





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: September 9-10, 2013

SUBJECT: Report on the California Community Colleges Student Success Initiative Professional Development Committee Recommendations		Item Number: 4.3	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Barry Russell, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: This item presents the recommendations of an advisory committee established by the Chancellor’s Office to review and discuss the issue of professional development and provide strategies to achieve the goal of the task force.

BACKGROUND: In January 2011, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges embarked on a 12-month strategic planning process to improve student success. The California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force completed its work and in January 2012, submitted its report to the Legislature. The Student Success Task Force report contained recommendations aimed at improving the educational outcomes of students and the workforce preparedness of the state.

RECOMMENDEATION: This item is presented for information and discussion.

ANALYSIS: Various divisions within the Chancellor’s Office were assigned to oversee the review, discussion, and/or implementation of different recommendations. The Academic Affairs Division was assigned several recommendations, one of which was recommendation six, revitalize and re-envision professional development. The recommendation and the two objectives associated are as follows:

Recommendation #6

Revitalize and Re-Envision Professional Development

6.1 Create a continuum of mandatory professional development opportunities.

6.2 Direct professional development resources toward improving basic skills instruction and support services.

The Academic Affairs Division formed a Student Success Initiative’s thirty member Professional Development Committee, Appendix A, to address the tasks associated with revitalizing and re-envisioning professional development. The committee consisted of representatives from faculty, administration, and staff. The committee has completed its work and submitted its recommendations to the Chancellor’s Office. The Professional Development Committee produced recommendations developed over six months and 11 meetings.

The policy statement from the Student Success Task Force report related to professional development in part says the following *“The community college system will develop and support focused professional development for all faculty and staff.”* Language from the opening paragraph of the report’s section on professional development speaks to the critical need to implement a sustained culture that supports professional development in the California community colleges.

“Ongoing professional development is a fundamental component of supporting the systemic change that will improve student success. Without a sustained and focused approach to professional development, individual institutions, let alone an entire educational system, cannot expect to change attitudes, help faculty and staff rethink how their colleges approach the issue of student success, and implement a continuous assessment process that brings about iterative improvement.” (California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force Report, 2010)

Accompanying this Board of Governors agenda item is a report on the California Community Colleges Student Success Initiative Professional Development Committee Recommendations. There are seven recommendations being submitted to the Board of Governors.

The following are the recommendations being submitted to the Board of Governors by the Student Success Initiative’s Professional Development Committee for consideration into the formal policy review/adoption cycle process.

1. Recommendation #1 – Adopt a California Community Colleges Professional Development Vision Statement.
2. Recommendation #2 - Change the name of the California Community Colleges Flexible Calendar Program to the California Community Colleges Professional Development Program.

3. Recommendation #3 – Include all employees: faculty, staff, and administrators in the California Community Colleges Professional Development Program.
4. Recommendation #4 – Establish a California Community Colleges Professional Development Fund to support local colleges in the planning, coordination and implementation of professional development activities.
5. Recommendation #5 – Establish a system-wide Professional Development Advisory Committee to work in conjunction with the Chancellor’s Office in providing leadership for professional development in the California Community Colleges System.
6. Recommendation #6 – Establish a strong leadership role for professional development in the Chancellor’s Office.
7. Recommendation #7 – Establish a professional development virtual resource center through the Chancellor’s Office that will enable colleges to access high quality resources easily and cost efficiently.

Conclusion

There are seven recommendations contained in this report to the Board of Governors. Recommendation #1, the vision statement on professional development for the California Community Colleges System, is a policy recommendation that would require action by the Board of Governors. The vision statement will require Board of Governors approval. If appropriate resources are made available, three recommendations can be accomplished administratively. Another three recommendations will require statutory authority in order to be implemented. One of the three recommendations requiring statutory authority (#4) has a fiscal requirement. It advocates that a small percentage (1/2 of 1 percent) of the state budget allocation for California Community Colleges be redirected to support professional development. The statutory policy changes could be included in the Board of Governor’s 2014 legislative agenda.

The March meeting of the Student Success Initiative Professional Development Committee concluded its activities. The participation of the 22 organizations and 30 representatives (Appendix A) is greatly appreciated by the Chancellor’s Office.

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