PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DATE: March 16-17, 2015

SUBJECT: Disabled Student Programs and Services Regulation Revisions

ISSUE: Changes are proposed to California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 56000-56076, to implement recommendations of the 2013 DSPS regulation rewrite workgroup and to update the language consistent with 2008 amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

BACKGROUND: Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) was created with the enactment of Assembly Bill 77 (Lanterman), in 1976 and codified in California Education Code, Section 84850 and title 5, California Code of Regulations Sections 56000-56076. DSPS funds support services and instructional programs for students with disabilities in the California Community Colleges. As a result of, amendments to the ADA in 2008; the Chancellor’s Office 2012 research study of the “Other Disability” MIS data category and policy implications related to its use; recent audit findings related to DSPS; and the need to more closely align title 5 regulations with Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the requirements of Government Code section 11135 et. seq., and the amended ADA, a policy workgroup of key stakeholders was formed in 2012. The group recommended that the Chancellor update and clarify title 5 regulations pertaining to DSPS. Subsequently, a title 5 rewrite workgroup was formed in 2013 to develop specific recommendations and incorporate key stakeholder’ feedback.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for a first reading. The Board of Governors must hold a public hearing for receipt of comments, both written and oral, which are offered concerning the proposed action. It is anticipated that the regulations will be presented to the Board of Governors for adoption at its May 18-19, 2015 meeting.
ANALYSIS: The proposed changes to the regulations include, but are not limited to: the modernization of terminology and updating/correcting technical language throughout the regulations, removing the requirement of the Student Education Contract and adding a requirement for an Academic Accommodations Plan (AAP), adding clarification to the staffing requirements of a DSPS Program, adding three new disability categories, updating the definitions of existing disability categories, and updating and clarifying both the allowable and non-allowable program fund expenses.

The proposed regulation changes are included as Attachment 1. An analysis of the proposed changes is included as Attachment 2.