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Action Item

California Student Aid Commission

Consent agenda

Recommended Action: Approve the consent agenda, including:

- a. Approval of the Minutes of September 13-14, 2012, October 12, 2012 and November 15-16, 2011
- b. Approval of a new September Commission meeting date of September 19-20, 2013
- c. Consideration of designating Commissioner(s) as Director(s) of the EdFund Board

**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

September 13-14, 2012

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 and Friday, September 14, 2012 at California State University, Sacramento, Alumni Center, located at 6000 J Street in Sacramento, California.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Chair Barry Keene called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m.

The following Commission Members were present:

Barry Keene, Chair
Nancy Anton, Vice Chair
Ana Beltran
Terri Bishop
Brian Conley
Jacqueline Doud
Johnny Garcia Vasquez
Alexander Gonzalez
John McDowell, Jr.
Jamillah Moore
Ishan Shah
Michele Siqueiros
Timothy White

The following Commission Member was absent:

Cris Arzate

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Keene called for public comment and, hearing none, proceeded to the next item.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Keene welcomed the new Commissioners, including Ana Beltran, Jacqueline Doud, and Timothy White. He then provided an overview of the Commission's priorities, which include obeying the Constitution and laws, exercising some degree of independence, using media to

place important and timely issues on the public agenda, providing their best recommendations to legislative and executive policy-makers and enacting regulations necessary to carry out the Commission's responsibilities. Chair Keene also discussed the Commission's responsibilities, which include securing access to higher education; assuring that Cal Grant funding is not wasted, misused or misdirected; negotiating, collaborating and deliberating with stakeholders in the student aid process; and overseeing in general the administrative actions by staff are consistent with the Commission's policy objectives and reading of the law. Lastly, he summarized the responsibilities of the newly created Dream Act, Student Impact and Distance Learning Committees.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Information)

Executive Director Fuentes-Michel presented her report and indicated that future reports would include updates from the division chiefs on various Commission initiatives. Executive Director Fuentes-Michel introduced Mr. Roberto Gama, the Commission's new Polanco Fellow, who will be working with staff on the Dream Act and legislation. She also introduced Ms. Patti Colston, the Commission's newly hired Public Information Officer.

Mr. Ed Emerson, Chief of the Federal Policy & Programs Division, gave a presentation on the Commission's efforts to provide students and their families with important financial aid information through social media. Ms. Despina Costopoulos, Statewide Cash for College Coordinator, discussed the financial aid community's desire for data on the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Agenda Item 1.a – California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) (Information)

Ms. Adriana Perez, Central Coast Cal-SOAP Project Director and Lead Project Director, presented an overview of Cal-SOAP's academic and advisement services as well as its funding.

Agenda Item 1.b – Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Report (Information)

A written status report is included in the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – REPORT OF THE DREAM ACT COMMITTEE – UPDATE ON THE DREAM ACT APPLICATION, INCLUDING PRESENTATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AND CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES (Information/Action)

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, provided an overview of her division's functions. She then discussed Phases I and II of the Dream Act implementation process. Discussion ensued about the application process, confidentiality of data, bridge funds to assist students with the application fee and the Commission's non-Social Security Number project, a process that allows schools to upload Grade Point Average (GPA) verification forms using different identifiers for students who do not have social security numbers.

Ms. Costopoulos discussed the partnerships involved in the Commission's outreach efforts and the activities that take place at Cash for College workshops. Some discussion followed regarding the need for more outreach to other ethnic communities, in addition to the Latino community, affected by the Dream Act.

Mr. Ervis Orozco, University of California, Davis student, discussed his experience as a Dreamer and Dream Act advocate. In addition, Ms. Adriana Perez, Lead Cal-SOAP Project Director discussed the Deferred Action application process, the challenges facing Dream Act students, and the services that Cal-SOAP provides them.

The following segmental representatives gave presentations on the status of their respective Dream Act implementation process:

- Mr. David Alcocer, Interim Director, Student Financial Support, University of California Office of the President (UCOP);
- Mr. Dean Kulju, Director of Financial Aid, California State University Chancellor's Office;
- Ms. Marlene Garcia, Vice Chancellor of Government Relations, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO); and
- Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Student Financial Aid Specialist, CCCCCO.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – REPORT OF THE STUDENT IMPACT COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE EXAMINED BY THE COMMITTEE (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Garcia Vasquez provided a summary of the Student Impact Committee's discussion at its June 1, 2012 and August 22, 2012 meetings. He reported that the Committee received a history of financial aid and other need-based aid programs in other states and discussed the effect of tuition and fee hikes on low-income students and Cal Grant recipients. In addition, the Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill 70 data collection issues.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – REPORT OF THE DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE EXAMINED BY THE COMMITTEE (Information/Action)

Mr. Keith Yamanaka, Chief Deputy Director and Committee Staff Liaison, provided a brief overview of the Distance Education Committee's discussion at its June 4, 2012 teleconference meeting. Further discussion followed about whether the Committee should focus on such issues as accreditation and oversight, and what the desired outcome of the Committee's discussions should be.

Ms. Mary Gill, retired financial aid administrator, suggested some discussion topics.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING REGULATIONS TO INTERPRET AND MAKE SPECIFIC SECTIONS 69433.2 AND 69433.6 OF THE EDUCATION CODE RELATING TO THE CAL GRANT PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY SENATE BILL 70 (CHAPTER 7, STATUTES OF 2011) (Action)

Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel and Chief of Legal and Audit Services, presented an overview of what the law requires in reporting enrollment, persistence and graduation. She also discussed the Commission's timeline to adopt the proposed regulations.

Mr. Gus Cubillo, Chief of Information Technology Services, provided an overview of data elements and definitions as well as descriptions of the data already collected by institutions.

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of Program Administration and Services, discussed the process of consultation with stakeholders on the proposed regulations.

The following members of the public provided comments:

- Ms. Marlene Garcia, Vice Chancellor of Government Relations, CCCCCO;
- Ms. Margie Carrington, 2012 President-Elect, California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA);
- Ms. Mary Gill, retired financial aid administrator;
- Mr. Robert Oakes, Vice President and General Counsel, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities;
- Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Financial Aid Specialist, CCCCCO;
- Mr. Craig Yamamoto, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, San Diego State University and Representative of the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CASFAA);
- Mr. Mark MacDonald, Lobbyist, McCallum Group, Inc. representing the Los Angeles, Los Rios, Kern, San Diego, Peralta and Yosemite Community College Districts; and
- Mr. David Alcocer, Interim Director, Student Financial Support, UCOP.

Further discussion ensued regarding the consultation process, the affordability of implementation, and the options available to the segments.

Thereupon, Chair Keene recessed the Open Session of the California Student Aid Commission at 5:26 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Keri Tippins announced that the California Student Aid Commission would meet in Closed Session to discuss and may take action on pending litigation pursuant to California Government Code Section 11126(e)(1). Topic includes:

AGENDA ITEM 6 – PENDING LITIGATION: THE STEPHENS INSTITUTE DBA ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY V. CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION AND DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. CPS-12512446 (Information/Action)

Thereupon the Commission convened into Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. and adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2012

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Chair Keene reconvened the Open Session meeting of the California Student Aid Commission on Friday, September 14, 2012 at 8:42 a.m.

The following Commission Members were present:

Barry Keene, Chair
Nancy Anton, Vice Chair
Ana Beltran
Terri Bishop
Brian Conley
Jacqueline Doud
Johnny Garcia Vasquez
Alexander Gonzalez
John McDowell, Jr.
Jamillah Moore
Ishan Shah
Michele Siqueiros
Timothy White

The following Commission Member was absent:

Cris Arzate

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Keene called for public comment and, hearing none, proceeded to the next item.

Ms. Keri Tippins reported that the Commission has nothing to report from its closed session.

CONTINUATION OF AGENDA ITEM 5 – CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING REGULATIONS TO INTERPRET AND MAKE SPECIFIC SECTIONS 69433.2 AND 69433.6 OF THE EDUCATION CODE RELATING TO THE CAL GRANT PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

**ESTABLISHED BY SENATE BILL 70 (CHAPTER 7,
STATUTES OF 2011) (Action)**

Ms. Keri Tippins announced that the Commission staff is amending its recommendation and no longer asking the Commission to adopt the regulations at this meeting. Staff plans to immediately invite a program staff person and information technology representative from CASFAA, CCCSFAAA and each segmental office to work with Commission staff to work out the details of the data reporting. Staff intends to bring the agenda item back to the Commission at a special meeting in October for its consideration and action.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

The Commission APPROVED by unanimous consent the Consent Calendar, which includes:

Agenda Item 7.a – Minutes of April 26-27, 2012 and May 17, 2012

Agenda Item 7.b – Commission Meeting Calendar for 2013

Agenda Item 7.c – Consideration of Designating Commission(s) as Director(s) of the EdFund Board

AGENDA ITEM 8 – UPDATE ON THE 2012-13 BUDGET (Information/Action)

Ms. Janet McDuffie, Chief of Administration and External Affairs, presented a high-level summary of the 2012-13 budget, including changes affecting Cal Grant awards, institutional eligibility and Commission operations.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – UPDATE ON STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES AND LEGISLATION AND CONSIDERATION OF POSITIONS ON BILLS AND INITIATIVES AFFECTING COMMISSION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING PROPOSITION 30: TEMPORARY TAXES TO FUND EDUCATION. GUARANTEED LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT; AND PROPOSITION 38: TAX TO FUND EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. (Information/Action)

Ms. Lori Nezhura, Legislative Director, provided an update on legislative bills.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Unanimous Consent, the staff recommendation to formally withdraw support for Senate Bill (SB) 1466 (De Leon) – Peace Officers: City of Los Angeles – as it no longer deals with the same subject matter as when first supported or other Commission priorities.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Conley, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Roll Call Vote a position of SUPPORT for Assembly Bill (AB) 970 (Fong) – University of California and California State University: Systemwide Student Fees. Commissioners Anton, Gonzalez and White OPPOSED. Commissioner Moore ABSTAINED.

Mr. Ed Emerson, Chief of Federal Policy and Programs, reported on the actions of Congress.

Ms. Nezhura continued with a summary of Propositions 30 and 38. Executive Director Diana Fuentes-Michel read into the record a letter from the Student Regents regarding Proposition 30.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Unanimous Consent the adoption of the following resolution in support of Proposition 30:

Resolved, that the California Student Aid Commission endorses Proposition 30 on the November 2012 General Election ballot, the Governor's Tax Initiative, to fund education and guarantee local public safety funding, given that it protects the public higher education segments from further cuts and their students from harmful fee increases.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – CONSIDERATION OF AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO RECEIVE \$803,754,000 FROM THE FEDERAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) FOR THE CAL GRANT PROGRAM (Action)

Ms. Janet McDuffie presented the interagency agreement with the California Department of Social Services for the Commission's consideration.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Roll Call Vote the staff recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Agreement with the California Department of Social Services to receive \$803,754,000 from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for the Cal Grant Program in 2012-13 and on an ongoing basis subject to future budget appropriations. Commissioner Garcia Vasquez OPPOSED.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – CONSIDERATION OF UP TO \$404,000 FOR CONTRACTS WITH MULTIPLE VENDORS FOR CONSULTING SERVICES TO MAINTAIN THE GRANT DELIVERY SYSTEM DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DREAM ACT APPLICATION FOR CAL GRANTS (Action)

Ms. Janet McDuffie presented the staff recommendation to enter into multiple consultant contracts to assist the Commission with its Grant Delivery System.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Doud, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Unanimous Consent the staff recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts up to \$404,000 in 2012-13 with selected vendors to obtain temporary information technology programming services during the development of the Dream Act Application.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE 2011-12 FEDERAL COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM AWARD (Action)

Ms. Janet McDuffie provided an overview of the Federal College Access Challenge Grant Program and the staff recommendation to use additional funding for outreach activities and a new Cal-SOAP data system.

Ms. Despina Costopoulos briefly discussed the Cash for College workshops conducted in regions such as the Inland Empire and Los Angeles, and the data collected on students who participate in the Cash for College Program.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED** by Unanimous Consent the staff recommendation to 1) allocate the additional 2012-13 Challenge Grant funds to Cash for College and Cal-SOAP as recommended; 2) authorize the Executive Director to amend 2012-13 Cal-SOAP contracts up to \$308,510 to fund outreach activities and the development of a new data system; and 3) authorize the Executive Director flexibility to reallocate any unused funds as equitably as possible.

AGENDA ITEM 13 – DISCUSSION OF TRANSITION OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH ECMC FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2013 (Information/Action)

Ms. Keri Tippins provided historical background information on the operating agreement between the Commission, EdFund and the Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC).

AGENDA ITEM 14 – NEW BUSINESS (Information)

The Commission plans to discuss the following topics at a future meeting:

- 1) Election of Officers;
- 2) Committee Assignments;
- 3) Consideration of the Creation of a Federal Liaison or Federal Relations Committee;
- 4) Presentation by Senator Hart and Dr. Steven Weiner on an Alternative Loan Program;
- 5) Strategic Planning Retreat; and
- 6) Report on Changes in Staff Compensation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the California Student Aid Commission adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

NANCY ANTON, VICE CHAIR

**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES**

October 12, 2012

A teleconference meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was held on Friday, October 12, 2012 at the Sacramento County Office of Education, Mather Conference Room at 10474 Mather Boulevard in Mather, California and the various locations listed on the third amended teleconference meeting notice dated October 11, 2012.

Chair Barry Keene called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

The following Commission Members were present:

Barry Keene, Chair
Nancy Anton, Vice Chair
Cris Arzate
Ana Beltran
Jacqueline Doud
Johnny Garcia Vasquez
John McDowell, Jr.
Jamillah Moore
Ishan Shah
Michele Siqueiros
Timothy White

The following Commission Members were absent:

Terri Bishop
Brian Conley
Alexander Gonzalez

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Keene called for public comment and, hearing none, proceeded to the next item.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Keene indicated he would like to create a pool of Commissioners who are interested in serving as chair, vice chair or secretary for the election of officers that will take place at the November Commission meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING REGULATIONS TO INTERPRET AND MAKE SPECIFIC SECTIONS 69433.2 AND 69433.6 OF THE EDUCATION CODE RELATING TO THE CAL GRANT PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY SENATE BILL 70 (CHAPTER 7, STATUTES OF 2011) (Information/Action)

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of Program Administration and Services, provided a status update of the Senate Bill (SB) 70 data reporting consultations that took place following the Commission’s September 13-14, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel and Chief of Legal and Audit Services, outlined each of the key issues that were discussed and the agreed upon changes to the proposed regulations.

Further discussion ensued and the following members of the public provided comments:

- Mr. Robert Oakes, Vice President and General Counsel, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities;
- Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Financial Aid Specialist, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office;
- Mr. Mark MacDonald, Lobbyist, McCallum Group, Inc.;
- Ms. Mary Gill, retired financial aid administrator; and
- Mr. Ryan Storm, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Siqueiros, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Roll Call Vote the staff recommendations to: 1) adopt the regulations, and authorize staff to complete the regulatory process and request that the effective date of the regulations be the date of filing; and 2) amend the 2012-16 Institutional Participation Agreement to include the language and substantive requirements of the adopted regulations. Commissioners Anton and Moore ABSTAINED.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – NEW BUSINESS (Information)

The Commission would like to include the following in a future meeting:

- Strategic Planning Session; and
- Presentation of Findings by The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the teleconference meeting of the California Student Aid Commission adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

NANCY ANTON, VICE CHAIR

**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

November 15-16, 2012

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was held on Thursday, November 15, 2012 and Friday, November 16, 2012 at the University of California, Davis, Conference Center, Ballroom B, at 550 Alumni Lane, Davis, California.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2012

Chair Barry Keene called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following Commission Members were present:

Barry Keene, Chair
Nancy Anton, Vice Chair
Cris Arzate
Ana Beltran
Terri Bishop
Jacqueline Doud
Johnny Garcia Vasquez
Hal Geiogue
Harry Le Grande
John McDowell, Jr.
Jamillah Moore
Ishan Shah
Michele Siqueiros

The following Commission Members were absent:

Brian Conley
Alexander Gonzalez

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

POLICY

Strategic Planning Session Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Keene called for public comment and, hearing none, proceeded to the next item.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Keene announced he would retire from the Commission. He then provided some historical background on the challenges the Commission has faced during his tenure, and expressed the importance of the Commission's policy role. Afterwards, each of the Commissioners introduced themselves.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES CALIFORNIA STUDENTS FACE IN ACHIEVING ACCESS TO, SELECTION OF, AND SUCCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION? (Information)

Presentation by Debbie Cochrane of The Institute for College Access and Success

Ms. Debbie Cochrane, Research Director for The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), presented a SWOT analysis of the Cal Grant Program, which outlines the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the program. Highlights include:

Strengths:

- The Cal Grant Program provides more dollars and need-based grants than any other State grant program and its large grants are likely a key reason by California bachelor's degree graduates have relatively low debt.
- A number of colleges' tuition and fees are covered for students who meet eligibility requirements.
- California has used the Cal Grant Program to direct students to colleges where they have a better chance at succeeding and a smaller chance of ending up in student loan default.
- The Cal Grant Program has strong support from the Legislature.

Weaknesses:

- The Cal Grant B award has not kept pace with the cost it is designed to cover in the first year.
- The Cal Grant Program and the State need a better definition of college affordability.
- Many authorized grants go unused.

Threats:

- Declining State support of public colleges means tuitions have increased leading to increased Cal Grant awards and resulting in the cost of the program doubling.
- There have been proposals to cut eligibility and lower award levels.
- There is uncertainty about who will solve the State's public fiscal problem and how.

Opportunities:

- The passing of Proposition 30 allows the State more time to find answers to questions such as:
 - 1) Whom does the Cal Grant serve and not serve?
 - 2) How should we define college affordability?
 - 3) How well does the program serve the State's needs in 2012 and not simply the State's intent from 2000?
 - 4) How do we address the issue of authorized grants going unused?

- The Commission’s data is a treasure trove of policy relevant information ready to be mined and explored.

Ms. Cochrane posed the following policy questions for the Commission’s consideration:

- 1) How many financial aid applicants in California have \$0 Estimated Family Contribution to put towards college but either do not apply for Cal Grants or are not eligible? Why?
- 2) How many applicants are offered Cal Grants but do not take them? What can we tell about who they are?
- 3) How many Cal Grant recipients put awards on hold and never come back to reclaim them?
- 4) Do many community college students use their entire four years of Cal Grant eligibility while at the community college before they have even transferred?
- 5) During periods of budget uncertainty when particular students’ grants hang in the balance, is there any evidence that Cal Grant applicants modify the types of institutions they consider or actually enroll in? What are budget discussions doing to students’ aspirations and plans?
- 6) What can we tell about students’ transfer patterns or swirling by looking at where students receive their Cal Grants from year to year?
- 7) For a State with such a strong tradition of and reliance on transfer, why are there so few transfer entitlement grants awarded each year?

Further discussion ensued. Mr. Taylor Gamorez, a student at Sacramento City College, provided comments.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – DISCUSSION OF HOW COMMISSIONERS CAN WORK TO ACHIEVE POLICY PRIORITIES (Information) INCLUDING:

Agenda Item 2.a – Commission’s role as policy maker

Agenda Item 2.b – Commission’s tools for policy making, including public communications, policy advocacy, rulemaking

Agenda Item 2.c – Policy implementation through oversight of program administration

Chair Keene shared his thoughts on how the Commission can achieve its policy priorities, including electing a strong leader, defining areas of effectiveness, and maintaining credibility with respect to the Commission’s responsibility to ensure that funds are used wisely, effectively and in line with public objectives. He also discussed the need for standing committees and mechanisms for communication and collaboration with stakeholders. Further discussion ensued and the following ideas were offered:

- Being prepared and formulating ideas and recommendations prior to the Commission meetings to make better use of time;
- Not leaving things undecided;
- Creating committees to work through issues and develop recommendations;
- Reporting out regularly from the committees to the full Commission to maintain involvement; and

- Revisiting existing committees and determining their necessity.

A general discussion ensued regarding some key policy issues and topics the Commission could consider, including:

- A review of the history of policy making on the Commission;
- A discussion of the Executive Director's new major responsibilities given the current context;
- Addressing the Competitive Cal Grant B awards that go unused;
- Sustaining the Commission's outreach efforts with limited resources; and
- Increasing the number of students attending higher education who are students of color or low-income.

Mr. Irvis Orozco, a student at the University of California, Davis, made some public comments.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – CONSIDERATION OF A POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PLAN FOR 2013 (Action)

Ms. Kathleen Beasley, Strategic Planning Consultant, The-Write-Connection, facilitated the Commission's discussion on its policy framework and plan for 2013. Mr. Taylor Gamorez provided some comments. Further discussion ensued.

It was decided that Ms. Beasley would consolidate the Commissioners' feedback and return with a finalized draft framework for the Commission's adoption.

Thereupon, Chair Keene recessed the meeting of the California Student Aid Commission at 4:37 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012

RECONVENE

Chair Keene reconvened the meeting of the California Student Aid Commission on Friday, November 16, 2012 at 9:10 a.m.

The following Commission Members were present:

Barry Keene, Chair
Nancy Anton, Vice Chair
Cris Arzate
Ana Beltran
Terri Bishop
Jacqueline Doud
Johnny Garcia Vasquez
Hal Geiogque
Harry Le Grande
John McDowell, Jr.

Ishan Shah
Michele Siqueiros

The following Commission Members were absent:

Brian Conley
Alexander Gonzalez
Jamillah Moore

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

Ms. Keri Tippins provided an update on the litigation between the Commission and Argosy University of California related to the Commission's determination that certain Art Institute of California campuses were ineligible to participate in the Cal Grant Program because they failed to meet either the cohort default rate or graduation rate eligibility requirements.

CONTINUATION OF AGENDA ITEM 3 – CONSIDERATION OF A POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PLAN FOR 2013 (Action)

Ms. Kathleen Beasley presented the draft strategic framework and plan for 2013. Additional discussion followed.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Beltran, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED** by Unanimous Consent the following strategic framework as amended.

1. **Broad Equitable Access: *Since postsecondary education benefits both individuals and society, California has a vital interest in making sure no Cal Grant-eligible student forgoes college because they cannot afford the cost. Therefore, the California Student Aid Commission will advocate in partnership with students for financial aid and support policy decisions about Cal Grants that ensure that college access is equitable, affordable and comprehensible to the broad span of the State's diverse student population.***

Students who end their education at high school are at a financial disadvantage for the rest of their lives. This is a fact that has implications for California's future workforce and tax base. Investing in student access to college is a sound policy that benefits both students and society. In addition to making college access affordable and equitable, policies need to support the broad dissemination of information so students understand their options and can make informed choices.

2. **Education Quality Transparency: *As a major investor in higher education, California has high expectations for the quality of education that students receive. Therefore, policy decisions about Cal Grants should 1) focus on outcomes that reflect the capability of graduates to be productive members of society; 2) hold institutions accountable for their performance through incentives and disincentives; and 3) support the ability of students and families to make informed choices about education quality by providing accurate, transparent information.***

A college education that leaves a graduate unprepared to succeed in life is of questionable value to both the individual and the State. While the quality of college programs is a matter for accreditation bodies, it is reasonable for the State to seek assurance that its investment in financial aid supports high-quality education opportunities and outcomes for students.

- Persistence and Completion: *Access to college is only the first step toward a better educated citizenry and workforce. Therefore, policy decisions about Cal Grants should reflect the need to help students persist and complete their education once they enroll in college.***

State and federal studies demonstrate that financial aid is a critical factor in the ability of low-income students to persist and complete a college education. There is compelling evidence that students are able to enter, continue and complete college at much higher rates when they have access to sufficient financial aid – and to Cal Grants in particular. Studies have found that receiving a Cal Grant is significant in determining whether students enroll immediately after high school, re-enroll for a second year, stay at the same institution for four years, or remain enrolled somewhere for four years.

However, other state and federal studies have indicated persistence and completion happen at far lower rates for low-income students, who often drop out of college when they run out of money to pay fees or when they must devote time to jobs instead of studying. To ensure the State's investment is well utilized, decisions about financial aid should move beyond a focus on broad access to take into account the persistence and completion performance of students at institutions that participate in the Cal Grant program.

- CSAC Effectiveness: *To best respond to the growing need for financial aid, it is important for CSAC to operate programs effectively and efficiently. To support CSAC effectiveness, therefore, policy decisions about Cal Grants should be data-driven, sustainable, student-centric, based on feedback from stakeholders, and carefully considered to achieve CSAC goals and avoid unintended consequences.***

As the Commission advocates for programs that will broaden access, ensure quality education and increase persistence/completion, it is important to understand the ripple effects that can occur when changes are made. Policy decisions should be considered holistically so that decisions in one area that benefit some students do not disadvantage other students unintentionally.

The Commission has compiled a notable record for efficient administration of existing programs. Over the 12 years ending in 2011-12, the Cal Grant program has grown 206% while administrative overhead and staffing have been significantly reduced.

STRUCTURE**Business Meeting Agenda****PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Rich Copenhagen, 2012-13 President of the Student Senate for Community Colleges, provided comments.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITIES (Information)

A general discussion about the structure and responsibilities of officers as well as the formulation of committees ensued. Some ideas that met with general consensus include:

- Delegating more tasks to committees;
- Instituting regular meetings between the chair and student representatives;
- Engaging the vice chair in the agenda-setting process;
- Decisions about the formulation of committees to be made by the Full Commission; and
- Representing and communicating only the Commission's approved positions to external parties, and if otherwise, clarifying that his/her communication is not on behalf of the whole body.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2013 (Action)

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Garcia Vasquez, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Unanimous Consent the request to nominate Commissioner McDowell for Chair.

On **MOTION** by Vice Chair Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Unanimous Consent the request to nominate Vice Chair Anton for Chair.

After some discussion, the Commission APPROVED by Roll Call Vote (7-3) the election of Commissioner McDowell as Chairman.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Unanimous Consent the request to nominate Commissioner Shah for Vice Chair.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Siqueiros, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Unanimous Consent the request to nominate Commissioner Beltran for Vice Chair.

After some discussion, the Commission APPROVED by Roll Call Vote (6-4) the election of Commissioner Beltran as Vice Chair.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission APPROVED by Unanimous Consent the nomination and election of Commissioner Arzate as Secretary.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – CONSIDERATION OF AN OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION, ECMC AND EDFUND FOR JANUARY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013 (Action)

Ms. Keri Tippins presented the third and final Operating Agreement between the Commission, ECMC and EdFund.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Doud, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission ADOPTED by Unanimous Consent the Operating Agreement between the California Student Aid Commission, ECMC and EdFund for January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS (Information)

The Commission may consider the following topics at a future meeting:

- Formulating committees around the strategic framework;
- Establishing a Federal Liaison Committee;
- Dream Act Update; and
- Revision of the Commission's 2013 Calendar of Meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the California Student Aid Commission adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

CRIS ARZATE, SECRETARY

1.b

Action Item

California Student Aid Commission

Approval of a new September Commission meeting date of September 19-20, 2013

The Commission is requested to approve the new date of September 19-20, 2013 rather than September 13-14, 2013.

Responsible Person(s): Keith Yamanaka
Chief Deputy Director

California Student Aid Commission's 2013 Calendar of Meetings

Month	Date	Meeting Type
January	24	Commission Teleconference Meeting
February	21-22	Commission Meeting
March		
April	25-26	Commission Meeting
May		
June		
July		
August		
September	13-14 19-20	Commission Meeting Commission Meeting
October		
November	21-22	Commission Meeting
December		

1.c

Action Item

California Student Aid Commission

Consideration of designating Commissioner(s) as Director(s) on the EdFund Board

The Bylaws of EdFund, as amended and restated on March 23, 2011, (Bylaws) provide that “at all times, the members of the Commission shall be directors of this corporation.” (Article IV, Section 2.) The Bylaws additionally establish that the Directors of EdFund shall be designated by the California Student Aid Commission. (Article III, Section 1; Article IV, Sections 4 and 5.)

As a result of the foregoing provisions, all newly-appointed Commissioners should be designated to serve on the EdFund Board of Directors.

Recommended Action: Designate Commissioner Geiogue and Commissioner Le Grande, and any other subsequently appointed Commissioners, as Director(s) on the EdFund Board of Directors.

Responsible Person(s): Keri Faseler Tippins
General Counsel