
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District
Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee
Thursday, June 18, 2020
Zoom Telephonic Conference Call
1370 Adams Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

In Attendance: Dr. John Weispfenning, Chancellor; Dr. Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology; Dr. Andrew Dunn, Vice Chancellor of Finance, and Administrative Services, Austin Webster, Townsend Public Affairs Senior Associate, Laura Kroeger, Townsend Public Affairs Associate, Julie Clevenger, Director, Chancellor's Office Operations & Governmental Affairs, Jane Burton, Manager, Board Support Services / Board Secretary

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

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

4. Approval of Minutes: Meeting February 25, 2020

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the Meeting of February 25, 2020.

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 from Townsend Public Affairs in D.C. provided an update for the Committee, noting the last committee meeting was held before the Covid-19 outbreak.

The Higher Education Reauthorization Act movement had slowed down since Covid-19. More information would follow on this topic.

The next Corona virus aid package phase 4 status was being negotiated between the House and the Senate. The Heroes Act had been approved by the full house. This was a three trillion-dollar bill total with one hundred billion to schools, mostly to a state stabilization fund, 500 billion to states that would help stabilize and stop budget cuts to schools, and 1.7 billion to minority serving institutions and HCU's as well as restarting grant programs for trade and career training. As to the timing, we would expect to see phase 4 finalized by August recess 2020.

Regarding the DACA announcement, the supreme court announced that the Trump administration acted incorrectly and against the law when it attempted to disband the DACA program. Some specifics worth noting within the decision 5-4, the opinion was that the administration and the Department of Homeland Security had the ability and the right to disband the program, they just didn't do it correctly. An explanation identifying the purpose of disbanding the program was lacking, citing a previous court case smaller in scope having to do with the benefits of the DACA program including work authorizations, Medicare, and Medicaid access, whereas the administration disbanded the entire system all together and possibly subjected people to deportation. The Trump administration might come back with a more acceptable proposal. For now, those in the DACA program were still protected from deportation. Calls were out for a legislative solution to put this topic to rest, which would be very difficult in an election year.

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

Austin Webster provided a list of legislative bills to discuss. Since the last meeting, the number of bills and legislation had reduced dramatically. A small number of bills active were deemed time sensitive and critical to operations and systems for that point in time. All of them were relatively small in comparison to larger items discussed previously, and all were non-controversial.

AB 2019 (Holden D) Pupil Instruction: College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships: County Offices of Education

This bill related to career access pathways, would make it easier to work broadly across the county with school districts to partner on CCAP. This clarification bill expanded the definition of high schools to include continuation high schools, juvenile court schools and other places where students could benefit from these concurrent enrollment programs.

AB 2030 (Rubio, Blanca D) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program

Related to the Cal Grant program funding for students. This bill would impact the amount of funding the student is eligible to receive.

AB 2190 (Medina D) Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

Student Trustee compromise allowing for the appointed students to have a vote in the first year on the board.

AB 2341 (McCarty D) Student Equity and Achievement Program: Rising Scholars

This was related to the rising scholars network and student equity and achievement program. There was concern about creating a new program and sensitivity at the Senate level surrounded this topic due to current events.

AB 2388 (Berman D) Public Postsecondary Education: Basic Needs of Students

Related to basic needs of students.

AB 2416 (Gabriel D) Postsecondary Education: Student Aid: Satisfactory Academic Progress

Related to financial aid and academic progress. Provided flexibility to be mindful of individual students particular circumstances regarding student homelessness.

AB 2494 (Choi R) Postsecondary Education: Course Credit for Prior Military Education, Training and Service

The community college district model could expand and apply to the four year public institutions.

AB 2884 (Berman D) California State Lottery: Revenue

Related to the California State Lottery and allocation of that revenue. The district had a small balance carryover and this bill would seek to provide more flexibility with how those funds were allocated.

AB 2972 (Limon D) Public Postsecondary Education: Undocumented Students

Related to undocumented students. This could require the creation of a system wide training program for administrators. The annual training requirement would be a cost for the District.

AB 3137 (Voepel R) Community Colleges: California College Promise: Members of the Armed Forces of the United States

Related to members of the armed forces. If called to active duty while enrolled in one of our programs, the student would not lose eligibility for any benefits associated with that program. No issues foreseen.

Mr. Webster anticipated all of the above noted legislature would move forward with the exception of the Rising Scholars Program.

The committee further discussed the state lottery funds distribution as the school fund allocation had reduced significantly since the state lottery was implemented, due to a reduction in state lottery sales.

AB 5 (Gonzalez) Worker Status: Employees and Independent Contractors

Townsend Public Affairs would research the verbiage and general interpretation for this bill to address concerns regarding compliance. Clarification was needed to determine if guest lecturers and consultants would be required to onboard as regular employees, including state required training for employees.

Questions to consider; does this person do the business of the organization when they are educating, when a course for this topic is already offered by our organization, and education is the business of our organization? Mr. Webster indicated the original bill addressed some of these concerns with language governing the amount of time individuals were spending in comparison to regular employees. Topical considerations and durations should be considered.

ACA 5 Affirmative Action Constitutional Amendment

This was currently making its way through the legislature. There was concern that this legislation would not have the impact it was intended to have if passed.

7. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Newly Introduced Legislation

No action at this time

8. Update from Orange County Legislative Task Force

The Chancellor and Trustee Prinsky provided a brief update for the committee, commenting that most everything was on hold due to Covid-19.

9. Report of Budget Updates

Vice Chancellor Dunn reminded the committee there continued to be much uncertainty in the financial budget this year. The Governor's proposal had implemented significant cuts in the May revised. The legislature's approach was opposite, and would only cut or defer funds if in fact federal funds did not materialize.

Mr. Webster added comments. Recent consensus was there would be a phase 4 deal with more funds for state and local government with other funds to be made available.

Monday legislature approved their budget proposal, keeping the funding level at current fiscal year rates across the board for everyone on the Prop 91 side including us.

There was a strong desire on the part of legislative leaders to wrap this up within a week.

A budget junior bill was expected this summer. After July 15, 2020 we would know exactly how much revenue had come in for the state. It would be August or September before we would know where we were with the budget. Mr. Webster indicated he anticipated a 2021-22 budget shortfall of revenue.

10. Covid-19 Updates

- There was confusion as to whether we would be allowed to reopen in- person classrooms.
- A Statewide mandate was implemented in California for everyone to wear a mask.
- The impact to our budget and enrollments due to the current out of country travel restrictions.
- There were questions surrounding how we were providing access to students, distance education costs, and ways to provide additional funding for the infrastructure needs for students.

11. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

12. Future Agenda Items

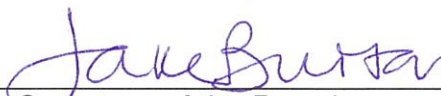
- a. Budget Updates
- b. Legislation Status
- c. Update from Orange County Legislative Task Force

13. Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Prinsky, seconded by Trustee Patterson, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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



Secretary of the Board
Jane Burton

