
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District
Legislative Affairs Committee
August 17, 2023
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Trustees Present: Trustee Lorraine Prinsky
Trustees Absent: Trustee Jerry Patterson

In Attendance:

Whitney Yamamura, Chancellor
Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology
Julie Clevenger, Director of Chancellor's Office Operations
Isela Ocegueda, CCC Vice President of Instruction
Cyndee Ely, OCC Academic Senate President
Casey Elliott, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs
Joseph Melo, Senior Associate, Townsend Public Affairs

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no requests to address the Legislative Affairs Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes: Meetings of May 18 and June 29, 2023

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the May 18 and June 29, 2023 meetings.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

5. Federal Community College Legislation

Joseph Melo of Townsend Public Affairs provided the Federal legislative update. In the month of July, the Supreme Court ruled on affirmative action and student loans. The administration planned to undertake action to offset the impact. Both chambers were in

recess until September 5. All appropriations bills passed in each chamber's appropriations committees, one had passed the House Floor, and none had made it through the Senate Floor.

The student loan forgiveness fallback plan was to forgive \$39 billion in student debt for over 800,000 borrowers. Borrowers would have any outstanding debt cleared after having made eligible payments for 20 or 25 years, depending on the type of loan. Additionally, the Saving on a Valuable Education plan would lower the monthly payment for many borrowers and replace the old Revised Pay-as-You-Earn student loan system.

The House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee approved its FY 2024 funding bill, which included the following budget cuts to education:

- Department of Education: cut of \$22.5 billion across Federal Work Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Child Care Access Means Parents in School, HBCU, TCU, and MSI Research and Development Infrastructure Grants, and Pell Grant.
- Department of Labor: cut of \$4.7 billion across WIOA Adult Job Training State Grants, WIOA Youth Job Training State Grants, Women's Bureau, and Strengthening Community College Training grants.

In July, a Senate panel advanced four government-funding bills preparing for floor votes in September, on measures to boost funding levels. The panel provided basic information on the following bills, which would be released in August: Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, Homeland Security, and Interior-Environment. Additional education legislation introduced in July included the Direct CARE Workforce Act and the Student Debt Alternative and CTE Awareness Act. Congress prepared to update the farm Bill amid budget cuts and addressed race-based admissions policies at a National Summit on Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

6. State Budget

Casey Elliot of Townsend Public Affairs provided the state budget update. In mid-July, Governor Newsom signed into law the final pieces of the 2023-24 state budget and AB 102 reflecting final negotiation agreements. Specific provisions within the higher education budget trailer bill included: Recruitment and Retention Initiatives Reduction, Deferred Maintenance Reduction, CCC Flexible Spending, Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, Student Housing Revolving Loan Fund, Debt Free College for CCC current and former foster youth, Debt Free College for UC and CSU current and former foster youth, MCS Clean Up, CCC Growing, Educating and Maintaining the Nursing Workforce, CCC Strong Workforce Program (SWP), CCC Students on Board of Governors support, Online and Hybrid Education Review and Recommendations, Cal Fresh campus-county data sharing, Cal Grant Priority Application Deadline Extension, Cohort Default Rate for Cal Grant Institutional Eligibility, and CCC Full-Time (FT) Faculty.

The Governor's Administration and the Legislature proposed several statewide bond measures to address issues related to the modernization of school facilities, housing production, behavioral health services, and climate resiliency for consideration by voters

in 2024. Bond measures for the March primary ballot must be approved by two-thirds of lawmakers by the end of the legislative session on September 14 and signed by the Governor. The passage of these bonds would provide for ongoing funding programs that align with state and local goals such as clean energy development, parks and recreation, affordable housing, and transportation.

7. State Community College Legislation

Casey Elliott of Townsend Public Affairs provided the State legislative update. July featured numerous legislative policy committees as the Legislature worked to consider bills before the July 14 Second House Policy Committee deadline. Any bill not passing out of committee by this date became a two-year bill and was ineligible for additional consideration until January. Once reconvened on August 14, the Legislature had over 1,200 measures to consider in the final month of session, before adjourning for the Interim Recess on September 14.

In July, Assembly Speaker Rivas announced his appointment of Cecilia Aguiar-Curry as Speaker Pro Tem and Isaac Bryan as Assembly Majority Leader for the 62-member Democratic caucus.

Relevant dates for the Legislature:

August 14 – Legislature return from Summer Recess

September 1 – Deadline for bills to pass out of fiscal committee (in the Second House)

September 14 – Last day for Legislature to consider bills. Interim recess begins upon adjournment.

Mr. Elliott presented an update on the following bills of interest to the District:

- *AB 358 (Addis) – Community college districts: student housing*
Signed into law by Governor Newsom on July 21.
- *AB 461 (Ramos) – Student safety: fentanyl test strips*
Passed the Senate Health Committee (12-0) and is currently awaiting consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- *AB 610 (Holden) – Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program*
Passed the Senate Transportation Committee (16-0) and is currently pending consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- *AB 634 (Ward) – Community colleges: career development and college preparation courses*
Approved by the Senate Education Committee (7-0) and has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- *AB 1370 (Ta) – California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program*
approved by the Senate Education Committee (7-0) and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee on the Suspense File.
- *AB 1699 (McCarty) – K-14 classified employees: part-time or full-time vacancies*

Approved by the Senate Public Employees and Retirement Committee (4-1) and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee awaiting consideration.

- *AB 1749 (McCarty) – University of California: Associate Degree Guaranteed Transfer Admission Program*

Approved by the Senate Education Committee (7-0) and is currently awaiting consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

- *SB 234 (Portantino) – Opioid antagonists*

Approved by the Assembly Health Committee (15-0) and is currently pending consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

- *SB 433 (Cortese) – Classified school and community college employees: disciplinary hearings*

Approved by the Assembly Higher Education Committee (8-3) and is currently awaiting consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

8. Possible Legislation Related to Mendez v Westminster Curriculum

Mr. Elliott noted that there had been heightened concern surrounding local control of K-12 curriculum and textbooks, and future legislative activity would take place in that environment. Pursuit of legislation was recommended to take place in a co-sponsorship role with the support of K-12 districts and the California School Board Association. The deadline to introduce new legislation for 2024 was anticipated to be February. A resolution for awareness was suggested as a less controversial alternative in lieu of legislation. Chancellor Yamamura recommended also bringing attention to the et al districts that supported the case. A ceremonial resolution would be initiated to formulate language and would accompany the District's upcoming exhibition.

9. Pell Grant Eligibility

In July, the U.S. Department of Education launched a new process through which institutions of higher education could apply to offer postsecondary programs to incarcerated individuals. Individuals enrolled in approved prison education programs were eligible for Federal Pell Grants outside a limited pilot program known as the Second Chance Pell Experiment. The Department of Education began accepting applications on July 3, 2023, and would approve applications on a rolling basis.

In August, the Senate HELP Committee would mark up the Pell expansion legislation, which is known as the JOBS Act, addressing apprenticeships and job training programs. It would allow students to use Pell Grants to cover the costs of training programs, at community or technical colleges that were as short as eight weeks long. Grants were generally limited to programs that ran for at least 15 weeks. House Representatives indicated that expanding the Pell Grant to cover short-term workforce programs was a priority. A proposal unveiled earlier in the year included for-profit colleges, however it also included more stringent eligibility criteria.

10. Future Agenda Items

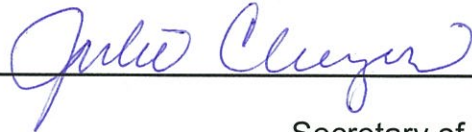
Next Steps on Mendez v Westminster Curriculum

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.



Secretary of the Board
Julie Clevenger