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## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

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**Coast Community College District**  
**Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2020 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, Austin Webster, Townsend Public Affairs Senior Associate; Julie Clevenger, Director, Chancellor's Office Operations & Governmental Affairs, Spencer Finkbeiner, Student Trustee, 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 November 7, 2019**

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the Meeting of November 7, 2019.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

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

Austin Webster introduced Laura Kroeger from Townsend Public Affairs in D.C. to provide an update.

Ms. Kroeger described the current landscape in Washington D.C. regarding the higher education legislation. The House and the Senate both need to introduce a version of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act in order to update higher education policy. Senator Lamar Alexander, the Chairman of the Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee, introduced a slimmed down version, just prior to the House introducing a more comprehensive version. A handout for the Committee provides an overview and comparison as a point of reference for both The College Affordability Act (H.R. 4674) and the Student Aid Improvement Act (S.2557).

The House bill, College Affordability Act (H.R. 4674) has moved out of committee. The Senate has not introduced a comprehensive piece of legislation that would reauthorize the Higher Education Act.

In December 2019 both chambers passed, and the President signed, the Future Act. This bill permanently reauthorizes over \$250 million dollars in funding for minority serving institutions. This bill has a provision to make it easier to apply for financial aid.

Congress passed, and the President signed, another full year of Government funding through September 30, 2020. This includes an extra \$1.3 billion for education funding across the board. All of the line item provisions we were monitoring received level funding or an increase in funding. Important highlights include:

- Title III Part A Strengthening Institutions Grant – Approximately \$8 million increase
- Title V Part A Developing Hispanic - Serving Institutions Grant – received a bit less than \$20 million
- Pell Grant - \$2 billion and an increase in the Pell Grant by \$150.00 bringing it up to \$6,345.00.
- Perkins Grant - \$600 million increase
- Campus Grant – \$3 million, the Child Care Act
- The Strengthening Community College Training Grant - The creation of a new grant program received \$40 million.
- STEP funding within the education innovation and research grant program with a dedicated funding stream, received an extra \$65 million.

The official kick-off of the fiscal 2020-2021 appropriation season will begin this February when the President releases his budget requests. That will be the starting point for Congress and negotiations could continue into next year for the new fiscal year.

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

Austin Webster from Townsend Public Affairs continued the updates with information regarding the January budget proposal from January 10, 2020. In total, the budget is just shy of \$222.2 billion in funding, an increase of about 5.2 billion from the last year.

Specific to the community college system, there wasn't very much in the budget compared to previous years. A few important highlights are noted below:

- The Governor has stated he does not want to make any additional changes to the Student Centered Funding Formula this year. The reason being he wants the Chancellor's office to have more time to gather data and obtain additional recommendations from the working group. This is an issue due to the lack of funding that is going toward the funding formula, and the fact that there are needed changes. Expected during the May revise is the recommendation to include first generation students within the formula.
- The biggest individual line item provided for the district is \$167.2 million for a 2.29% cost of living adjustment.
- There is an augmentation that totals about \$83 million related to the expansion and support for apprenticeship programs. Approximately \$20 million of that is one time funds.
- \$700,000 in one time funds for a work group to assess the student athlete compensation issue that was passed into law specific to the community college system.
- \$15 million for a Faculty Diversity PIPT.
- \$10 million each for part-time faculty office hours and for legal services for our undocumented student populations, one time funds.
- An ongoing augmentation of \$5.8 million for supporting the Dreamer Resource Liaison positions that are required for individual districts now.

Dr. Andrew Dunn provided additional information, specifically:

- The SCFF is now fully funded, and we are told there should be no deficit
- No base augmentation
- No initial pension relief
- No current year change in the SCFF
- On the capital side, 24 of 25 capital projects included in the budget including the Chemistry project at Orange Coast.
- Lizette Navarette was introduced as the new Vice Chancellor of Finance for the system beginning February 3, 2020.

Mr. Webster answered a few questions for the Committee regarding Calbright:

- The online college will not receive additional funds.
- Assemblyman Jose Medina is calling for an audit of Calbright College.
- The legislative's budget proposal includes reductions to Calbright's funding.
- They have had issues with hiring faculty and enrollments.
- The CEO was placed on administrative leave and resigned effective 3/31/20.
- Calbright has signaled they are trying to have more of a GE approach.

## **7. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action Priorities for 2020**

The January budget proposal kicks off the whole season and the hearings will be monitored. Our focus will be additional funding, and Mr. Webster's suggested areas to monitor are as follows:

- Some of the one-time funding will be shifted around, not just from within the Prop 98 side of the budget, but from the standard general side as well, and that money could be put toward another buy down of the pension obligations.
- It is in our interest to try to keep the \$15 million for the faculty diversity pilot in-tact, and then COLA will trend up.
- The assumption is that we will get just over \$5 billion more than we had in the budget last year. The LAO's projections are for just over \$7 billion. Mr. Webster imagines we will land somewhere in the middle and there will be an extra billion dollars in there for folks to fight over between now and May.

The introduction deadline for new legislation is February 21, 2020. About 200 new pieces of legislation have already been introduced.

WATCH:

- SB 777 (Rubio D) – Faculty diversity, 75/25 hiring goal
- AB 302 (Berman D) - Homeless Student Parking Bill
- SARA - State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

SARA: There are some issues regarding requirements for an oversight entity for participating states. California does not have a centralized higher education body. Various solutions are in consideration.

The Chancellor shared an idea with the Committee to have the Cal State system refer all first year and second year students to the community colleges, and not enroll first and second year students. It would be roughly 160,000 students. That would then open up 160,000 more transfer seats for our students to go in to the Cal State system as juniors. Students would have two years at the Cal

States and would receive their Bachelor's degree. It could effectively double the number of Bachelor degrees granted by the Cal State system, and cut the costs in half for the students that were redirected to the community colleges. This would be essentially cost neutral, it benefits the students pocket, and it doubles the number of bachelor degrees. The idea will be thoroughly vetted and brought to the Board of Trustees for their support.

## **8. Review, Discuss and Possible Action Regarding Advocacy**

This year the focus will be financial aid and supporting our undocumented students. As we move into the spring season, a ruling is anticipated regarding the DACA case in the Supreme Court. This is not anticipated to go in the favor of our students.

## **9. Discussion of Sacramento and Washington trips mid-February**

The Community College League of California's Annual Conference is to be held at the end of this month, January 26 & 27<sup>th</sup>. Townsend Public Affairs will host the legislative reception the night of January 26<sup>th</sup> as a sponsor with the League. The California League and the Foundation for California Community Colleges will hold a reception on the Tuesday evening of the Conference. The US Conference of Mayors is next week. February 9<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> is the ACCT Conference. Townsend will sponsor a panel to discuss best practices while discussing issues in meetings during advocacy days. Details will follow with the schedules and meeting information for each of these conferences.

## **10. Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

## **11. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Legislation that have been newly introduced
- b. Budget Updates
- c. Reports from advocacy visits to Washington

## **12. Adjourn**

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

  
Secretary of the Board  
Jane Burton

