

---

# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

---

Coast Community College District

Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee

Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 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;; Erik Fallis, District Director, Public Affairs and Marketing; Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director, Townsend Public Affairs; Laura Kroeger, Townsend Public Affairs, Senior Associate; Julie Clevenger, Director, Chancellor's Office Operations & Governmental Affairs; Roy Sahachaisere, Student Trustee; Dr. Dana Emerson, Dean, Coastline College; Michael Scott, Project Director, Coastline College; Jane Burton, Manager/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 of January 21, 2021

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2021.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Trustee Prinsky and Trustee Patterson

No: None

Absent: None

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

The Committee moved this item up on the agenda.

---

Laura Kroeger, Senior Associate from Townsend Public Affairs, provided the most recent coronavirus relief bill updates. Congress had moved a bill forward using reconciliation rules. The bill included almost \$40 Billion in emergency aid grants for higher education institutions, and that was almost twice as much as the bill passed in December 2020. This bill had similar requirements as the previous federal funding bill.

At least half of the bill funding would be dedicated to emergency financial grants to students for hardships, hunger, homeless, etc. and the remainder of the funds would be subject to the same type of restrictions as the previous bill, to monitor and suppress the coronavirus and respond to the pandemic.

Additional input from the Department of Education was expected to be provided.

Highlights from the bill included the following:

- \$ 40 Billion for childcare
- \$ 5 Billion for food benefits
- \$ 4 Billion for home assistance
- \$350 Billion for state and local funding, of which California would be on track to receive \$26.3 Billion.
- It was confirmed there could be sub-grants and sub-allocations from those funds.
- The funding would be flexible in terms of use restrictions.

The exact timing of the bill and funding was not available.

Ms. Kroeger answered questions from the Committee regarding the \$15.00 per hour minimum wage. Also discussed were potential replacement legislators and Department of Education position nominees.

President Biden's immigration plan was officially introduced to Congress. The plan would create a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented people currently living in the U.S. with a time frame of roughly 8 years, depending upon factors, and would also make some reforms to family-based immigration.

## **6. Budget Updates – Casey Elliott, Townsend Public Affairs**

Mr. Casey Elliott from Townsend Public Affairs provided timely updates regarding the budget. Most pressing, the Governor had signed a portion of the budget package that contained a number of items in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Top items:

- \$600 checks for individuals filing for 2020 tax year, earning \$35,000 or less in addition to other filing categories to receive state benefits.
- \$2 Billion was in the package for small businesses, the bulk of that would be distributed through the California Small Business Relief Grant.

- Fee relief for Covid-19 impacted businesses not able to operate due to public health orders.
- There was funding for community college items in the early action package. The largest of three allocations was \$100 Million to be made available for financial assistance to low income students. The dollar distribution amounts to districts would be based on headcount of students that received a fee waiver or met income criteria for the Dream Act on applications.
- The second pot of funding was the \$20 Million for student retention and enrollment. It would go to the State Chancellor's Office to hold 10%.
- The third pot of funding would be \$3.1 Million for increasing student applications for Cal Fresh benefits.

The piece not resolved was the return to classroom instruction for K-12 although the funding was available.

Next year 2021-22 State budget legislative informational hearings had begun on basic elements of the Governor's budget proposal, and had started to be considered by the Senate budget committees, no action taken.

Prop 98 overall funding number revisions were impending.

Finance came out with their first cash report for February 2021. The surplus remained consistent with the January 2021 report for the State.

Potential future legislature position nominees were discussed by the Committee.

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

A bill matrix was provided for the Committee.

The bill introduction deadline in Sacramento had passed. Just under 2500 bills were introduced in the current year.

Due to the pandemic, the Legislature was expected to continue to modify the session schedules.

## **8. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Future Legislation and Legislative Priorities**

A comprehensive list of priority legislation for community colleges would be presented and discussed at the next meeting.

Some measures related to providing services for the opioid addicted would be brought forward.

AB245 was briefly discussed regarding name and gender changes and would be researched for discussion at the next meeting.

## **9. Update from Orange County Legislative Task Force**

Coast Community College District would begin hosting the OCLTF meetings in August 2021.

The potential Governor recall was a topic of discussion at the last meeting.

## **10.COVID-19 Updates**

- The Covid-19 virus numbers were down
- New vaccine sites were opening
- Social distancing practices were described
- Spring 2022 “back to normal” was anticipated

## **11.Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

## **12.Future Agenda Items**

- a. Budget Update – Casey Elliott
- b. Federal Legislative Updates
- c. State Legislative Updates
- d. Future Legislative Priorities

## **13. 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