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## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

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**Coast Community College District  
Legislative Affairs Committee  
March 20, 2025  
Via Zoom**

### **1. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Moreno called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Trustee Lorraine Prinsky  
Trustee Jim Moreno

**In Attendance:**

Whitney Yamamura, Chancellor  
Julie Clevenger, Director of Chancellor's Office Operations  
Marlene Drinkwine, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administrative Services  
Andreea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology  
Diane Fiero, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources  
Daniela Thompson, Executive Director of Fiscal services  
Lee Gordon, OCC Academic Senate  
Casey Elliott, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs  
Joseph Melo, Senior Associate, Townsend Public Affairs  
Ricky Goetz, Secretary of the Board

### **3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no requests to address the Legislative Affairs Committee.

### **4. Approval of Minutes: February 27, 2025**

On a motion by Trustee Prinsky, seconded by Trustee Moreno, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2025 meeting.

Motion carried with the following vote:

**Aye:** Trustee Prinsky and Trustee Moreno  
**No:** None  
**Absent:** None

## **5. Federal Community College Legislation**

Joseph Melo of Townsend Public Affairs provided the Federal legislative update. On February 14, The Department of Education warned universities that they could face funding cuts if they continue diversity, equity, and inclusion programs deemed illegal by the administration. Some programs may not be found in violation of the civil rights law, assuming programs do not engage in racial exclusion or discrimination and are open to all students regardless of race.

Linda McMahon was confirmed as the U.S. Secretary of Education. The administration will downsize the department, eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, and consider abolishing the agency. Opposition is concerned that dissolving the Department of Education would harm vulnerable students who rely on federal funding for low-income and disability support programs. McMahon remains committed to shifting education oversight to the state level, and fully dismantling the department would require congressional approval.

A federal court has temporarily blocked the attempt to fire Julia Barnard, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's student loan ombudsman to dismantle the agency. No CFPB employees can be fired without cause until a March 3 hearing. On February 26, the House Education and Workforce Committee held a hearing focused on strengthening the economy through federal policies. Republicans are advocating for deregulation and tax relief while Democrats emphasized investments in job training and social programs. Lawmakers have criticized sudden and opaque cuts to federal education funding and seek transparency on the decision-making process as it relates to cost-cutting measures implemented by the Department of Government Efficiency.

## **6. State Community College Legislation**

Casey Elliott of Townsend Public Affairs provided the State legislative update. February 21 was the deadline for introducing new bills in the Legislature. Lawmakers submitted a total of 2,350 measures for consideration. The next phase is policy committee hearings, where bills will undergo their first formal review.

The Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission has approved a 30-day extension, from March 3 to April 2, for students to complete and submit financial aid applications. In late February, Governor Gavin Newsom launched [Accountability.ca.gov](https://accountability.ca.gov), a new statewide platform to track housing and homelessness funding. This signaled a major shift in homelessness funding, prioritizing encampment resolution over broader homelessness initiatives.

Relevant dates for the Legislature:

February 21 – Last day for bills to be introduced

May 2 – Last day for fiscal bills to be passed by policy committees

May 9 – Last day for nonfiscal bills to be passed by policy committees

May 23 – Last day for bills to be passed by fiscal committees

June 6 – Deadline for bills to pass their House of Origin

Mr. Elliott presented an update on the following priority legislation:

- *AB 90 (Jackson) – Public postsecondary education: overnight student parking*  
Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and is scheduled to be considered on March 18.
- *AB 323 (Fong) – Strong Workforce Program: work-based learning opportunities*  
Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and is scheduled to be considered on March 18.
- *AB 345 (Jackson) – Apprenticeship programs: approval process*  
Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.
- *AB 537 (Ahrens) – Community colleges: California College Promise*  
Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.
- *AB 648 (Zbur) – Community colleges: housing: local zoning regulations*  
Status: This bill has been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.
- *SB 640 (Cabaldon) – Public postsecondary education: admission, transfer and enrollment*  
Status: This bill has been referred to the Senate Education Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.
- *SB 744 (Cabaldon) – Community colleges: credit for students with prior learning*  
Status: This bill is awaiting referral to a policy committee.

## **7. State Budget Activity**

The Legislative Analyst's Office reported potential higher-than-expected revenues for 2024-25, with estimates suggesting \$4.4 billion above the Governor's Budget projections for 2024-25 and \$2.4 billion above for 2025-26. Much of the additional revenue must go to schools and reserves, and higher revenues in 2025-26 could reduce planned rainy-day fund withdrawals. California's short-term revenue outlook has improved, but long-term stability remains uncertain.

New forecasting guidelines emphasize multi-billion-dollar variances in state revenue forecasts, focus on larger trends rather than smaller differences in projections, weigh upside and downside risks when planning, exercise caution in interpreting early-year tax collection trends, and recognize that revenues and the economy do not always align. The next deliverable will be the May Revise.

## **8. Bills for Consideration to Take Position On**

The committee agreed to prepare letters of support for AB 537, SB 744, AB 409, AB 323 and Assembly Commemorative Resolution 34. A letter of opposition will be prepared for AB 90. Additional information will be provided regarding SB 271.

## **9. Grants Status Update**

Vice Chancellor Serban reported that there is bipartisan support to reauthorize Perkins and other Federal grants. There is no indication that there will be a reduction in Federal financial aid funds.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

No new items.

## **11. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

## **12. Adjournment**

On a motion by Trustee Moreno, seconded by Trustee Prinsky, the Committee voted to adjourn at 3:41 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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



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Richard Goetz  
Secretary of the Board