



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Legislation

January 31st was the last day for both the Assembly and Senate to pass 2009 bills from their house of introduction. February 19th will be the last day to introduce 2010 bills. Resolutions, constitutional amendments, committee bills, and emergency legislation are exempt from deadlines.

Several 2009 bills are now in the second house. New bill introductions are likely to be slow. Many 2009 bills were gutted and amended to contain different subjects. In addition, several bills heard in Assembly Appropriations Committees were amended to remove their substance, thereby lowering their cost estimates and allowing them to remain alive and move to the other house, where further amendments are anticipated.

2009 legislation affecting community colleges that were passed out of their house of origin on the deadline were:

- AB 35 (Furutani): Education: Workforce Development
- AB 551 (Furutani): Community Colleges: Funding Study
- AB 656 (Torrico): Oil and Tax Revenue Estimates
- AB 1178 (Block): Sales, Use, and Corporation Taxes
- SB 330 (Yee): Public Records: State Agency: Auxiliary Organizations
- SB 675 (Steinberg): Energy job training

Legislature Leadership Changes

The California State Assembly chose Assembly Member John A. Pérez (D-Los Angeles) to be the next Speaker of the Assembly, effective March 1st. The Assembly Republican Caucus voted to select Assembly Member Garrick (R- Carlsbad) as their leader. No date has been set for the change. Republican Leader-Elect Martin Garrick has named Assemblywoman Connie Conway (R-Tulare) as the incoming Assembly Republican Caucus Chair. The Senate Republicans have also voted to select Senator Bob Dutton (R- Inland Empire) to replace Senator Dennis Hollingsworth (R- Murrieta) as Senate Republican Leader. No official timetable has been set for Senator Dutton to assume the leadership post.

February Hearings on the Master Plan for Higher Education

The Legislature's Joint Committee for the Master Plan has scheduled two upcoming hearings: The first will take place on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., in the Capitol, Room 112. The topic of this hearing is Universal Access, including a discussion of current and historical trends for California higher education, and state and national economic challenges and goals for college access and the effects of diminished access on California's social and economic stability.

The second hearing is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 from 9 a.m. - 1p.m., State Capitol, Room 126; the topic is Affordability and Financial Aid.

League staff will be monitoring and reporting on both of these hearings.

Legislative Analyst Comments on the Master Plan

Last week, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) issued a report entitled, *The Master Plan at 50: Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts—Coordinating Higher Education in California*.

http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2010/edu/ed_coordination/ed_coordination_012810.pdf

California's approach to coordination of the state's higher education system over the past 50 years has been indirect, resting mostly on well-defined missions and eligibility pools to guide the development of higher education institutions. This approach worked well during several decades of expansion, producing arguably the greatest higher education system in the world. The effectiveness of this approach has declined over the last quarter century, however, and institutions have been left to pursue their separate interests with insufficient mechanisms to advance the state's priorities. This report examines the need for a systemwide approach to planning and coordination of California's system of higher education.

The report's recommendations include:

- 1) setting a clear public agenda for higher education – including setting specific statewide goals and using them as a framework for an accountability system;
- 2) strengthening coordination mechanisms – by aligning funding formulas with state goals, simplifying articulation and transfer procedures, improving oversight for major policy decisions' reforming the program approval process, and considering regional coordination;

- 3) rebuilding the state's capacity for policy leadership – by maintaining or replacing CPEC with greater independence from the executive and legislative branches, revising the appointment process to the coordinating board, assigning the coordinating board clear responsibility for shepherding the public agenda, and creating a more comprehensive statewide student data resource with enhanced research and analysis capabilities.

Legislative Analyst Comments on Higher Ed vs. Prisons

In his January budget, the Governor proposed a state constitutional amendment that would require reductions in spending on state corrections, with corresponding increases in spending for public universities. Under this proposal, beginning in 2014–15, the state would be required to dedicate no more than 7% of state General Fund spending to corrections and no less than 10% to public universities, and also would prevent the state from releasing inmates from prison early in order to achieve the spending reductions. The Analyst urged the Legislature to reject this proposal because it: (1) would unwisely constrain the state's ability to allocate funding where it is most needed each year; and (2) is unnecessary, as the state already has the ability to shift funding among programs without this constitutional amendment. Additionally, the Analyst noted that this proposal:

- would not include community colleges within the higher education segment, and
- would only include General Fund support but does not factor in student fee revenues which have become a key source of financing for the universities' basic instructional program.

Budget Update

For the most recent updates on the governor's proposed 2010-11 budget, including talking points and budget charts, please click on the link below.

<http://www.ccleague.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3320>

Initiatives Affecting Community Colleges Cleared for Circulation

The Attorney General has prepared the necessary title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the following initiative measures which are now eligible for circulation. The first would remove community colleges from the Proposition 98 guarantee, while the second would create a "split roll" property tax to provide additional funds for k-12, community colleges, and CSU. These are merely two of 69 measures currently "on the street" for signatures, and are unlikely to be on the ballot unless there is significant funding (over \$1 million each) behind them – since each needs over 694,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Specifically, the first initiative which is described as *Changes Methods of Calculating Public School Funding and State Spending Limit*, would remove community colleges from Proposition 98 which most likely would result in our seeking funding from the state general fund in competition with all other non-protected entities. While the measure could result in increases or decreases in state funding for K-12, the Legislative Analyst's official analysis projects "possible state funding decreases for community college districts, given this measure's elimination of their constitutional funding guarantee." The proponents of this measure have until June 25, 2010 to collect the necessary 694,00+ signatures.

A second initiative which may affect community colleges if funded and 694,000+ signatures are gathered, is described as *Provides Additional School Funding by Increasing Commercial Property Taxes. Increases Homeowners' Tax Exemption*. This is a version of a “split roll” initiative which would increase the commercial nonagricultural property taxes and, according to the Legislative Analyst’s Office and the Department of Finance, could result in increased state revenues of about \$4 billion annually, with the additional funding split among K-12 school districts, community colleges, and CSU.

The League will be monitoring the progress of each of these measures. The California Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ca.gov provides information on these and the other 67 initiatives which have been cleared for circulation.

Carnegie-Funded Book Urges BSN for All Nurses

Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation. Patricia Benner, Molly Sutphen, Victoria Leonard, and Lisa Day. Jossey Bass. January 2010.

<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/elibrary/educating-nurses-highlights>

This book, funded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, explores the strengths and weaknesses in nursing education and the external challenges the profession faces. It identifies the most effective practices for teaching nursing and argues that nursing education must be remade through radical advances in the pathways to nursing licensure and a radical new understanding of the curriculum.

Among the recommendations are that those invested with nurses’ training do the following:

- 1) Reach agreement about a set of clinically relevant prerequisites;
- 2) Require the BSN for entry to practice;
- 3) Develop local articulation programs to ensure a smooth, timely transition from Associate’s Degree Nursing (ADN) to the Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing (BSN); and
- 4) Develop more Associate’s Degree in Nursing (ADN) to Master’s of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs.

Research Reports

Bridging the Gaps to Success: Promising Practices for Promoting Transfer among Low-Income and First Generation Students. http://www.pellinstitute.org/pdf/COE_Pell_Report_layout_3.pdf

This study of six exemplary Texas community colleges identified three common themes or characteristics, each consisting of institutional programs and policies that appear to contribute to higher-than-expected transfer rates. The three characteristics are:

- A Structured Academic Pathway which includes the following elements: institutional articulation agreement, dual enrollment, developmental coursework initiatives, and active learning;
- A Student-Centered Culture which includes a customer service focus, trio student support services, specialized advising, learning centers/tutoring labs, flexible scheduling, first-year seminar, learning communities and student engagement in campus life; and

- A Culturally-Sensitive Leadership which includes staff and faculty role modeling, strategic planning and outreach.

Re-Imagining Community Colleges in the 21st Century: A Student-Centered Approach to Higher Education. Brian Pusser and John Levin, December 2009.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/reimagining_community_colleges.html

Among the recommendations of this study, the authors suggest specific institutional, state and federal policies that will facilitate transformative change including:

- New approaches to training and credentialing including innovative, credit-based training programs, data collection and assessment of student credit and non-credit course-taking patterns to assist institutional adaptations in this area;
- Additional funding for colleges and more financial support for students;
- Policies to promote developmental education, including innovative use of data, early assessment and interventions and continuous accountability at all levels of state education systems;
- Higher transfer rates to four-year colleges, including more sophisticated data collection, common course numbering, institutional policy alignment across segments, joint-baccalaureate programming and technology-mediated information systems for students seeking transfer and baccalaureate attainment;
- More modern infrastructure and technology;
- Better data collection; and
- Common standards for assessing student learning and institutional effectiveness.

BOG News

- J Alfred Smith, has resigned from the Board of Governors due to the weight of responsibilities in his Oakland parish community.
- Nadia Davis-Lockyer, 38, Hayward, a Democrat and deputy district attorney and executive director of the Alameda County Family Justice Center, has been appointed to the Board of Governors by Governor Schwarzenegger. Ms Davis-Lockyer is the wife of State Treasurer Bill Lockyer.

Staffing Changes

- Elihu Harris, chancellor of Peralta CCD since 2003, will be leaving his position in June 2010.