



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Master Plan for Higher Education (MPHE)

The Joint Committee for the MPHE has held six hearings to date and has scheduled its next hearing for May 4th, at 9 a.m., in Room 4203 to determine “next steps” and recommendations. While there is no advance agenda at this time, the most likely areas for legislation include the following:

- 1) Transfer;
- 2) Accountability measures, especially tied to statewide goals consistent across institutions (so that UC/CSU and community colleges can be compared to determine if progress is being achieved for degree and certificate completion, baccalaureate degrees and other items which can be measured); and
- 3) Possibly incentive funding, either in a pilot version or as an add-on to current funding.

Ira Ruskin, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee for MPHE has introduced two spot bills – AB 1895 and AB 1901 – which are expressly intended to enact legislation that emerges from the work on the Joint Committee on the MPHE. Among the other bills which could be used to implement the anticipated recommendations of the Joint Committee are:

- 1) Transfer – AB 2451 (Furutani) would require a report on course alignment in the cccs and differing requirements for transfer to CSU and UC;
 - AB 2752 (Blakeslee) would specify that the lower-division transfer curriculum for each high-demand program major of 60 units must be common across all CSU campuses by 2012 and prohibit CSU from imposing any additional non-elective lower-division requirements;
 - SB 1440 (Padilla) would authorize a community college to grant an AA transfer degree to a student who completes 60 transferable units of which 18 are in a major area of emphasis; and who meets the minimum requirements for transfer in an approved transfer core curriculum program, transfer agreement program, or a dual admission program, including IGETC or CSU GE breadth requirements.
- 2) Accountability – AB 218 (Portantino) would establish a statewide accountability framework for higher education including collection of data to address six state policy goals;

- 3) Incentive funding – AB 2449 (Furutani) would require a report, by college, on course completion rates from 1990 through 2010;
- SB 1143 (Liu) would require the BOG to calculate FTES for local apportionments using the average active enrollment in a course at both the 20% point and at course completion.

Last week, the Public Policy Institute of California issued a report, *Higher Education in California: New Goals for the Master Plan*, Hans Johnson, April 2010, (<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=916>). These policy recommendations are likely to be among those seriously considered by the MPHE Committee:

- 1) The state should set clear goals for what it wants to achieve regarding higher education (including, for example, the goal of open access along with a definition of that this means in practice for both student fees and financial support).
- 2) The state should set new Master Plan goals with respect to eligibility. (Specifically, 15% eligibility for UC – instead of 12.5% as at present -- and 40% eligibility for CSU -- instead of the current 33-1/3 -- by 2025.)
- 3) Transfer students should comprise an increased share of all graduates from UC and CSU. (For UC, the proportion should be 40% as opposed to 28% today; for CSU, it should be 60% as opposed to 55% today.)
- 4) The state should add efficiency goals to the Master Plan (including goals such as numbers of transfers, completions, and time to degree.)
- 5) The state should measure progress toward outcomes for meeting its higher education goals (including annual measurement of rates of college enrollment, transfer, and completion.)
- 6) The state should continue to develop a robust longitudinal student database, linking K-12, higher education, and employment data for individuals across time, as well as information about participation in programs such as early college commitment programs and new pilot programs with an experimental design that would allow accurate evaluation of results.
- 7) The state must identify how it will fund its goals. (PPIC estimates that the cost of meeting the above goals by 2025 is an additional \$1.6 billion per year [in current dollars] under current [2009-2010] practices. Among the options for achieving this funding level, they suggest:
 - a) Partial privatization in which the state would substantially reduce funding for higher education and costs would fall increasingly on students and families with eligibility dependent partly on a student's ability to pay, and admission of more out-of-state students who would pay much higher fees. (The report notes, however, that this option runs contrary to the state's need to close the workforce skills gap.)
 - b) Status quo in which higher education funding would continue to decline as a percentage of overall state funding in lean years with increased fees to make up the difference or possibly a high-fee, high aid model. However this option is also not conducive to closing the workforce skills gap.
 - c) Renewed public support to accommodate increases in enrollment with lower fees than in most comparable public systems and either redirection of current state funds or additional state funds would be required, including new revenue streams. This option is most likely to help close the state's impending workforce skills gap.

Budget Update

Theresa Tena will be proving an oral report on the budget on Monday morning. 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>

Legislation

- **Local Elections – AB 2003 (Mendoza): Legislative Bodies: Contracts and Appointments.** As proposed, AB 2003 would provide that any contract entered into, or appointment made by a legislative body of a local agency--- including community colleges---between the close of the polls on election day and before the date any newly-elected member of the governing board is sworn into office shall not take effect until the governing body, including the new member, has reviewed and approved the contact or appointment. The League believes AB 2003 would delay completion of facilities projects, the ability to respond to emergency and crisis situations, prevent timely application for grants and impede on-going operation of colleges. Local colleges are urged to contact their assemblymembers to request a “no” vote on AB 2003.
- **DREAM Act – SB 1460 (Cedillo): Student Financial Aid: Dream Act** will be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 3rd. This legislation would allow AB 540 students to be eligible for all student aid programs to the extent permitted by federal law and would also make these students eligible for the BOG fee waiver programs if they meet the financial requirements. SB 1460 passed the Senate Education Committee and now pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The League supports SB 1460 and urges local colleges to contact your senator to express support of SB 1460 and efforts at the federal level to assist these students with access to essential support to complete their educational dreams.
- **Transfer Legislation** – the Senate Education Committee unanimously approved SB 1440 (Padllia): The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act. The bill provides a clear pathway to both an associate's degree and guaranteed admission to the California State University with junior standing. Upon transferring to CSU, the students would only be required to complete 60 additional units in most majors. Currently, an estimated 50% (25,000) of the students who transfer from a California community college to CSU without attaining an associate's degree would obtain one under this legislation. SB 1440 would also curtail significant duplication of courses after transferring to a CSU.

SB 1440 is now headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Local colleges are urged to contact their senators and to the [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) to express support of SB 1440.

- **Local Taxing Authority – ACA 10 (Torlakson): Education Finance District: Special Tax.** This bill proposes to amend the California Constitution to lower the constitutional vote requirement for approval of a special tax to be levied by a school district from two-thirds to a majority of the district voters. Assemblymember Torlakson states that

“California’s budget crisis must be resolved without breaking the state’s commitment to education. Local revenue generation and local control for schools must be a component to how we get ourselves out of this budget mess”. The League supports efforts to provide taxing authority to local colleges with majority voter approval and requests amendments to add community colleges to ACA 10. ACA 10 is currently on the Assembly Floor.

The League also supports **SCA 6 (Simitian): Educational Entities: Parcel tax**, which is pending vote on the Senate floor. Local community colleges are urged to send SCA 6 support letters to Senator Simitian and to their senators.

- **Part-Faculty Return Rights – AB 1807 (Fong): California Community Colleges: Temporary Employees** would mandate a community college district to place the name of a temporary employee on a reemployment preference list, and provide the employee with the right of first refusal to a teaching assignment in his/her faculty service area, if that person meets criteria specified in the bill. While the bill may echo the best practices of a few community college districts, the League is concerned that mandating one system for all districts at a time of significant cutbacks could adversely impact the courses available for students, could significantly increase the cost of compliance and legal risk of districts implementing the system, and thwart achievement of the diversity goals and objectives of local community college districts. Increased costs will be incurred by local colleges to comply with the requirements of AB 1807 for such things as development of computer programs for the preference lists, research of records to populate the lists, maintenance of the lists, communications with the department deans, and staff time to give first refusal to the appropriate instructor.

The League is also concerned that the bill would greatly limit a community college district’s ability to diversity its associate faculty.

- **Federal Legislation** – Senator Harkin, Chair of the Senate Health, Education Labor and Pensions Committee, introduced an education jobs bill, which mirrors the \$23 billion in funding for education jobs included in the House-passed Main Street Jobs for America Act. Senator Harkin introduced the Senate version "[Keep Our Educators Working Jobs Act of 2010](#)" (S 3206), which appropriates funds for an Education Jobs Fund. Like last year's State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, included in the stimulus bill and intended to minimize devastating state education cut, the funds would be distributed to states that agree to maintain their level of investment in K-12 and higher education. **The funding for California would likely be around \$2.8 billion--money that can soften the continued cuts at our schools and colleges.** We encourage local colleges to send letters to Senator Harkin in support of the bill. Click on the following [link](#) for a sample letter that can be tailored to reflect the impacts of budget cuts on local community college campus. Letters should focus on the lost jobs, whether from unfilled departures, layoffs, and reduced sections taught by part-time faculty jobs. Senator Barbara Boxer is co-sponsor of S 3206.

Upcoming Legislative Hearings

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 - **May 4 – Assembly Judiciary Committee – AB 2330 (Arambula):** Voting Rights Act – Prohibits a voter from bringing an action against a county office of education or school district for alleged violation of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 unless a voter has first presented a written claim to the office or district. The bill would also establish a process similar to those charging violations the Brown Act.
 - **May 4 – Assembly Higher Education Committee – AB 1895 (Ruskin):** Donahoe Act; AB 1997 (Portantino): Community Colleges: Student Financial aid; AB 2400 (Block) Community Colleges: BA degrees; AB 2448 (Furutani) Public Contracts: Community Colleges; and AB 2452 (Furutani) Community Colleges: Transfer Course Report.

Staffing Changes

- Daniel LaVista, executive director of the Virginia State Council of Higher Education, will start Aug. 1st as chancellor of the LACCD, replacing Tyree Wieder who has been serving as the interim chancellor since August 2009.
- Christopher O’Hearn is the new interim president of Victor Valley College, replacing Robert Silverman who, on March 17th, announced his resignation for health reasons.