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# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

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**Coast Community College District  
Special Meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee  
Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.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. Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology; Tim McGrath, President, Golden West College; Erik Fallis, District Director, Public Affairs and Marketing; Julie Clevenger, Director, Chancellor's Office Operations & Governmental Affairs; Michael Scott, Project Director, Coastline College; Dr. Dana Emerson, Dean, Coastline College; Dr. Kate Mueller, Vice President Student Services, Coastline College; Roy Sahachaisere, Student Trustee; Casey Elliott, State Capitol Director, Townsend Public Affairs; Ben Goldeen, Senior Associate, Townsend Public Affairs; 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 August 5, 2021**

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 5, 2021.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

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

Ben Goldeen, Senior Associate from Townsend Public Affairs, gave an update for the Committee and presented a PowerPoint report.

Appropriations: Federal funding was extended through Dec 3, 2021, and passed with a Continuing Resolution to continue funding at the previous year's funding levels. This offered more time for both the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees to reach a final agreement through negotiations. Another short-term extension was expected December 2021.

Infrastructure: The bipartisan infrastructure package (H.R. 3684), also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a \$1.2 trillion bill to fund traditional structures such as roads, bridges, and funding to provide broadband access to low income people, including an emergency connectivity fund to help students and libraries access broadband during the pandemic, was passed by the Senate on August 10, 2021. The bill was held up while the larger Budget Reconciliation Package was negotiated, a proposed \$3.5 trillion bill moving through the budget reconciliation process. The bill included \$111 billion for higher education, including two years of free community college and a \$500 increase in the maximum Pell Grant Award. The free community college provision would most likely change. A refresh of the details of the bill was provided, the bill had been discussed in detail at the last meeting. The bill was negotiated down with a stated goal to pass by October 31, 2021, although it was not expected to pass by that date.

Debt Ceiling: The debt ceiling was raised over many years. It was usually a form of action passed as part of the budget when the budget passed. Senate would vote October 7, 2021 to pass a temporary extension thru December 3, 2021.

Covid-19 Updates: The Biden Administration had announced OSHA would implement a rule for all employers with more than 100 employees to require vaccination or testing.

Federal Immigration Reform: The proposed reconciliation bill attachment for federal immigration reform turned out not to be the appropriate vehicle to move forward with immigration reform. No movement for immigration reform was expected during the 2021 year.

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

Mr. Casey Elliot, State Capitol Director from Townsend Public Affairs, provided the legislative updates.

The Legislature had adjourned the legislative session September 10, 2021 and would return for the second year of the two-year session in January 2022. The January budget proposal would come out by January 10<sup>th</sup>. The official legislative calendar for 2022 was not yet released.

The Governor was in the process of grouping bills for action in the coming days. The deadline for signature was midnight October 9, 2021. Last year the Governor signed 372 bills which was very low. This year we saw 2,776 bills introduced which is relatively normal. Currently, 822 have been signed, 27 vetoed and 255 are still pending.

Below are specific bills the Committee had discussed, noting recent action. (Click AB number to view the bill links).

**AB 275 (Medina D)** Classified community college employees. Modifies the length of probation period for newly hired from 1 year to 6 mos. This bill was signed.

**AB 375 (Medina D)** Community colleges: part-time employees, increase level of teaching load for part-time. This bill was pending and expected to be signed within days.

**AB 927 (Medina D)** Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program. This bill was signed (expanded, moved from 15 up to 30 programs that can be active at a time).

**AB 928 (Berman D)** Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee. This bill was signed.

**AB 1111 (Berman D)** Postsecondary education: common course numbering system by July 2024. This bill was signed. Dr. Serban spoke to this bill implementation and the student perspective, and added that she believed implementation by July 2024 was an overly ambitious goal.

**AB 1273 (Rodriguez D)** Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship: Adds the Director of Consumer Affairs and the State Public Health Officer as ex-officio members of the committee, and requires the Dept of Consumer Affairs and Dept of Public Health to use licensing or certification that authorizes earn and learn training. This bill was amended with modified language to state there was no requirements for prohibition, causing a delayed implementation to January 2024. This bill was signed.

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

The Committee discussed nursing baccalaureate degree programs and the possibility of future legislation to provide supportive programs and new policy for nursing in the wake of the pandemic.

The Legislature would be back in session January 2022. Mr. Elliott indicated he would anticipate deadlines in the third week of January to get new bill language

to legislative counsel. New bill introductions were anticipated to be introduced by the third week in February 2022.

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

Mr. Elliott continued with the budget updates. There were a handful of trailer bills considered at the end of the Legislative session, including a higher education trailer bill providing minor adjustments to the major budget. A housing program bill provided additional funding for community colleges, although Coast would probably not be interested at the present time.

Revenues had been coming in above projection so we could see some modifications in January or February. The Prop 98 budget would possibly provide an infusion of federal funding provisions for the following year.

## **9. Recall Election updates**

Governor Newsome won the recall election by a large margin and this would probably influence the actions he takes moving forward. January would start the new election cycle.

## **10. Covid-19 Updates**

Chancellor Weispfenning provided an update to the Committee, indicating the vaccination mandate and testing protocol would be rolled out within the next few weeks. Vice Chancellor Serban was working with vendors, and would establish and implement the testing protocol.

The mask mandate was also discussed. Trustee Patterson emphasized the need to make it clear that the mask requirement was for all, including those who were vaccinated.

Legislation was expected on vaccination requirements next year, as the mask and vaccine mandate topics were a continuing conversation.

## **11. Future Meeting Dates**

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

## **12. Future Agenda Items**

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

### 13. Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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



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Secretary of the Board  
Jane Burton

