
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District
Legislative Affairs Committee
January 18, 2024
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

In Attendance:

Whitney Yamamura, Chancellor
Meridith Randall, GWC President
Julie Clevenger, Director of Chancellor's Office Operations
Erik Frost Hollins, Director of Public Affairs, Marketing and Foundation
Lee Gordon, OCC Academic Senate President
John Fawcett, OCC Classified Senate President
Alice Martanegara, GWC Associate Dean
Casey Elliott, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no requests to address the Legislative Affairs Committee.

4. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee

Deferred

5. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of October 19, 2023

Deferred

6. Federal Community College Legislation

Casey Elliott of Townsend Public Affairs provided the Federal legislative update. Several education policies made headway and will look to keep momentum going into 2024. Congressional leaders announced a government funding topline agreement. The focus of Congress shifted to passing a short-term clean resolution into early March to ensure the government did not shutdown. The House Education Committee passed the

following major education bills: H.R. 6585, the “Bipartisan Workforce Pell Grant Act” and H.R. 6655, “A Stronger Workforce for America Act.” Both passed by wide, bipartisan margins and awaited consideration by the full House. New FAFSA forms were made available through what the Department of Education deemed a “soft launch” on December 31, 2023. Processing of FAFSA forms would not begin until late January. Congress hoped to enact reforms to the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2024. The legislation would reauthorize WIOA by requiring 50 percent of the adult and dislocated worker funding go toward upskilling workers. The Department of Education announced they were withholding payments to three student loan servicers to strengthen protections for student loan borrowers.

7. Community Funding Requests

Casey Elliott of Townsend Public Affairs provided information relative to requests for earmarks for Federal community funding in 2024 and the pending guidance for the process. It was anticipated that those who participate in the earmark process would begin sending notice for solicitations of projects in coming weeks. Mr. Elliott would provide continuing updates to the committee on the parameters and timelines for both State and Federal earmarks. Julie Clevenger noted that The Early Childhood Center at Orange Coast College was scheduled to receive an award of funding on March 26, 2024. Chancellor Yamamura noted that forming a coalition of colleges with Maritime Programs might increase the probability of support funding. Additional support for the Golden west College Nursing and Automotive Programs would also be pursued.

8. State Community College Legislation

Casey Elliott of Townsend Public Affairs provided the State legislative update. The Legislature concluded the first year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session on September 14 and was on Interim Recess until January 3. All bills not approved by the Legislature prior to adjournment were eligible for consideration when the Legislature reconvened in January 2024.

Relevant dates for the Legislature:

- January 19 – Deadline for House-of-Origin fiscal committees to advance two-year bills.
- January 19 – Deadline to submit requests for new bills to Legislative Counsel for drafting.
- January 31 – Deadline to advance two-year bills out of the House-of-Origin.
- February 16 – Deadline to introduce new bills.

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

- *AB 359 (Holden) – College and Career Access Pathways partnerships*
This bill passed the Assembly Education Committee (10-0) and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The measure is scheduled to be considered on January 18.
- *AB 456 (Maienschein) – Public postsecondary education: mental health hotlines*
This bill passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee (9-0) and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The measure is scheduled to be considered on January 18.

- *AB 810 (Friedman) – Postsecondary education: hiring practices, academic, athletic, and administrative appointments*
This bill passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee (10-1) and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The measure is scheduled to be considered on January 18.
- *AB 1575 (Irwin) – Postsecondary education: sexual harassment, sexual violence, and discrimination: disciplinary actions*
This bill passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee (10-0) and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The measure is scheduled to be considered on January 18.
- *AB 1805 (Ta) – Academic content standards: Mendez v. Westminster School District*
This bill was introduced on January 8th. The measure is currently awaiting referral to a committee.
- *AB 1818 (Jackson) – Postsecondary education: homeless students: parking*
This bill was introduced on January 11th. The measure is currently awaiting referral to a committee.

9. State Budget Activity

Casey Elliott reported that Governor Newsom released the 2024-25 State Budget on January 10 that included an estimated \$37.9 billion budget shortfall. The shortfall was attributed to the decline in the stock market and the delay in income tax collections. The correction that would have come as part of last year's May Revision was instead made in the January 2024 proposed budget release. The Governor's proposal would be updated in May to reflect changes to tax returns, inflationary pressures, and federal monetary policy.

Strategies proposed to address the \$37.9 billion budget deficit:

- Tapping into Reserves - \$13.1 billion
- Reductions in General Fund Spending - \$8.5 billion
- Revenue/Internal Borrowing - \$5.7 billion
- Delays - \$5.1 billion
- Fund Shifts - \$3.4 billion
- Deferrals - \$2.1 billion
- Withdrawal from Proposition 98 reserves - \$5.7 billion

Major provisions in new funding for community colleges:

- \$69.1 million in ongoing apportionment funding to reflect a 0.76% cost-of-living-adjustment for the Student Centered Funding Formula.
- \$29.6 million in enrollment growth funding, which reflects a 0.5% growth rate.
- \$9.3 million for a 0.76% COLA for select categorical programs and the Adult Education Program.
- \$60 million in one-time funding to expand nursing programs and Bachelor of Science in Nursing partnerships.

On December 12, the California Department of Finance released a letter to California State Agency Secretaries regarding a current year expenditure freeze to reduce current-year General Fund expenditures. In mid-December, the Legislative Analyst's Office released a report discussing how meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals could impact existing state transportation revenues and programs.

10. Mendez et. al. Legislation Update

Mr. Elliott reported that legislation to add the curriculum was introduced as Assembly Bill 1805 by Member Ta on January 8. Referral to the Assembly Education Committee was anticipated in mid-March. It was recommended to garner support from neighboring K-12 school districts. A letter of support by the Coast District would be presented to the Board of Trustees at the February 7 meeting.

11. Future Agenda Items

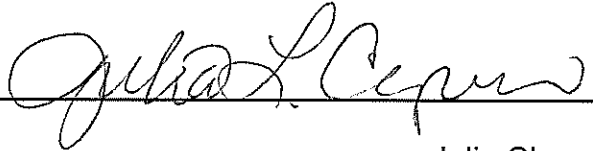
None

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.



Julie Clevenger
Secretary of the Board