
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District
Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee
Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:44 a.m.

2. Roll Call

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

In Attendance: Dr. John Weispfenning, Chancellor; Dr. Andrew Dunn, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administrative Services; Dr. Vincent Rodriguez, President, Coastline College; Julie Clevenger, Director, Chancellor's Office Operations & Governmental Affairs; Michael Scott, Project Director, Coastline College; Roy Sahachaisere, Student Trustee; Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director, Townsend Public Affairs; Ben Goldeen, Senior Associate, Townsend Public Affairs; 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 June 7, 2021

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 7, 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

Ben Goldeen, Senior Associate from Townsend Public Affairs, presented a PowerPoint report for the Committee, providing the federal legislation update.

The bipartisan infrastructure package President Biden had introduced into legislation was expected to pass the House, and would be the largest investment in infrastructure for our nation in generations.

The infrastructure package was presented into legislation as fully paid for. Casey Elliott, State Capital Director for Townsend Public Affairs noted that one of the vehicles for payment of the bill included \$353 million of unspent and unclaimed higher education emergency funds that were identified as unallocated funds. The funds were first provided by the CARES Act in March 2020 and again in December 2020.

The budget reconciliation package was the second part of a two-part path forward with infrastructure. It would be a vehicle for President Biden's proposal for the American Families Plan, and would create a program for two "free" years of community college, and provide significant funding for updating infrastructure.

The total original proposal was \$3.5 trillion. The House submitted a substantial amount of redlines to the proposal package.

Also included within the reconciliation package would be provisions for immigration and DACA.

A question regarding Perkins loans was addressed for the Committee. The program lapsed in 2017 with no clear path forward in Congress. Students would continue to re-pay the loans. There had been no bills put forward to extend the program in two years.

The CDC issued updated guidance recommending masks be worn indoors and in crowded areas. The CDC also issued guidance for grades K-12 recommending masks be worn regardless of vaccination status. The Biden Administration issued a fact-sheet that provided information for efforts to get students back into schools and colleges, and listed resources to provide pop-up vaccine clinics on campus.

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

Mr. Elliott provided a brief overview of the current legislative standings in Sacramento.

The Legislature was at summer recess from July 16 to August 16, 2021. Bills would advance out of second House Appropriations Committee by August 27, 2021 and the Legislature would adjourn for interim recess September 10, 2021.

The Gubernatorial recall election would take place September 14, 2021. There were 46 candidates listed on the ballot.

Governor Newsom signed SB129 into law (which makes amendments to AB128 and represents a budget agreement between the Legislature and Administration).

SB129 combined with AB128 reflects total spending of \$262.6 billion. There were a number of trailer bills to follow.

On the Prop 98 side, minor modifications were expected. Total Prop 98 spending was \$93.7 billion including \$66.4 billion from the General Fund.

Overall the budget package was \$262.6 billion in total spending and \$196.4 billion from the General Fund. Total General Fund Reserves \$25.2 billion.

Community College funding and resource general categories included:

- Support for Institutions
- College Affordability and Basic Needs
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Pandemic Recovery
- Pathways
- Workforce

Other significant funding areas:

- Capital Outlay, Facilities Funding
- Affordable Housing/Housing Production Funding
- Funding to Address Homelessness
- Funding for Broadband Infrastructure

Rental Assistance/Eviction Moratorium:

- Funds would continue to be available after the moratorium expired. Trustee Prinsky expressed the importance of getting the word out to the students that these resources were available, and the Chancellor verified that this was already happening

Pandemic Economic Recovery:

- The Governor advocated for mask mandates and following CDC guidelines. Actions were taken at the state level to mandate vaccines for state workers and healthcare workers.

Highlights and Legislative Updates:

AB 275 (Medina D) Classified community college employees: This bill regarding probationary periods for classified employees was approved on the Senate floor and referred back to the Assembly floor for a concurrent vote.

AB 306 (O'Donnell) – School districts and community college districts:
Employee housing: This bill would exclude the requirement of the Field Act. This bill was signed into law by Governor Newsom.

AB 375 (Medina D) Community colleges: part-time employees: This bill would increase the level of teaching load for part-time, temporary faculty assignments. This bill was approved by the Senate Education Committee and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 927 (Medina D) Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program: This bill was approved by the Senate Education Committee and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1273 (Rodriguez D) Interagency Advisory Committee on apprenticeship: The Director of Consumer Affairs and the State Public Health Officer: New measure assembly bill “earn and learn” job training opportunities would make modifications for internships. This bill would make the State Public Health Officer and the Director of Consumer Affairs ex officio members of the Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship. This bill was approved by the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee and was on the Senate floor for consideration.

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

This agenda item would be revisited for discussions near the end of the legislative session.

8. Budget Updates – Casey Elliott, Townsend Public Affairs

No updates at this time. A possible future topic of discussion for budget modifications would be deferred maintenance costs.

9. COVID-19 Updates

Chancellor John Weisphenning provided the Covid-19 updates for the Committee. A number of districts in California had moved forward with mask mandates, with momentum moving toward vaccine mandates.

Mr. Elliott added that the vaccine would be required for state workers and health workers. CalHR was in the process of rolling out mandated vaccines for various state agencies. Local county and city agencies would follow suit. Larger employers in the private sector had also begun the mandate for vaccines.

Trustee Patterson encouraged incentives and mandates for faculty and staff to wear masks, and if possible, eventually move toward including all students.

Campus class capacity for in-person participation would be at about 1/3 section face to face for the fall semester. The staff in office participation was at approximately 50% and would increase when advisable.

The extension of the Brown Act provision that allowed for remote meetings had been extended to September 30, 2021 and was expected to be extended further.

10. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

11. Future Agenda Items

- a. Budget Update – Casey Elliott
- b. Federal Legislative Updates
- c. State Legislative Updates
- d. Future Legislative Priorities
- e. Covid-19 Updates
- f. Recall results and information

12. Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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



Secretary of the Board
Jane Burton

