

The Grant Advisory Committee

AKA: GAC

April 17, 2008



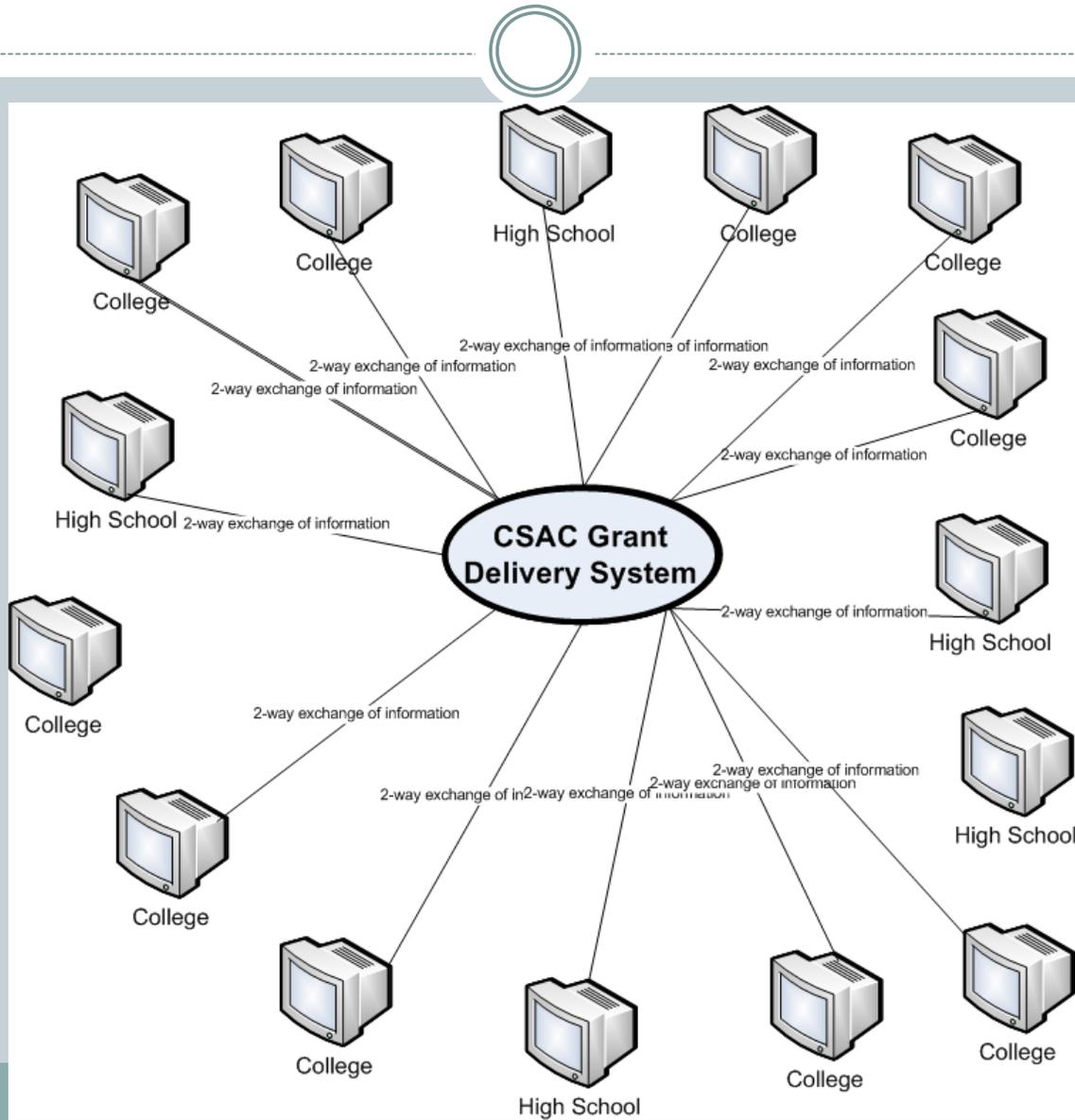
**CREATED BY THE COMMISSION IN
1986 TO ASSIST THE
COMMISSIONERS AND AGENCY
STAFF IN BETTER SERVING
STUDENTS THROUGH A
PARTNERSHIP WITH
STAKEHOLDERS.**

History

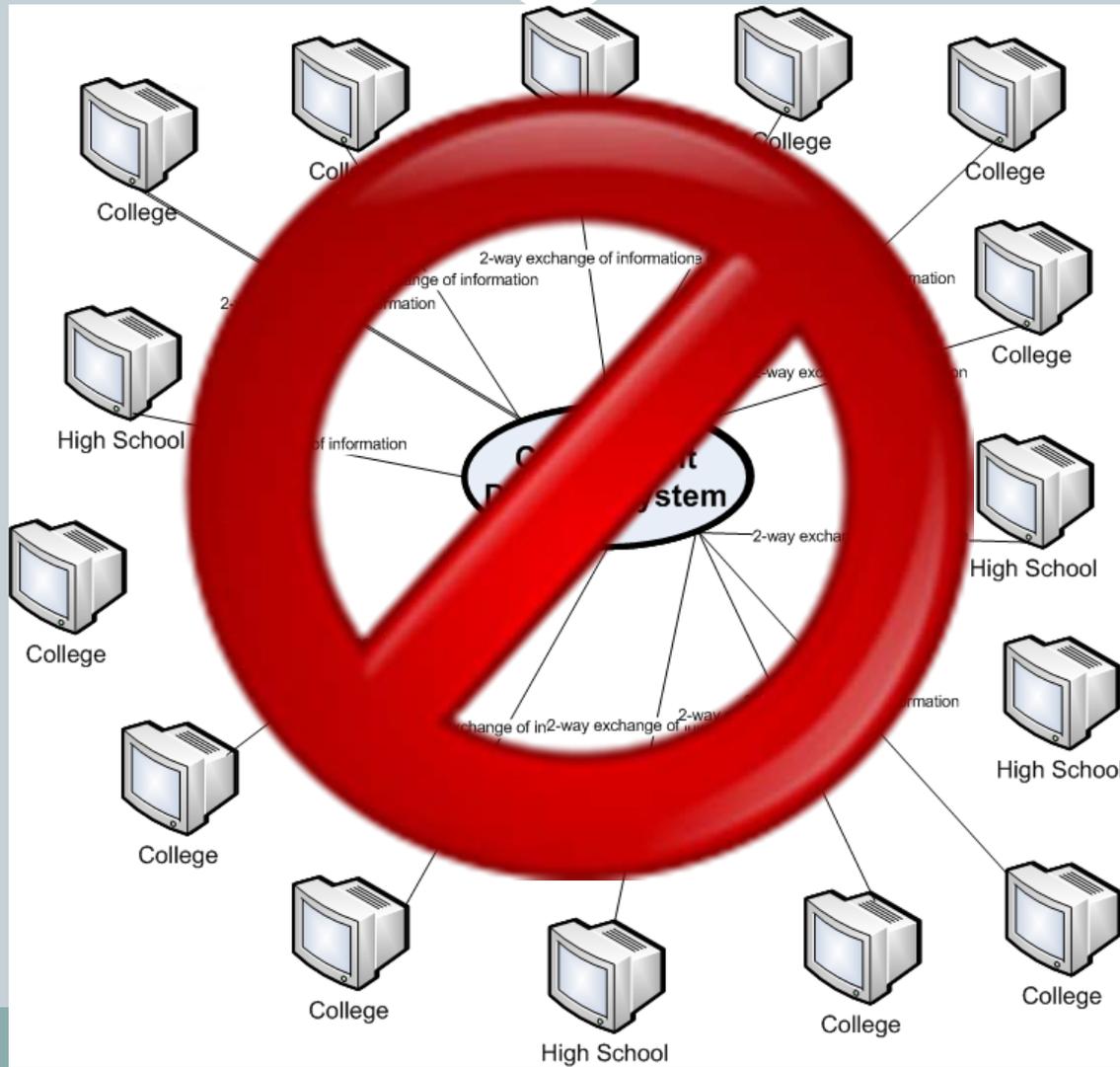


- The GAC used to advise about Loans, Outreach, and Grants/Special Programs. Currently GAC advises about Grants/Special Programs.
- The State Scholarship was program created 53 years ago, when the “GI Bill” created an increased demand for post-secondary education. The State lacked enough campuses to meet the need and Non-public institutions had excess space. Rather than building more public campuses, the State created a “voucher ” that students could take to a non-public institution of their choice to pay their tuition. Over time, the program was expanded to provide funds to students to pay fees at public institutions .

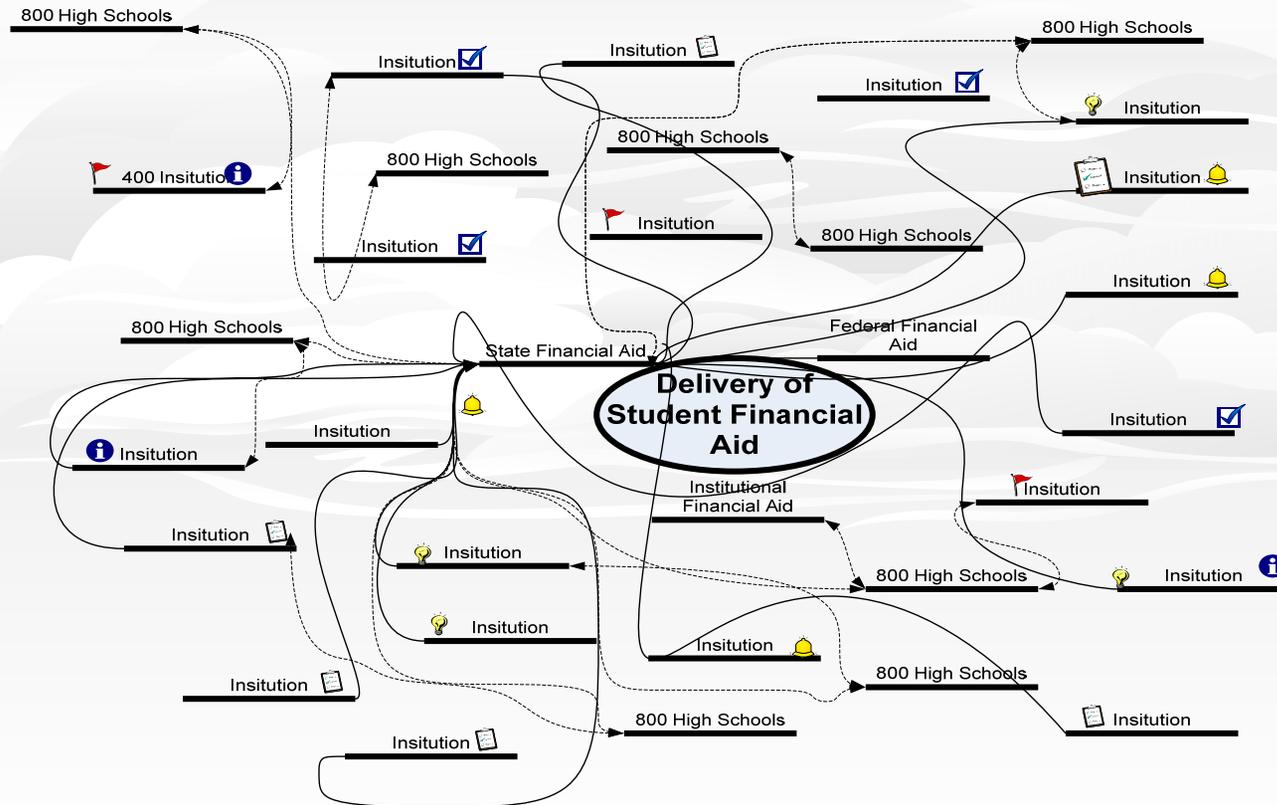
In a perfect world....



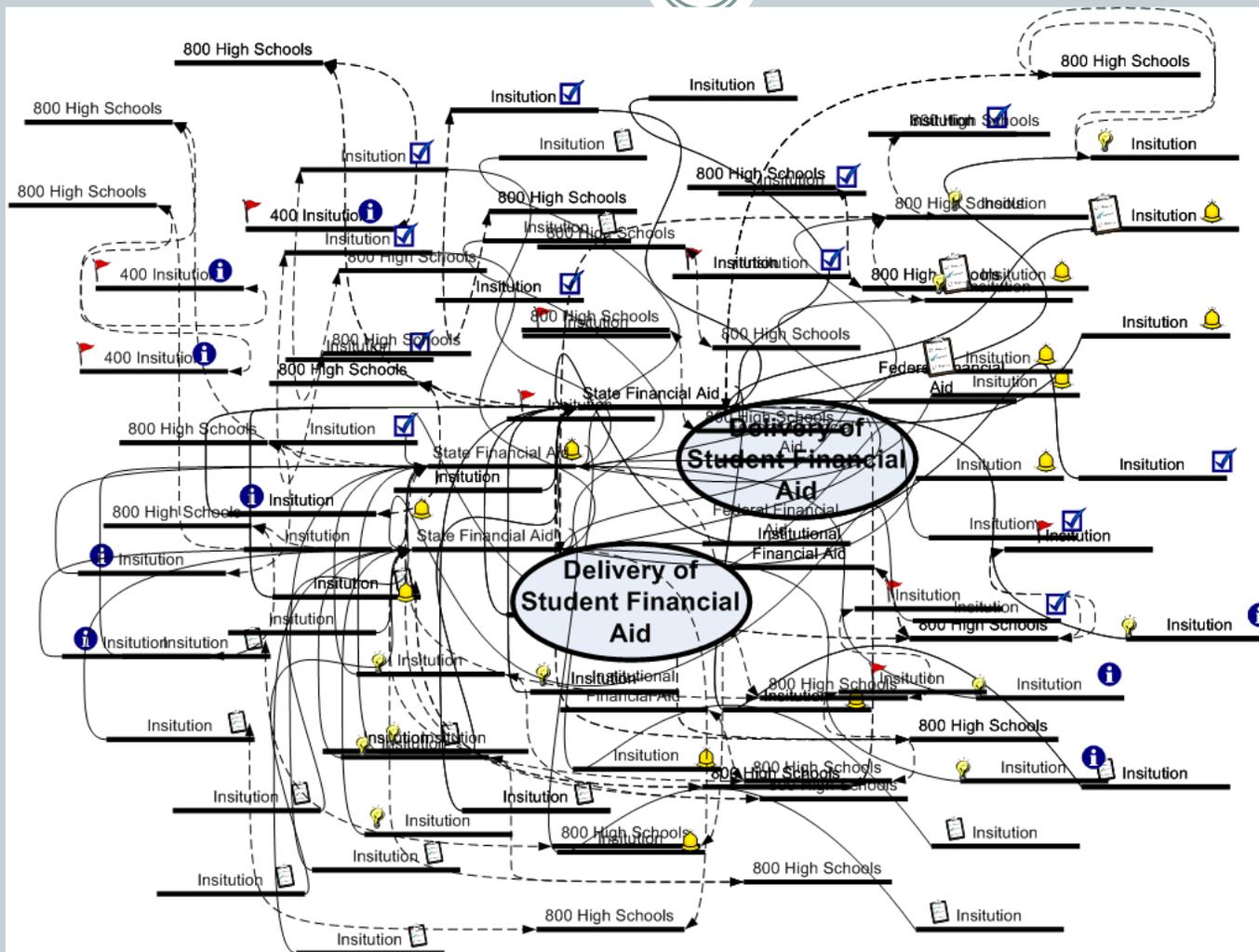
But it's not a perfect world....



Reality: Colleges, High Schools, CSAC



Triple this diagram to see what you actually have as a delivery system



GAC: Created in 1986

20 Positions

CSAC
Staff

3
K-12

3
CSU

3
UC

1
CASFAA

Students

1
CPEC

3
CCC

3
PI

3
PCC

GAC : Recommendations regarding Policy & Policy Implementation vs. Operations – [However these may overlap at times]



Examples, include, but are not limited to:

- **Policy Development and Implementation of the Cal Grant Entitlement Program in 2000 –**
- **Development/Implementation of the Selection Criteria for the Competitive Cal Grant Program**
- **Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA)**
- **Recommendations regarding the Student Expense and Resource Survey (SEARS)**
- **Today's Recommendations include: GAC support for staff recommendations regarding offering awards to students – awards that are potentially not going to be funded. (Page 4 written report)**

GAC Meetings



- Between One and Six Committee Meetings per year (Depending on the State Budget):
- **Agenda topics** are compiled by staff based **on directives from the Commission, including historical agenda items, staffs' understanding of the Commission needs, and some topics are placed on the agenda by members of the Committee**
- Bagely-Keene Open Meeting Act
 - Formal 10-day notice requirements to public
 - Recorded
 - Formal minutes
- Chair Report:
 - **May include Action Items for Commissioners**
 - **May include Information Items regarding issue/solutions that GAC and Staff have agreed upon for CSAC policy implementation.**

GAC Workgroups



Workgroup Meetings are scheduled for the upcoming year during the annual GAC planning retreat held in October of each year.

- ✦ **The meetings may be in person or by conference call.**

- Workgroups meet and work with staff. The Commission [annually] approves the workgroups and the topics
- Subject to Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act- all meetings are publically noticed.

- Workgroups are topic driven and are typically formed at the Committees Annual Planning Retreat
- Informal:
 - ✦ **The meeting may be recorded, but no minutes are prepared. A transcript of the recorded meeting is maintained by staff.**

Today's Chair Report: Recommendations Regarding Policy Implementation



1. GAC recommendation regarding increasing the accuracy of preliminary awards to students: Use the actual student budget amounts that campuses use to finalize the student's preliminary award instead of estimated amounts.
 - GAC recommends using the expanding the information collected on the existing College Estimate Form to collect *all* cost information from the campuses (instead of some of the cost information.)
 - **The impact of delaying awards by ~45 days** while this information is collected in **minimal** for the student, however the **impact of increasing the accuracy of the award** is **significant** for students by assisting them in their enrollment choices.
 - GAC recommends that **staff clarify communication** with campuses regarding the current process campuses can use to update student budget amounts **when a student appears to be ineligible for a Cal Grant, but actually is eligible.**

GAC Recommendations (Cont.)



- **Audit Finding Identifying That Different GPA Requirements Pertain To The [Competitive] Cal Grant A Program Versus The Cal Grant B Program.**
 - Supports Statutory Change that supports legislative intent of the enabling legislation.
 - “Done Deal:” Audit requires that 08/09 use the correct process that limits the GPA used for the Competitive Cal Grant B.
 - ✦ Therefore- CSAC would not convey this information to campuses regarding the March awarding process. Recommendation anticipates statutory correction in time for the September awarding cycle.
 - - Disseminating the information may increase confusion, resulting in increased staff workload to respond to campus inquiries.

GAC Recommendations (Cont.)



- **Governor’s Proposed Elimination Of The Competitive Program And The Effects Of The Governor’s Proposal On The Administration Of The Cal Grant Competitive Program**
 - **GAC Supports staff recommendations:**
 - ✦ **Select “Awardees” and place on hold pending the finalization of the state budget.**
 - **Notify these students of the award and the possibility that their award may not be funded.**
 - ✦ **Save funding by not sending notices to the 100,000+ students who would not receive an award offer even if the budget funded the awards.**
 - ✦ **Select Cal Grant C eligible students and send the “supplement” to all of these students, including those students who may receive a Competitive Cal Grant if those awards are funded.**

Data Analysis Workgroup



- **Student Expense and Resource Survey (SEARS)**
 - Survey that collects data from the student
 - Data is used by both CSAC and by Campuses
- **Student Expense Budgets**
 - Issues:
 - What are **the data needs of** CSAC and the Campuses?
 - Are there other surveys that provide this data? Would these other surveys be more **efficient and cost effective** for the State?
 - Based on the answers to these questions, should the SEARS survey and process be modified?
 - Should another, existing survey be used and if so, what additional data (if any) would CSAC need to gather, and how would this be done?

Workgroup: Cal Grant Account Maintenance and Annual Interest Calculation – Assigned to Staff /GAC by Commissioners

- Auditor determined that CSAC should be requiring Institutions to place Cal Grant funds in an interest-bearing/investment account. Interest must be returned to CSAC.
- Issue: How should the interest be calculated:
 - ✦ Should it be straight interest? OR.....
 - ✦ Should it be net interest – up to a net zero amount.....
 - Historic and current process by which most Institutions advance campus funds to student's accounts while waiting for Cal Grant funds to actually arrive on campus.
 - This Institutional “interest-free loan process” to CSAC occurs through out the year.

Remaining GAC Workgroups



➤ Payment Periods for Non-traditional Based Schools

GAC will be considering recommendations at its **May 2008** Meeting.

- A report will be presented to the Commission's **June 2008** Meeting. This report may be an update or may be actual recommendations for the Commission to take action on.

➤ Selection Criteria for Competitive Cal Grant Programs

➤ Cal Grant C Awards

These two workgroups may not meet this year due to the State's budget cuts to CSAC.

Thank you & Welcome New Commissioner(s) and “Seasoned Commissioners”



Welcome to:

- Commissioner Israel Rodriguez

Welcome *Back* to:

- Commissioner Tomas Arcinega
- Commissioner Lynne De Bie
- Commissioner Peter Hankwitz
- Commissioner Patricia Fong Kushida
- Commissioner Enrique Murillo Jr.
- Commissioner Bonaparte Liu

Commission Chair Dennis Galligani

Commission Vice-Chair Dan
Friedlander

GAC Liaison -Commissioner Lorena
Hernandez

Commissioner Yasmin Delahoussaye

Commissioner Lorena Hernandez

Commissioner Tony Solorzano Jr.

On Behalf of GAC- We look forward to working for you during the upcoming year



CSAC
Staff

