
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Coast Community College District
Legislative Affairs Committee
February 29, 2024
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

In Attendance:

Julie Clevenger, Director of Chancellor's Office Operations
Erik Frost Hollins, Director of Public Affairs, Marketing and Foundation
Daniela Thompson, Executive Director of Fiscal Services
Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology
Curtis Williams, OCC Educational Technology Specialist
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. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to appoint Trustee Prinsky as Chair and Trustee Patterson as Vice Chair for 2024.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

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

6. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of January 18, 2024

On a motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2023 and January 18, 2024 meetings.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

7. Federal Community College Legislation

Joseph Melo of Townsend Public Affairs provided the Federal legislative update. Congress continued to complete work on the federal budget to avoid a partial government shutdown after March 1. Congressional leaders were working to reach an agreement with some proposing a year-long continuing resolution if they are unable to secure certain policy riders that would result in across the board cuts, while others preferred a partial, or complete, government shutdown to force a final compromise on the budget.

Mr. Melo provided summary updates on the following legislation of relevance to community colleges: H.R. 6951 The College Cost Reduction Act, H.R. 6655 A Stronger Workforce for America Act, and H.R. 6585 Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act. A letter of support for H.R. 6585 would be presented to the Board of Trustees at the March 6 meeting for approval.

On February 21, President Biden announced the approval of \$1.2 billion in student debt cancellation for almost 153,000 borrowers currently enrolled in the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) repayment plan. It was likely that the President's recent actions would be challenged in court. The Department of Education released a FAFSA College Support Strategy to provide additional personnel, funding, resources, and technology to help schools and students complete the new FAFSA. On February 15, the Department of Education proposed new regulatory text focused on providing debt relief for borrowers experiencing hardship. The Education Department hosted the second of three negotiated rulemaking sessions on Title IV program integrity and quality issues.

8. State Community College Legislation

Casey Elliott of Townsend Public Affairs provided the State legislative update. On February 5, Senator Mike McGuire was sworn in as Senate Pro Tem. On February 8, he announced new Senate and Committee assignments. Senator Lena Gonzalez was appointed as the Majority Leader, and Senators Angelique Ashby and Aisha Wahab as co-Assistant Majority Leaders.

Notable committee changes included Senator Scott Wiener replacing Senator Nancy Skinner as the Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, Senator Anna Caballero replacing Senator Anthony Portantino as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Nancy Skinner replacing Senator Scott Wiener as the Chair of the Senate Housing Committee, and Senator Dave Cortese replacing Senator Lena Gonzalez as the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

As of February 16, the Legislature introduced over 2,100 new bills for consideration, in addition to the two-year bills that remained eligible for consideration.

Relevant dates for the Legislature:

- April 26th – Deadline for House-of-Origin policy committees to approve fiscal bills
- May 3rd – Deadline for House-of-Origin policy committees to approve non-fiscal bills
- May 17th – Deadline for House-of-Origin fiscal committees to send bills to the Floor
- May 24th – Deadline for bills to pass out of their House-of-Origin
- June 15th – Deadline for the Legislature to approve a budget bill

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

- *AB 1575 (Irwin) – Postsecondary education: sexual harassment, sexual violence, and discrimination: disciplinary actions*
This bill passed the Assembly Floor (77-0) and is in the Senate Rules Committee awaiting referral to a policy committee.
- *AB 1805 (Ta) – Academic content standards: Mendez v. Westminster School District*
This bill has been referred to the Assembly Education Committee and has a hearing date of March 20.
- *AB 1818 (Jackson) – Postsecondary education: homeless students: parking*
This bill has been referred to the Assembly Education Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.
- *AB 1855 (Arambula) – Open meetings: community college student body associations*
This bill has been referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee and Assembly Higher Education Committee.
- *AB 1891 (Weber) – Community colleges: allied health programs*
This bill has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.
- *AB 2277 (Wallis) – Community colleges: part-time faculty*
This bill is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.
- *AB 2305 (Fong) – Community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program*
This bill is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.
- *AB 3110 (Fong) – Community colleges: preapprenticeship programs*
This bill is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.
- *SB 895 (Roth) – Community colleges: Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program*
This bill has been referred to the Senate Education Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.
- *SB 1244 (Newman) – College and Career Access Pathways partnerships*
This bill is currently awaiting referral to a policy committee.

9. State Budget Activity

Casey Elliott reported that personal and corporate income taxes were estimated at \$5.7 billion below the Governor's most recent budget estimates as of January 31. Sales tax

and revenue data were forthcoming and would provide a more accurate budget shortfall. The status of the state budget would not be fully realized until April tax receipt data was collected and analyzed. The Legislative Analyst's Office revised its previous assessment of the state's budget deficit and projected the budget shortfall would be \$15 billion higher than previously forecasted, or \$73 billion. Significant pressure is predicted for the Administration to identify additional cost savings as part of the revised budget plan.

In February, the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees began conducting informational hearings to receive more information regarding the Governor's January Budget proposal. Many decisions related to the January Budget proposal were expected to occur after the release of the May Revise. On February 21, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance conducted an informational hearing related to the January Budget proposals impacting the community college system and recommended that the Legislature reject much of what is contained within the Governor's January Budget. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee did not take any action related to the Governor's January Budget proposal, or the Legislative Analyst's Office recommendations and were unlikely to do so until after the May revise.

10. Update on Support for AB1805

Julie Clevenger provided an update on community support for AB 1805. Westminster, Garden Grove and Santa Ana school districts had confirmed support. Newport-Mesa and Huntington Beach districts were pending support. Orange was the only remaining district that had not yet responded. Mr. Elliott noted that Assemblymember Ta's office anticipated the bill to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee on March 20. Sylvia Mendez planned to attend the hearing.

11. Future Agenda Items

None

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.



Richard Goetz
Secretary of the Board