
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District
Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee
Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Board Conference Room
1370 Adams Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Trustees Present: Trustee Patterson and Trustee Prinsky
Trustees Absent: None

In Attendance: Dr. John Weispfenning, Chancellor; Dr. Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology; Dr. Andy Dunn, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administrative Services; Erik Fallis, District Director Public Affairs and Marketing, District; Austin Webster, Townsend Public Affairs Senior Associate; Jane Burton, Manager, Board Support Services/Board Secretary.

Also in attendance: Laura Kroeger, Townsend Public Affairs Associate, participated through teleconference.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no requests to address the Legislative Affairs Committee during Public Comment

4. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of October 4, 2019

On a motion by Trustee Prinsky, seconded by Trustee Patterson, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the Meeting of October 4, 2019.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Trustee Patterson and Trustee Prinsky
No: None
Absent: None

5. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Federal Community College Legislation/Update on Watch List

Laura Kroeger, Associate from Townsend Public Affairs, provided an update and review regarding the Federal Community College Legislation and update on the Watch List.

- **H.R. 4674 (Scott) College Affordability Act:** The biggest news coming out of D.C. is this new bill, similar to the Higher Education Act Reauthorization Bill. This bill specifically addresses wrap around services that students need in order to stay in school. This includes campus child day care, academic and career advising, and it would create a small grant program to cover financial emergencies that students sometimes face.

This bill will also make changes to PELL Grants, such as allowing PELL Grants to be used for short term programs. It repeals the ban on PELL Grants for incarcerated students, and expands other programs that help with education and community re-entry. Another thing it does is increase the value of the grants (the new maximum is \$6,820 per semester) and it ties the grants to inflation for future increases to avoid going back to Congress for each increase.

Ms. Kroeger read through the detailed description for this bill as described in the Townsend Public Affairs memo provided to the Legislative Affairs Committee dated November 7, 2019.

Other main topics of interest included within this bill are Financial Aid (simplifies FAFSA) and Minority-Serving Institutions. It increases and permanently reauthorizes mandatory funding for Minority Service Institutions. Senator Alexander would like mandatory funding tied to a Higher Education Act Reauthorization and doesn't want to move on a stand-alone bill. This leaves the minority servicing institutions dealing with a lapse in funding in the meantime. This bill would reauthorize funding permanently. This bill also covers accountability and maintains consumer protections which include veteran's safety provisions, and would block the Department of Education Title IX rules that were implemented recently. It protects from harassment and compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the Department of Education's new Title IX rule concerning sexual assault liability. During the Obama Administration the Department of Education rolled out a series of rules related to Title IX and sexual assault that were meant to protect students who were victims of sexual assault on campus or as a result of being associated with a college or university. Under the Trump Administration the Dept. of Education rolled back many of those rules and put in place new rules that put liability on the students. As part of this bill the rule will be blocked so that the student is not liable.

Dr. Serban requested more information regarding the funding for Minority-Serving Institutions, and asked if that includes funding for Title III and V grants. This information will be provided by Townsend at a later date.

Chancellor Weispfenning flagged the section in the report on accountability and accreditation, stating we received an email from CHIA with some of their concerns about the Act, and concerns regarding the motivations of ACCJC and

possible governmental influences. Ms. Kroeger will review these concerns and these specific sections of the bill.

Mr. Fallis explained the interesting situation with having both a House and a Senate version of each Reauthorization Bill and requested an analysis and detailed breakdown of the differences between the two. Townsend will address this request with a side by side. It was also noted that revisions to the bills are to be expected, however, the major differences will be provided.

The cost is unofficially estimated at \$400 billion over the next decade, but lawmakers are still discussing potential options for offsets, which are not part of the legislation. The cost of any higher education bill is likely to be a significant sticking point in negotiations between the Democratic-controlled House and GOP-controlled Senate.

The goal is a December vote on the floor, although it is a very tight window. A shut down 2 weeks from today is expected which will be impactful across the board.

Ms. Kroeger reported on the Support and Watch lists, everything held.

SUPPORT: Not a lot of movement from the previous report.

WATCH: Although nothing has changed since the last Committee meeting, the Bill Summary Chart with funding levels has expanded to include the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program.

6. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on State Community College Legislation/Update on Watch List

Mr. Webster reported on the State legislation. The last Committee meeting covered most of the bills we have paid attention to through the year, there were just a couple of outstanding bills that we are still waiting for decisions from the Governor. Mr. Webster highlighted three specifically:

- **AB 500 (Gonzalez D) School and Community College Employees: Paid Maternity Leave:** Would have provided six weeks paid maternity leave. The Governor vetoed that piece of legislation, which was a surprise to many labor unions that expected it to get signed. There could be some kind of a waiver sought after or something incorporated into the budget that is related to that policy action.
- **AB 612 (Weber D) Cal Fresh: Restaurant Meals Program:** Allows students to access their Cal Fresh on our campuses, was signed and will go into effect as of January 1, 2020. More information to come; it is good news for our students.
- **AB 1727 (Weber D) Community Colleges: Career Development and College Preparation Courses:** This was vetoed by the Governor as he cited cost concerns.

7. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Priorities for Next Year

Mr. Webster went reviewed what he expects to be the “hot topics” and areas where we should be proactive. Revisiting:

- **AB 1727 (Weber D) Community Colleges:** Career Development and College Preparation Courses
- **AB 720 (Muratsuchi D) Community Colleges:** Funding: Instructional Service Agreements with Public Safety Agencies

It is anticipated that there will be a push to incorporate these two bills into the Budget Act next year in policy form. The Committee will be kept updated, Governor's signature is expected in June 2020.

DACA is going to be heard again in the upcoming weeks. California is one of the main proponents of keeping the program intact. Many students are impacted, and the Attorney General released information this week that they are going to do everything they can to fight the administration from stopping the program, and to continue as is, including bringing in new applicants. We will continue to monitor this topic. There will be some big updates once the court hears the case and issues their ruling. Opening arguments are November 12, 2019.

FACULTY DIVERSITY: In Riverside Assembly Member Medina hosted a Special Session of the Higher Education Committee to discuss faculty diversity. This has been a topic of interest for the OC Legislative Task Force and will continue to be for the upcoming year. No actual policy change is expected this year.

THE HOMELESS STUDENT PARKING BILL: Townsend is working to give a full analysis of the funding that was provided to UC and CSU for the rapid rehousing. The OCC student housing was also discussed as a potential tie in.

BRN: There was an audit done of the Bureau of Registered Nursing which oversees the authorization certification of all nurses in the state, and also approves our programs to continue to train nurses. Once the audit is complete, there could be need for additional legislation. A bill was introduced by Senator Roth last year with the intent of doing some BRN clean-up. With the outcome of that audit in mind, Mr. Webster will ask Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris to do a spot-bill for us. That way when the audit comes out, if there are issues, we will have a vehicle to move forward. The audit is expected to be released in April 2020.

STATE RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS: Is still a big issue for the District. Discussions have begun to possibly reintroduce the Marty Block bill from a couple of years ago, with some amendments. The consumer protections for our students was an issue. Dr. Serban shared that Coastline is dropping students enrolled in online classes from other states that do not have the reciprocity agreement. Financial Aid is also informing these students that we cannot process any financial aid for them. There are already approximately 130 students at Coastline in this situation, and there will be more in the spring. The authorization fees for many states is very high, when and if approved. The Legislative Affairs Committee is

interested in seeing the data and background regarding this issue. This will be a focus for the new year.

The Legislature is on recess until January 6, 2020.

Other issues of focus for next year and in the coming years:

- Whole student issues will continue to be a topic of focus
- Homeless students and how to house those students
- Revisiting Cal Fresh
- Mental health services
- Wrap around services
- Financial aid simplification
- Enrollment paperwork process/simplification

8. Update from the Orange County Legislative Task Force

Mr. Webster updated the Committee. The Task Force met to discuss big picture, what the four districts collectively in Orange County can work on for next year in a more proactive manner. Chancellor Martinez from Rancho is interested in linking the group to the Chancellor at UCI and the President from Cal State Fullerton to try to build some legislative allies in the CSU and UC system. Veterans funding and housing will be a priority for as well as the nursing issue and audit that is to come out from the BRN. Homelessness and the student parking issue will be a focus.

9. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

10. Future Agenda Items

- a. Priorities for Next Year.
- b. Timely Communications and Processes.
- c. Updates on Watch List
- d. Updates from OC Legislative Task Force
- e. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Federal Community College Legislation
- f. Discussion of Advocacy
- g. Sacramento and Washington trips mid-February

11. Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Prinsky, seconded by Trustee Patterson, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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| Aye: | Trustee Patterson and Trustee Prinsky |
| No: | None |
| Absent: | None |



Secretary of the Board
Jane Burton