



California  
Community  
Colleges

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Josh Newman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
1021 O Street, Suite 6520  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike Fong, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Higher Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Baccalaureate Degree Program Update**

Dear Senator Newman and Assemblymember Fong,

We received your April 18<sup>th</sup> letter and would like to meet to discuss your concerns and collaborate on next steps. We share your commitment to best serve our students and the State of California, and to collaboratively find a path forward with you and the other higher education segments. In the meantime, we would like to share the following updates.

***Progress on Dispute Resolution Work group is promising***

On February 3, 2023, California State University Interim Chancellor Koester requested that a work group to address dispute resolution be formed. On March 13, 2023, in consultation with incoming California Community Colleges Chancellor Sonya Christian, I sent a letter to Chancellor Koester supporting the request to establish this workgroup. Each segment appointed three representatives, and their first meeting took place on April 13, 2023.

In the first cycle of reviewing baccalaureate applications in 2022, we received 10 applications, of which nine (9) met the criteria to be advanced and reviewed by our University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) segment partners. With our four-year partners, we were able to reach agreement on all of the proposed programs, except for one. Throughout our first cycle, each segment was asked to identify areas we could work on to improve the process and expedite our determinations regarding campus applications. In addition, the work group requested by the CSU Chancellor has been charged with creating a dispute resolution process. We are optimistic that the progress made by this work group will



result in a memorandum of understanding that can be signed between the two segments. The next meeting of the workgroup will take place on May 11, 2023.

***Meeting Student Needs***

AB 927 established strict timelines for the Baccalaureate Degree Program (Ed. Code, § 78042, subd. (h)(1).), which the Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office is required to meet as part of our statutory requirements for the program's second cycle, and for which community college districts across the state have dedicated substantial time and effort to preparing degree program proposals. In cycle 2, a total of 29 applications were received, of which 14 have met the criteria to be advanced and reviewed by our four-year partners. Much like our first cycle, we anticipate that for many of the applications, all segments will agree. We are committed to effectively serving students who would not otherwise have access to the life-changing opportunities that a four-year degree provides. We look forward to further discussion and your partnership to serve the needs of Californians.

We appreciate your invitation to collaborate and your support for the implementation of AB 927. Our Government Relations team will follow up with your staff to request a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daisy Gonzales".

Dr. Daisy Gonzales  
Interim Chancellor

CC: Amy Costa, President, California Community Colleges Board of Governors  
Sonya Christian, Chancellor Select, California Community Colleges  
Wendy Fong, Chair, The California State University Board of Trustees  
Jolene Koester, Interim Chancellor, The California State University  
Michael Drake, President, The University of California  
Rich Leib, Chair, The University of California Board of Regents