Title: Title 5 Amendment- Enrollment Priorities

Date: June 21, 2012

Contact: Linda Michalowski, Vice Chancellor, Student Services and Special Programs
Sonia Ortiz-Mercado, Dean, Matriculation and Early Assessment

Information

The Chancellor’s Office convened a 17-member workgroup to implement Student Success Task Force recommendation (SSTF) recommendation 3.1 to establish system-level enrollment priorities. The SSTF recommended that the California Community Colleges adopt system-wide enrollment priorities to: (1) reflect the core mission of transfer, career technical education and basic skills development; (2) encourage students to identify their educational objective and follow a prescribed path most likely to lead to success; (3) ensure access and the opportunity for success for new students; and (4) incentivize students to make progress toward their educational goal.

The Enrollment Priorities Workgroup met several times between March and June 2012 to discuss how the recommendation could be implemented given the system’s current resource constraints and to develop a regulatory proposal. In April 2012, an initial draft of the proposal was presented to the Consultation Council and, at the Council’s request, the timeframe for adoption of title 5 regulations was extended to provide additional time for review and consideration by system stakeholders. Draft regulations were discussed, as an information item, with the Board of Governors at its May meeting. The workgroup has since held additional meetings to address policy and implementation issues based on Board and stakeholder input, and revise the proposed regulations accordingly. The regulatory proposal establishing system-level enrollment priorities will be presented at the July 2012 Board of Governors meeting for a First Reading.

The key elements of the revised regulation include the following:

- Enrollment priorities for existing student groups identified in Education Code (active duty military and veterans and former foster youth) and for students participating in EOPS and DSPS programs who have completed orientation, assessment, and developed student education plans are maintained in the proposed regulations (first and second level of priority, respectively). A provision was added to allow districts the discretion to collapse the first and second levels of priority if sufficient capacity exists to do so without displacing students in the first level.

- New students who have completed orientation, assessment, and developed student education plans and continuing students in good standing (defined as a student who is not on academic or progress probation for two consecutive terms and has not earned
100 degree-applicable units) constitute a large level three priority group. Districts have discretion to establish local priorities among students in this group.

- Districts have discretion to establish local priorities below level three for all other students.

- Continuing students would lose enrollment priority if they earned more than 100 units (not including nondegree applicable basic skills and ESL) or if they were on academic or progress probation for two consecutive terms (as defined by existing title 5 regulations).

- Districts would have authority to adopt policies exempting categories of students from the 100 unit limit, such as those in high unit majors or programs.

- Districts would be required to adopt an appeals policy and process for students who lose enrollment priority due to extenuating circumstances (verified cases of accidents, illnesses or other circumstances beyond the control of the student).

- Significant lead time is provided for implementation. Districts would be required to ensure that all policies and course catalogs reflect the new enrollment priority requirements and that appropriate and timely notice is provided to students for full implementation by fall 2014.

Additional information is provided in the attached timeline, priority chart, and “frequently asked questions” document. The text of the proposed regulation is also attached.

The regulation is scheduled for a First Reading by the Board of Governors at its July 2012 meeting.