Title: Student Equity Funding

Date: September 18, 2014

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Background

In the 2014-15 Budget Act, Governor Jerry Brown and the California State Legislature provided $70 million to the California community colleges to establish the Student Equity program “in order to ensure equal educational opportunities and to promote student success for all students, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or economic circumstances.” While a requirement has been in place since 1996 that colleges adopt Student Equity Plans, this is the first time that dedicated state resources have been provided to support efforts to achieve the goals reflected in those plans. Together with the doubling of funds for the Student Success and Support Program, this is a strategic investment in the system’s Student Success Initiative to help more community college students achieve their educational goals.

Following enactment of the 2014-15 Budget Act, the Chancellor’s Office convened work groups comprised of a broad range of community college stakeholders to assist in the development of program requirements and funding mechanisms for the new Student Equity program. Thanks to the impressive efforts of the work groups and Chancellor’s Office staff, we have recently finalized the framework for this program and now look forward to its implementation.

Recent guidance from the Chancellor’s Office, attached, provides details about the new program:

- The 2014-15 Student Equity allocations to community college districts;
- An explanation of the factors used to calculate the allocations;
- Student Equity Program Funding Guidelines;
- Student Equity Provisions of the Budget Trailer Bill (SB 860); and
- Student Equity memo.

Proposal

This item is presented to Consultation Council to provide an opportunity for discussion.