draft version of its final report. The full report is available at: www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/hiedfuture/index.html. The report was approved by a vote of 18 – 1 with only David Ward, of the American Council on Education, in dissent. In brief, the findings are: 1) Access should be expanded; 2) The financial aid system should be restructured; 3) A database should be established to provide meaningful outcome data; 4) Colleges must embrace a culture of continuous innovation and improvement, especially in science and mathematics literacy; 5) A strategy for lifelong learning is needed; and 6) The federal investment in education should be increased.
- *Paying Double: Inadequate High Schools and Community College Remediation*, Alliance for Excellent Education, August 2006. This study found that community colleges spend at least \$1.4 billion annually teaching remedial courses to recent high school graduates, while an additional \$2.3 billion is lost to the economy as remedial students are more likely to drop out of college

without a degree, thus reducing their earning potential. The main factors driving the need for remediation are: weak high school curricula, vague standards, and lack of alignment between high school content and the expectations of colleges and employers. The issue brief and information on the full report are available at www.all4ed.org.

- *Measuring Up 2006: The National Report Card on Higher Education*, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. This study ranks each state on six performance categories: preparation, participation, affordability, completion, benefits, and learning. The full report is available at: www.highereducation.org.

STAFFING CHANGES:

- Anthony Tricoli, president of West Hills Coalinga since 2002, has left the college to accept a new position as president of Georgia Perimeter Community College in Atlanta, GA. Tom Harris, retired chancellor of North Orange Community College District, will serve as Interim President;
- Bob Jensen, retired chancellor from Pima AZ, is the interim president at Oxnard College;
- Diane Scott-Summer, vice-president for student services at Diablo Valley College, has been appointed interim president of the college;
- Doris Givens, formerly interim president at LA West Valley College, is the provost of the Compton Education Center replacing Jamillah Moore who has returned to her position as senior vice-chancellor in the System Office;
- Harriett Robles, vice-president of instruction at Mission College, is the acting president, replacing Frank Chong who is the new president at Laney College;
- Jack Daniels has been appointed interim president of LA Southwest College, replacing Audre Levy who accepted the Superintendent/President position at Glendale Community College;
- Jeffrey Bobbitt, senior vice president of academic affairs at College of the Redwoods, is the interim superintendent/president;
- Marie Kane, superintendent/president of Chaffey CCD since 2001, will retire in June 2007;
- Marie Rosenwasser, superintendent/president of San Luis Obispo CCD/Cuesta College since 1999, has announced that she will retire December 31;
- Neil Yoneji is the interim superintendent/president at Southwestern CCD;
- Patricia Spencer, superintendent/president of Victor Valley since 2003, retired on August 30. She has been replaced on an interim basis by Lou Zellers, retired superintendent/president of Citrus CCD;
- Robert Isomato is acting president of East LA College;
- Robert Turnage, Vice Chancellor (VC) of Fiscal Policy, announced his departure from the System Office, effective September 15; Jim Austin, VC of Business Services for Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD, will serve as interim VC until January, 2007;
- Sal Rotella, chancellor of Riverside CCD since 1992, has announced that he will retire once the district has hired a new chancellor; and
- Stan Hodges is the interim chancellor of Yosemite CCD. He replaces James Williams who is currently on medical leave and will officially retire in January 2007.