



# ***THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**

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### **The Session Adjournment**

Without the noticeable fanfare typical for the end of a 2-year Legislative Session, both houses of the Legislature recessed, Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Legislature continues to meet in session to address the budget stalemate. Unfortunately, they continue to be deadlocked, breaking records for an over-due California State Budget. The Senate Pro-Tempore vows to call the Senate into session on a daily basis until the budget is passed, while the Assembly Budget Committee met to consider Republican budget proposals. Assembly Speaker Bass stated that she will call the Assembly into session when progress is evident. Governor Schwarzenegger has pledged to not sign any legislation until a spending plan was approved, threatening to veto any bill before it had a chance of becoming law without his signature.

The Legislature approved approximately 873 bills, which must be acted upon by the governor before September 30th (which is the last day for the governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before September 1st). In reaction to Governor Schwarzenegger’s threat to veto bills, the Legislature parked enacted bills in “enrollment” to delay delivery of bills to the governor’s desk. Under most circumstances, bills held in enrollment past the September 30th deadline will not become law by 2009. After that time, bills signed by the governor up to November 30th, may still be able to take effect in the next year.

The Legislature is prohibited by the California Constitution from presenting any bill, such as the budget bill and related trailer bills, to the governor after November 15th. The Legislature is presumed in recess, but able to return to consider any bill vetoed by the governor after November 15<sup>th</sup>. The regular session of the Legislature is adjourned “sine die” by constitutional requirement at midnight on November 30th.

## **2009 Community College State Legislative Program**

Each year the BOGCCC adopts a State Legislative Program, which guides the advocacy efforts of the system for the legislative session and establishes legislative priorities for the year. The System Office Governmental Relations is developing the 2009 State Legislative Program, to be presented to the BOGCCC in January 2009 for approval; and invites community college representatives to submit legislative proposals through Consultation Council. This year, the System Office will focus the legislative program on key policy priorities that meet the objective of the BOGCCC Strategic Plan, support the System's budget proposals, and are viable in the current political and fiscal climate. Proposals are due to the System Office by September 25th. The Consultation Council Task Force on the Legislative Program will meet October 9th to review proposals. Legislative proposals should meet at least one of the following: (1) are part of the System budget proposal, (2) will provide an important clarification to existing policy, and (3) will address an immediate problem needing correction.

## **Status of 2008 Legislative Program**

### **College Awareness and Access**

- School-to-College Bridge Program  
*Status: Deferred due to State Budget crisis. Consultation Budget Task Force recommends 2009-2010 budget proposal \$9.7M.*
- Online Instructional Materials (AB 577 (Ruskin) and a BCP)  
*Status: AB 2261 (Ruskin) – On Governor's Desk.*
- Inmate education  
*Status: SB 413(Scott) – On Governor's Desk.*
- Expand Access to Pell Grant and Other Financial Aid (BCP)  
*Status: Deferred due to State Budget crisis. Governor Schwarzenegger targeted the Competitive Cal Grant program for elimination. The May Revise continued to propose eliminating the Cal Grant B Competitive program, which served over 42,000 community college students with an average income around \$14,000 in 2005-06. The Legislature restores Cal Grant and rejects plan to eliminate the program pending approval of the State Budget.*

### **Student Success and Readiness**

- Concurrent Enrollment  
*Status: Provisions of AB 1409 amended into SB 1437 (Padilla) – On Governor's Desk.*
- Textbook Relief – Placeholder for potential new legislation  
*Status: AB 2261 (Ruskin) – On Governor's Desk.*
- Early College Assessment  
*Status: SB 946 (Scott) – On Governor's Desk.*
- Transfer Initiative  
*Status: SB 1585 (Padilla) – On Governor's Desk.*

### **System Effectiveness**

- Field Act Process Relief – Sponsor legislation  
*Status: SB 588 (Runner) – On Governor's Desk.*

## **Reform Group Targets Community Colleges**

A new reform group, California Forward, is planning an all-day invitation-only workshop on community colleges on Oct 24th in Sacramento. While the original plans were made without community college consultation, the system (through Consultation) is preparing a unified response to the Shulock reports, which are scheduled to be the basis for the meeting. Of the 137 people originally invited, 27 are from community colleges with the remainder representing business, student groups, foundations, advocacy organizations, and the CSU/UC governing boards. Their website is: [www.caforward.org](http://www.caforward.org)

## **Auditor Issues Report on College Textbooks**

This report is available online at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/summary.php?id=574>

## **LAO issues Report on College Readiness of CC Students**

This report is available online at:

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/PubDetails.aspx?id=1847>

## **Federal Report Documents Volatility of CC Students' Plans**

*Community Colleges: Supplement to the Condition of Education, 2008* has been issued by the US Department of Education. In analyzing the data, the report explains why many students alter their educational plans and expectations. It focuses on quantifying how many change course at various stages in their educational progress.

The findings were students who had graduated from high school in 2004 and had enrolled in a cc that fall. 39% reported that, as high school seniors, they had planned to enroll in a four-year college immediately after high school and earn a BA degree or higher.

Of the 2004 graduates who enrolled in ccs who did not as high school seniors see themselves continuing beyond cc, ended up adopting more ambitious plans. Two years later, 36% said they planned to attend a four-year college with 11% indicating they would seek a graduate degree.

When contacted about the study, three researchers delivered three different opinions about the meaning of these findings:

- 1) One said there was not enough info to know whether these findings reflect positively or negatively on ccs, since some students increased their goals after entry while others achieved less than they had anticipated;
- 2) Another responded that many students who start at a community college realize that they are college material after all or that college is relevant to their lives and future careers.
- 3) A third suggested that since many students come to ccs from families with no higher education experience, they do not know what it means when they state that they intend to complete one degree or another, and often leave to take a job.

The report is available online at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008033.pdf>

## **CEO Changes**

• Feather River Community College District selected Dr. Ronald Taylor as the new superintendent/president of the district, replacing Dr. Susan Carroll who has retired after nine

years. Dr. Taylor comes to FRC from Chabot College in Hayward, California where he served as the vice president of academic services.

- Monte Perez, vice president of student services at Golden West College in Huntington beach, has been selected president of the Moreno Valley campus of the Riverside Community College District, effective July 1.

- Noelia Vela, superintendent/president of Cerritos College since 2004, has been named chancellor of San Bernardino CCD, effective July 1. She replaces Don Averill who has retired.

- Jack Daniels, who has been serving as interim president of LA Southwest College has been appointed permanent president.

- Roger Schultz, Mt San Jacinto CCD's vice president of student services, has been named superintendent/president, effective immediately. He replaces Jon Tyler, who has served as interim superintendent/president.

- Roger Wagner is the new superintendent/president at Copper Mountain CCD.

- Susan Cota is the new interim Supt/President at Mira Costa CCD, replacing John Hendrickson who resigned to become chancellor of West Valley/Mission CCD.

- Todd Burnett is the new president at Saddleback College, replacing Richard McCullough who retired.

- Gerald Fisher, superintendent/president of Solano County CCD since January 2007 has announced that he will retire in June 2009.

- William Farmer, VP of academic affairs at Cerritos College, has been appointed acting superintendent/president, due to the resignation of Noelia Vela who is the new chancellor of San Bernardino CCD.

- Christina Chiriboga, vice-president of instruction at Cuyamaca College is the interim president, effective July 2008.

- Lawrence Cox, provost at Stark State College of Technology in Ohio is the new provost of Compton CC Center.

- Cecilia Cervantes, president of College of Alameda since 2002, has been appointed president of Hennepin Technical College, Minnesota, effective October 1.