



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: November 17-18, 2014

SUBJECT: City College of San Francisco Local Control Plan		Item Number: 4.3	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Executive	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: As City College of San Francisco (CCSF) continues to make progress towards resolving its accreditation crisis, it is appropriate to consider the process for returning to the locally elected board its normal powers and authorities. At its July, 2014 board meeting, the Board of Governors of California Community Colleges directed Chancellor Harris to prepare a plan and timeline for the return of local control and present these items at the November meeting. This item presents the requested plan and timeline.

BACKGROUND: In July of 2013 the board exercised their authority under board policy to elevate the Special Trustee it had previously placed in CCSF to assume the power of the locally elected board of trustees and exercise a state takeover of the college. This action was taken in response to accreditation challenges documented by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) and financial challenges documented by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) during the year leading up to the board's action.

Since that action, the college has done extensive work to recover and to meet the ACCJC Eligibility Requirements and Accrediting Standards and to address the financial and fiscal control issues identified by FCMAT.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information and discussion.

ANALYSIS: The California Community Colleges have a strong tradition of honoring the local control of our system's 72 community college districts. Throughout our system's history, this has been reflected in the regulation, policy, and practice of the board of governors. Encroaching on a local board's authority is done only in extreme circumstances when no other options exist. The board of governor's decision to insert a Special Trustee in October 2012 was made in response to the significant threats to the CCSF's fiscal health and accreditation that existed at the time. The BOG's action to elevate the Special Trustee's powers to assume all the powers and authority of the local board in July of 2013 was taken as a measure of last resort in an attempt to save a college that was threatened with imminent loss of accreditation.

Given the significant progress made at CCSF, it is now time to develop a process for return of local control to the locally elected Board of Trustees. Accordingly, this item presents a plan and timeline for return of local control. The full details of the plan are included in the attachment, "A Plan for Returning City College of San Francisco to Local Control," November 17, 2014. Key elements include:

- Assuming the college is granted restoration in January of 2015, beginning February 1, 2015, it would be the intention of the Board of Governors to transition the institution back to complete local control no later than July 1, 2016.
- The exact length of time necessary for the transition would be determined by the progress of the local board, but is envisioned to take no less than twelve months and no more than eighteen months.
- Local control would be returned to the Board of Trustees in phases, beginning with training and gradually adding back authority for specific areas of control over time as the Board demonstrates capacity.
- The timing for moving from one phase to another will be determined by the success of the Board at each successive phase. The Board will work with the Special Trustee during the initial phase to develop the milestones for movement from one phase to another and the approval of those milestones by the Special Trustee will trigger the Board's progression to greater levels of local control.