





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: November 12-13, 2013

SUBJECT: State Legislative Program		Item Number: 2.4	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Government Relations	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Vincent W. Stewart, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: Board of Governors' 2014 sponsored legislation.

BACKGROUND: The Board of Governors is requested to adopt a package of sponsored legislation for 2014 based on the recommendations of the Chancellor's Office, with input and guidance from the Consultation Council and the State Legislative Program Task Force. The State Legislative Program Task Force, which is comprised of a subset of members from the Consultation Council, reviewed the legislative proposals on October 16, 2013. Their recommendations, which were unanimously endorsed, were brought before the Consultation Council on October 17, 2013. After review and discussion, the council concurred with the recommendations of the task force, which comprise the proposed state legislative program for 2014.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the 2014 sponsored legislation.

ANALYSIS: The state legislative program typically addresses statewide policy priorities, as well as technical issues that require a statutory change to address a systemwide need. The proposals are evaluated based on the current political and economic climate and steer away from local district issues or collective bargaining matters. The proposals recommended for Board of Governors' sponsorship in 2014 include:

- Dual Enrollment
- Professional Development
- Continuous Appropriation
- Stabilization Funding

The policy priorities addressed by these proposals align with the relevant recommendations of the Student Success Task Force, as well as the System Strategic Plan. The four legislative proposals for the Board's consideration are presented below in concept form. Legislative language for each of these proposals will be developed after the Board of Governors has approved its package of sponsored legislation.

Dual Enrollment: Research has shown that dual enrollment can be an effective means of improving the educational outcomes for a broad range of students. Dual enrollment has historically targeted high-achieving students; however, increasingly educators and policymakers are looking toward dual enrollment as a strategy to help students who struggle academically or who are at risk of dropping out. In order to provide critical support for under-achieving students, those from groups underrepresented in higher education, those who are seeking advanced studies while in high school, and those seeking a career technical education (CTE) degree or certificate, California needs to rethink the policies governing dual enrollment. This proposal would establish the policy framework under which a school district and community college district could create a dual enrollment partnership. Specifically, the proposal would:

- Authorize a school district and community college district to establish a formal dual enrollment partnership agreement for the purpose of expanding opportunities for high school students to enroll in community college courses. Partnerships would be designed to reduce time to completion for a degree, certificate, and/or transfer, and provide a seamless transition to college for students not on a college bound pathway.
- Provide student support services as resources permit in the areas of student assessment, academic advising and career counseling, and academic tutorial systems to help students successfully complete their courses.
- Require partnerships to develop pathways of aligned, sequenced coursework that could provide dual credit and allow students to more easily and successfully transition to community college lower division for-credit coursework that leads to an associate degree, is transferrable to UC, CSU, or a college level CTE for-credit course that is part of a sequence of CTE courses leading to a degree or certificate.
- Identify and remove funding penalties or barriers, and implement a "hold harmless" funding model for dual enrollment. State policies addressing average daily attendance and full-time-equivalent student funding for dual enrollment students often discourage institutional participation.

This proposal would advance the Student Success Task Force recommendations associated with Increasing College and Career Readiness and Strengthening Support for Entering Students. The proposal would also support the System Strategic Plan goals around College Awareness and Access, and Student Success and Readiness.

Professional Development: In 2011, the system began a process to improve student outcomes through the Student Success Task Force. The work of the task force resulted in specific recommendations to identify key strategies to invest in student success. Included in these strategies were recommendations to revitalize and re-envision professional development opportunities and to provide dedicated and consistent resources for these activities. Past support for professional development has been mixed. The Community College Faculty and Staff Development Fund was created in 1988 with the passage of community college reform legislation Assembly Bill 1725. The program was funded for 12 years before budget shortfalls shifted money away from the fund. Consequently, no funding for professional development has been received through this fund in over 10 years. Although most colleges have attempted to provide some support from general fund sources, financial pressures have prevented consistent and effective professional development activities throughout the state.

In response to the Student Success Task Force recommendations regarding professional development, the Chancellor's Office established a 30 member committee to develop ideas and strategies to revitalize and re-envision professional development in the California Community College System. The committee met 11 times over six months beginning in 2012. Their conclusions, "The Report on the California Community Colleges Student Success Initiative Professional Development Committee Recommendations" was released in September of 2013 and provided seven recommendations to improve professional development.

According to the report, three of the recommendations would require statutory change:

- Change the name of the California Community Colleges Flexible Calendar Program to the California Community Colleges Professional Development Program.
- Emphasize that all employees - staff and administrators as well as faculty – be included in the California Community Colleges Professional Development Program.
- Establish an ongoing professional development fund to support local colleges in professional development activities. The report recommends that one-half to 1 percent of the California Community Colleges System budget be dedicated each fiscal year. (This amount would result in approximately \$25 million.)

This proposal would advance the Student Success Task Force recommendations associated with Revitalizing and Re-Envisioning Professional Development and the System Strategic Plan goals around System Effectiveness.

Continuous Appropriation: Community colleges have experienced revenue shortfalls related to the dissolution of redevelopment agencies (RDA). When this occurred last year, the 2012 education trailer bill provided for a state backfill of that revenue shortfall. At the end of the 2012-13 year, the

RDA shortfall was approximately \$80 million. Compounding the situation was a discrepancy between the reports the Chancellor's Office received from the counties and the RDA backfill calculated by the Department of Finance. This discrepancy delayed agreement on the amount of the backfill, which meant a sizeable deficit remains in place while community college districts wait for a resolution that likely won't come until several months into the subsequent fiscal year. This timeline is unacceptably long for districts. This proposal seeks a legislative solution by requiring the Legislature through statute, to ensure that the funds allocated through the budget process will be provided to the districts, with discrepancies made up by the general fund.

This proposal would advance the System Strategic Plan goals around System Effectiveness and Resource Development.

Stabilization Funding: This proposal is presented to the Board of Governors as a proactive measure to address any statutory changes to the duration and conditions under which the state provides stabilization funding to community college districts facing major fiscal challenges. Potential legislation would be introduced in "spot bill" form to allow for maximum flexibility in dealing with this issue.