
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District
Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee
Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 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; Tim McGrath, President, Golden West College, 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; Mary Grady, Administrative Assistant, Board of Trustees, 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 February 25, 2021

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

Laura Kroeger, Senior Associate from Townsend Public Affairs, updated the Committee.

The Corona virus relief package, called the American Rescue Plan, was signed into law. The bill would provide \$170 billion for education funding. From this amount nearly \$40 billion would provide for emergency financial aid for higher education, under the higher education relief fund.

California was slated to receive \$26.3 billion for state and local government, an amount that would improve the state financial outlook going forward.

Some additional benefits from the bill included the following:

- \$1400 per person up to a certain income level
- Expansion benefits for small businesses
- Rental Assistance
- Home Owner Assistance

Further details of the expansive bill would be provided upon request.

There was a mix of state and federal funding received by Coast Colleges, including \$3.6 million from the early action package put forth by the Governor.

Noted by Ms. Kroeger, earmarks had returned with stipulations. Each member of congress could request ten earmarks. The Committee deadlines were set for the end of April 2021.

The House passed two immigration bills, the American Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Worker Modernization Act. It was not certain if these bills would be approved by the Senate.

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

Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director, Townsend Public Affairs provided a high-level briefing from the state legislation progress in Sacramento. The focus would shift from budget to policy. The legislature had just begun the summer recess and would return the first part of April 2021.

The Governor's budget revisions would be available in May 2021.

7. Review, Discuss, and Possible Action on Future Legislation and Legislative Priorities

A legislative update list and a matrix of primary interest bills was provided for the Committee to review. Several priority bills from the matrix provided to the Committee were discussed:

AB 102 (Holden D) College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships: County Offices of Education – removal of sunset

AB 103 (Holden D) Pupil Instruction: College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships: County Offices of Education – expand to allow different types of schools to program.

AB 421 (Ward, D) Community Colleges: Career Development and College Preparation Courses

AB 576 (Maienschein D) Community Colleges: Apportionments: Waiver of Open Course Provisions Military Personnel

AB 1456 (Medina D) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Reform Act

AB 1432 (Low D) The California Online Community College

AB 927 (Medina D) Public Postsecondary Education: Community Colleges: Statewide Baccalaureate

Support: The Committee reviewed the draft support letter provided. The Chancellor indicated he would work on revisions to the letter for review by the Committee (one from him and one from the Board) for submission for Board approval at the April 21 Board Meeting.

The possibility of advocating for pension relief for local education agencies would be considered.

8. Budget Updates – Casey Elliott, Townsend Public Affairs

The state took early action to utilize the state surplus funds of approximately \$15 billion in the current year, with the following bills geared toward pandemic response:

- The Golden State Stimulus – \$7.6 billion
- The Small Business Relief Grant Program - \$2.1 billion

The state surplus provided community colleges with financial relief totaling \$100 million for emergency financial relief and \$20 million directly to students with lost school time due to the pandemic.

Funding for K-12 reopening was approximately \$6.6 billion with a combination of funding from state and federal sources.

9. Update from Orange County Legislative Task Force

The task force met with Congresswoman Young Kim via Zoom to address various topics. The Congresswoman indicated she was receptive to working with the task force and establishing a productive relationship.

The Chancellor continued to work with UCI independently in efforts to coordinate an agreement to move forward with the fall semester for Coast Colleges.

10. COVID-19 Updates

The District continued to monitor statistics from Orange County and the Covid-19 numbers had decreased significantly.

Plans were made for a partial return to campuses in the Fall, with a full return to the campuses expected by Spring 2022.

11. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

12. Future Agenda Items

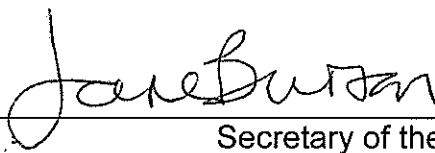
- a. Budget Update – Casey Elliott
- b. Federal Legislative Updates
- c. State Legislative Updates
- d. Future Legislative Priorities

13. Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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



Secretary of the Board
Jane Burton