



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: March 3-4, 2014

SUBJECT: California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree Study Group Report		Item Number: 4.3	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Erik Skinner, Deputy Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: This item presents an overview of the findings of the recently released *Report from the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree Study Group*.

BACKGROUND: In August 2013, a Study Group appointed by Chancellor Brice W. Harris was asked to review the various aspects of bachelor degrees at community colleges. The Study Group included members from various constituencies from across the community college system as well as members from the California State University and the University of California. The Study Group recently submitted its findings to the Chancellor.

RECOMMENDATION: This agenda item is presented for the Board’s information to provide an update on the report recent released by the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree Study Group.

ANALYSIS: The granting of baccalaureates at community colleges is a growing movement. Nationwide, more than 50 community colleges operate almost 500 baccalaureate programs in 21 states. To help inform policy development in California, the Study Group reviewed the track records of these existing programs. In addition, current California demographic, economic, and workforce trends were analyzed to determine potential areas of need for such a program. The Baccalaureate Degree Study Group studied the basic issue of awarding baccalaureates in California community colleges. In addition, the Study Group gathered feedback at two major community colleges conferences during the fall semester. At both conferences, there was significant interest and support demonstrated.

Below are highlights from the Study Group report:

- The Study Group found that the offering of baccalaureate degrees by the California community colleges merits serious review and discussion by the Chancellor and the Board of Governors.
- The Study Group recommended that the Chancellor's Office and the Board of Governors conduct the necessary research and policy analysis related to granting baccalaureate degrees in the California community colleges, including a definition of the types of baccalaureate degrees that would be appropriate for California Community Colleges, the criteria with which the Chancellor's Office would evaluate college proposals, and an analysis of related degrees already in existence. The research should include projections of workforce needs, demonstration of financial support, and measures of program quality.
- The research should include projections of workforce needs, analysis of potential sources of financial support and fiscal feasibility, and measures of program quality that would be used by the Chancellor's Office in evaluating college proposals should the authority to grant baccalaureate degrees be extended.
- Further work should proceed with an ongoing dialogue with the California State University and the University of California.
- Finally, further study should consider potential impacts on the current mission of the California community colleges as well as on existing programs at local campuses.