



# ***THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

**JULY 20, 2007**

ON THE WEB: WWW.CCLEAGUE.ORG > GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## ***IN THIS UPDATE:***

- Bills of Interest Continue to Move through Legislature ..... 1
- Other Inactive/Two-year/ Defeated Bills Opposed by the League ..... 3
- New Select Committee on Community Colleges ..... 3
- League Vice President Named Interim Chancellor ..... 3
- Board of Governors’ Change ..... 3
- League in Action On-Line ..... 4
- CEO Changes..... 4

## **BILLS OF INTEREST CONTINUE TO MOVE THROUGH LEGISLATURE**

Several bills of importance to community colleges have been amended and continue to progress through the legislative process. They include:

- **AB 1409** (Portantino) which would expand the ability of community colleges to serve high school students by allowing them to enroll in community college courses for advanced scholastic, college-level, career-technical, English as a second language, basic skills, remediation, California High School Exit Examination preparation, dropout intervention, and summer school opportunities. It also would allow expansion of the enrollment of secondary school pupils in community college summer classes by increasing the cap on summer enrollment from 5% to 15% of the total number of pupils who completed that grade immediately prior to the time of recommendation in 2008, and subsequently would raise that limitation to 20% in 2009, to 25% in 2010, and then repeal summer school limits (except for the physical education prohibitions) in 2011.

*Location:* Passed Assembly; in Senate Committee on Appropriations  
*League Position:* Support

### • **Textbook bills:**

AB 1548 (as proposed to be amended after 7/18) would require that publishers provide faculty and others at the colleges with “transparency in the adoption process” and be responsive to requests for information on textbooks cost, content and options. Publishers would also be required to provide faculty with a list of products offered, the copyright date of prior editions, the wholesale price of each product, and a list of substantive differences between the current and previous editions, effective January 2010. This bill also would require bookstores to post in their stores or on their websites a disclosure of their retail pricing policy; encourage faculty and others to adopt materials with sufficient lead time; and state that this shall not be construed as attempting to interfere with faculty authority over textbook selection decisions.

*Location:* Passed Assembly; in Senate Appropriations Committee  
*League position:* Neutral pending adoption of further amendments

SB 832 would require that the publisher, agent or employee of a textbook publisher provide faculty members at public postsecondary education institutions with: a complete list of all products offered for sale by that publisher that are germane to the subject area of interest of the prospective purchaser; for each product on the list, the wholesale price of that product and the estimated length of time the

publisher intends to keep that product on the market and a complete list of all substantive differences or changes made between the current and previous editions of the textbook.

*Location:* Passed Senate; on Assembly Floor

*League Position:* Support

- **AB 1559/SB 139** (Berryhill/Scott) would amend statute regarding the screening of nursing program applicants.

SB 139 would allow a community college district to use any diagnostic assessment tool that is commonly used in registered nursing programs and approved by the Chancellor; and would allow districts to use additional (but unspecified) multiple screening measures if the number of applicants to its program exceeds its enrollment capacity. This bill also would prohibit a community college district from excluding nursing program applicants solely because they are not district residents or have not completed prerequisite courses in that district.

*Location:* Passed Senate; in Assembly Appropriations Committee

*League Position:* Support

AB 1559 would establish a process and specific criteria that each community college district would be required to use should it opt to use multicriteria screening measures to evaluate applicants for its registered nursing programs. Specifically, the bill provides that a community college district that uses multicriteria screening measures shall, at a minimum, evaluate applicants using all of the following criteria:

- Grade-point in relevant coursework;
- Degrees, diplomas, or certificates held by the applicant;
- Relevant work or volunteer experience;
- Proficiency or advanced coursework in languages other than English;
- Life experiences or special circumstances of applicants.

In addition to these required criteria, colleges may also use any or all of the following to evaluate applicants: a) personal interview; b) personal statement; c) letters of recommendation; d) number of repetitions of prerequisite courses; and e) other criteria approved by the CCC Chancellor's Office. With these amendments, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) withdrew its earlier opposition to the bill.

*Location:* Passed Assembly; in Senate Committee on Appropriations

*League Position:* Support

- **SB 823** (Perata) is a bill intended to establish the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education to monitor private postsecondary institutions which are not otherwise monitored by a regional accreditation organization. However, while the bill states that its intent to exempt these institutions (which had been exempt from the prior law governing private postsecondary institutions), the bill includes other provisions which would require the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)/ Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) to turn over confidential information on these colleges to the Bureau or Attorney General without notifying those institutions. In doing so, it would jeopardize its relationship with these colleges. The League has joined ACCJC to oppose the bill and support exemption from this bill's provisions for all private institutions which submit to WASC accreditation.

*Location:* Passed Senate; in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

*League Position:* Oppose (until the provisions which would negatively affect peer accreditation are removed from the bill)

- **SB 964** (Romero) would amend the Brown Open Meetings Act by prohibiting a majority of members of a legislative body, including a community college board of trustees) from using a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of that board. In doing so, it also declares that the Legislature disapproves, and by this legislation supersedes, the holding of the

appellate court in *Wolfe vs. City of Fremont*. That ruling held that serial meetings violate the Brown Act only when they involve a personal intermediary from board members and result in a collective concurrence about a matter to be considered by the board.

*Location:* Passed Senate; Assembly Floor

*League Position:* Oppose (unless amended to specifically allow staffs to brief their boards)

#### **OTHER INACTIVE/TWO-YEAR/ DEFEATED BILLS OPPOSED BY THE LEAGUE**

The following bills are either inactive, two-year bills, or were defeated and will not be considered again during the 2007 legislative session. The League has a position of “Oppose” on each of the following:

- **AB 591** (Dymally) which would have modified the 60 percent law to require that districts provide non-tenure track temporary faculty employees with pay and benefits equal to those of tenured and tenure-track faculty of comparable qualifications doing comparable work and require that each district hire at least 50% of its full-time tenure track faculty from the pool of its temporary non-tenure track faculty employees.
- **AB 906** (Eng) would have required the System Office to conduct random audits of five community college districts each year to encourage compliance with the 50% Law.
- **AB 1305** (Calderon) would have: required each community college district to allocate reserve funds above 5% of their proposed expenditures for the current fiscal year toward the employment of full-time faculty unless the Board of Governors certifies that their reserves are not up to this level; and required that by Dec 31, 2010, each district must have at least 75% of its hours of credit instruction taught by full-time instructors.
- **AB 1343** (Mendoza) would have required: comparable health benefits for faculty teaching a 40% or greater load; districts to meet a new 75% mandate for full-time faculty by fall of 2014; and that districts advance at least 20% annually of the amount required toward meeting a five-year goal for health benefits and salary comparability for part-time faculty.

#### **NEW SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

In June, Assembly Speaker Nunez established a new Select Committee on Community Colleges chaired by Mary Hiyashi, with members Julia Brownley, Mervyn Dymally, Ted Gaines, John Laird, Sally Lieber, Bill Maze, Anthony Portantino, and Van Tran. Unlike earlier select committees which generally focused first on gaining an overview of the system, this committee held its first hearing on the full-time/part-time faculty issue and have indicated that their second hearing will be on the “pay for grades” issue at Diablo Valley College. The chair has indicated in the press that she wishes to learn what happened and how the administration is addressing the issue; then will determine whether any action or legislation is necessary. To date, the hearing has not been scheduled.

#### **LEAGUE VICE PRESIDENT NAMED INTERIM CHANCELLOR**

Dr. Diane Woodruff, vice president of the League, former Napa Valley superintendent/president and a long-time employee of community colleges, was named Interim Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, effective August 9.

#### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS’ CHANGE**

Board member John Koeberer completed his one-year appointment to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. His replacement has not been named.

## **LEAGUE IN ACTION ON-LINE**

The League will begin publishing the *League in Action* on-line starting with this month's publication. Look for it Monday on the newly designed League website at: [www.ccleague.org](http://www.ccleague.org)

Topics this month include:

- League Staffing Changes
- Classified Leadership Institute Recap
- JPA Trust Grows
- On-line Collective Bargaining Database Overview
- League VP Named Interim Chancellor
- CEO Meeting Information

## **CEO CHANGES**

- Paul Pai resigned the Supt/President position at Imperial Valley CCD to accept the position of President of the Meramec campus of the St. Louis CCD effective August 1. Gary Rodgers, the vice-president for academic services, has been appointed interim superintendent/president.
- Chris O'Hearn, superintendent/president of Mt. San Antonio CCD, has retired; John Nixon, the vice president of instruction at the college, has been named interim superintendent/president.
- Michael Kasler, executive vice-president at Cypress College has been appointed president, effective July 1.
- Robert "Bobby" Adams, vice president of student affairs at Santa Monica College, has been named president of Merritt College.
- Tom Harris has been named interim superintendent/president at College of the Redwoods.
- Victoria Muñoz Richart, superintendent/president of MiraCosta CCD since 2004, has resigned from that position.
- Phoebe Helm, retired president from Chicago and formerly vice-president of instruction at Palomar is the Interim Supt/Pres at Hartnell CCD.
- Homer Cissell has resigned as superintendent/president of Lassen College, effective July 3. Larry Perryman, chief business officer at the college, will serve as its interim president.
- Wise Allen will be the interim president of Berkeley City College until Dec 2007.
- Raj Chopra is the new president at Southwestern CCD.
- Ted Martinez, formerly president of Grossmont College, is the new superintendent/president of Rio Hondo CCD.
- Thom Armstrong, superintendent/president of Cooper Mountain College, has announced that he is taking a leave of absence, effective immediately.