
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District

Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee

Monday, May 10, 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; Erik Fallis, District Director, Public Affairs and Marketing; Tim McGrath, President, Golden West College, Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director, Townsend Public Affairs; Julie Clevenger, Director, Chancellor's Office Operations & Governmental Affairs; Roy Sahachaisere, Student Trustee; Dr. Dana Emerson, Dean, 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 March 25, 2021

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

Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director, Townsend Public Affairs provided an update for the Committee. The focus in Washington D.C. had been the various proposals rolled out by President Biden in recent weeks. Most importantly, included was the Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan. Continuing Covid-19 relief efforts were of course included.

The Jobs Plan would include infrastructure, transportation, home infrastructure for broadband, workforce development and an increased corporate tax rate to 28%. The modified tax code would cause corporations to pay a larger share of their profits in taxes.

The American Families Plan included elements for free Pre-K and free community college (2 years), with additional resources for minority serving institutions, several childcare elements and tax deductions, and paid family care medical leave. Funding for this proposal would involve increased corporate tax rates and the rollback of the Trump tax cuts.

The President's proposal for the Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan together would be just under \$4 trillion. These proposals were not expected to pass as presented by President Biden.

Data was released from the U.S. Census Bureau which would affect the State of California. Redistricting would take place and California would lose one congressional seat.

The Covid-19 vaccine requirements were discussed by the Committee. Vaccine requirements would most likely be tied to the CDC and completed authorizations.

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

Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director, Townsend Public Affairs continued the discussion with the State Legislation updates.

The redistricting information for the State level data would be available in the fall.

The Policy Committee deadline was April 30th for bills with a fiscal impact, and May 7, 2021 for bills with no fiscal impact. The Appropriations Committee deadline was May 21, 2021 and the first House deadline would be two weeks following, concluding the first half of the legislative session.

The following Community College related information was highlighted:

Covid-19: The State was doing well on the whole, moving for the re-opening on June 15, 2021. The Governor was not expected to lift the State of Emergency on or before June 15, 2021. Vaccine efforts had ramped up.

Re-call: The CA Governor re-call efforts were moving forward. The election would take place as early as late October 2021 and was expected by mid-November 2021. A very large field of candidates was expected.

AB 927 (Medina D) Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate: Would extend the statewide pilot program of the degree program indefinitely. The measure had moved through the Assembly of Higher Education Committee unopposed and was in the Appropriations Committee suspense file to be taken up May 20, 2021.

AB 940 (McCarty D) College Mental Health Services Program: Would amend Prop 63 by appropriating \$20 million annually to fund programs to increase campus student mental health services; \$10 million for community colleges. This bill was in the Appropriations Committee suspense file to be taken up May 20, 2021.

AB 1216 (Salas D) California Community Colleges: governing board membership: student members: This bill was concerning Student Trustees' participation levels. The bill was re-written to establish that each community college can set their own criteria and a working group of specified individuals would be established to review the issues before June 1, 2022 with a year to report back. This bill was also in the Appropriations Committee.

AB 1456 (Medina D) Student financial aid: Cal Grant Reform Act: This bill was amended to provide more funding and was currently in the Appropriations Committee.

AB 1491 (McCarty D) Adult education: consortia: carryover of allocated funds: This bill would prohibit carryover of more than 15% of allocated funding on an annual basis. Dr. Serban explained the implications of the proposed bill to the District.

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to oppose bill AB 1491 (McCarty D), and directed the Chancellor to draft letters for the full Board's approval.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

It was noted that a previous letter of support for AB 927 was sent to the Appropriations Committee.

District representatives and Trustees would meet with Senator Dave Min to discuss his role representing the district and his representation as a member of the budget committee. Trustee Patterson suggested that Senator Min could be invited to tour one of our campuses.

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

No additional bills were discussed for this agenda items.

8. Budget Updates – Casey Elliott, Townsend Public Affairs

The Governor's May revised budget had not yet been released. It would include more resources than originally expected.

A proposal for economic recovery which would provide new rounds of California stimulus checks for tax payers and other assistance was rolled out. Several proposals were expected to be introduced from the Governor in the coming days.

The State of California would have a \$75 billion budget surplus that would include federal funds.

The U.S. Treasury released their guidance on the state and local funding of \$26 billion of The American Rescue Plan Act. The funds would be distributed to the State of California in two separate allocations, the first half now and the second half in twelve months unless the state unemployment rate lowered to within less than 2 points of pre-pandemic levels.

Overall, things were trending in a positive direction.

The state could have more revenue than it was allowed to spend for the year. Tax refunds for tax payers could be required.

9. Update from Orange County Legislative Task Force

The topics from the recent OCLTF meeting included the same topics as already discussed at this meeting.

Coast would host the OCLTF meetings beginning in July 2021.

10.COVID-19 Updates

Requirements for allowing employees and students to return to campuses and offices was still to be determined.

The State Chancellor had provided a statement suggesting the decision to mandate faculty, staff and students to receive the Covid-19 vaccinations could be a local decision, if FDA approval was obtained for one or more of the vaccines. Exemptions would be for medical or religious reasons. It was speculated 25-30% of students and employees might claim an objection to the vaccination.

Chancellor John Weispfenning, Trustee Patterson and Trustee Prinsky discussed this topic with the Committee at length. The Committee agreed this is a complex issue that would require further discussions.

11.Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. and was later changed to June 7, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

12.Future Agenda Items

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

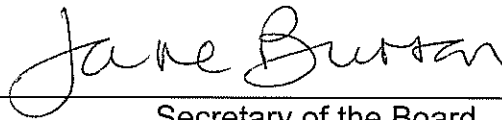
- d. Future Legislative Priorities
- e. OCLTC Updates
- f. Covid-19 Updates

13. Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Burton".

Secretary of the Board
Jane Burton

