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**Action Item**

***California Student Aid Commission***

Approval of the minutes of February 21- 22, 2013

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***Recommended Action:*** The Commission is asked to approve the minutes.

***Responsible Person(s):*** Keri Tippins  
General Counsel

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**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**February 21-22, 2013**

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A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was held on Thursday, February 21, 2013 and Friday, February 22, 2013 at the Rancho Cordova City Hall, Council Chambers, 2729 Prospect Park Drive in Rancho Cordova, California.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013**

Commission Chairman John R. McDowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

John R. McDowell, Jr., Chairman  
Ana Beltran, Vice Chair  
Cris Arzate, Secretary  
Nancy Anton  
Brian Conley  
Jacqueline Doud  
Johnny Garcia Vasquez  
Hal Geiogque  
Harry Le Grande  
Jamillah Moore  
Ishan Shah  
Michele Siqueiros

The following Commissioner was absent:

Barry Keene

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman McDowell called for public comment and, hearing none, proceeded to the next item.

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

Chairman McDowell remarked that the standing committees are the key to the Commission's success. He thanked Commissioners Garcia Vasquez and Siqueiros for chairing the recent Student Impact Committee and Strategic Policy & Planning Committee meetings, respectively, and thanked Commissioners Beltran and Shah for agreeing to chair the Personnel, Evaluations & Nominations (PEN) and Audit Committees. Chairman McDowell also expressed appreciation to Commissioner Conley for serving as the Commission's federal legislative liaison during his visits to Washington, DC. In addition, he thanked the Commission staff for their work in preparing for the committee and Commission meetings.

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – CONSENT AGENDA (Action)*****Agenda Item 1.a – Approval of the minutes of January 24, 2013***

The approval of the minutes of the January 24, 2013 meeting was removed from the Consent Agenda as Commissioner Geiogue requested the Commission to consider the following proposed revisions:

(Changes are in underlined italics or strikethrough.)

Revise page three, agenda item two, first paragraph as follows:

Executive Director Fuentes-Michel presented her written report. Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel and Chief of the Legal & Audit Services Division, provided an update on the SB 70 regulations and the new Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA). Ms. Mary Gill made some ~~additional~~ comments about discrepancies in the proposed regulations and IPA from what had been previously agreed to. A Commissioner asked staff if Ms. Gill was accurate in stating that the regulations and IPA contained discrepancies. Ms. Tippins clarified stated that there was no difference between what was agreed to and what was submitted, aside from the language that was removed.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Geiogue, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED** the January 24, 2013 meeting minutes, as amended.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell

*Abstained:* Commissioner Garcia Vasquez

*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (Information), including**

Executive Director Fuentes-Michel presented her written report and provided additional updates, including the Dream Act application process, the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Cal Grant application deadline, and the Commission’s upcoming relocation.

***Agenda Item 2.a – California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Project Director’s Report (Information)***

Ms. Erin Gemar, Cal-SOAP Lead Project Director, reported on the projects’ outreach activities, including conducting Cash for College events, providing training, securing outreach partnerships and matching funds to create jobs for low-income college students.

***Agenda Item 2.b – Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Report (Information)***

Executive Director Fuentes-Michel presented the ECMC status report and remarked about the funding provided to the State of California by ECMC for Cal Grant awards.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – UPDATE ON SB 70 DATA REPORTING REGULATIONS (Information)**

Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel and Chief of Legal & Audit Services, provided a status update on the SB 70 data reporting regulations. Ms. Tippins noted that staff corrected the previously published regulations, reposted them to the web and extended the public comment period. She also discussed the work of the SB 70 Technical Workgroup and its next steps such as discussions on job placement data.

Further discussion followed. Ms. Tippins mentioned that some institutions are concerned about having to report enrollment and persistence data by each major, but the Commission has clarified that it is not requiring that data. She recommended that the Commission move forward with the current regulations and, if the institutions wish to wordsmith that section, staff can work with them during the next regulation package.

In regards to job placement data, Ms. Tippins explained that, because of the unlikelihood of a student obtaining a job immediately after graduation, the current regulations only require institutions to report the total number of students who graduated. The other job placement data reporting issues will be included in a separate rulemaking file and, after the stakeholder consultation process, Commission staff will bring to the Commission a proposal to move forward with the rulemaking process.

Ms. Tippins indicated that staff would work with institutions that miss the reporting deadline. The Executive Director and, ultimately, the Commission would decide the consequences for institutions that refuse to comply with the reporting requirements.

Ms. Mary Gill, a private citizen and former financial aid administrator, requested that the Commission remove the word “each” in reference to reporting enrollment and persistence data. She commented that she believes there is a fundamental underlying lack of direction in the policy project and that efforts of the past year and half have not improved transparency. She noted that the data being collected is on Cal Grants institutions only, and not on the Cal Grant ineligible schools about which students should be warned. It does not include out-of-state data, and the part-time data may be misleading. Ms. Gill asked the Commission to allow another year’s time and see if it can do better in the next round. She urged the Commission to look at the efforts being done at the federal level and see if the part-time data reporting issue can be resolved nationally first. Ms. Gill stated that she suggested removing the placement, salary and wage data pieces, and the proposed survey process but they remain in the rulemaking package. Additionally, she asked that the Commission not amend the IPA without reviewing it in a publicly noticed meeting.

Commissioner Siqueiros remarked that the Commission is charged with moving the regulations forward and collecting the data, but in a way that is appropriate and useful, and that serves students and the greater public. However, she opposed the use of Survey Monkey as a tool to collect job placement data. Executive Director Fuentes-Michel clarified that the staff is aware of those concerns and will be meeting with the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education and the Employment Development Department in March to clarify what data is available and to understand the Bureau’s position and the timing.

Ms. Tippins explained that the reference in the regulations to Survey Monkey stems from the Initial Statement of Reasons and some of the original documents and, therefore, is part of the rulemaking file. However, the Final Statement of Reasons, which staff will update with

comments, will specify that the Commission has removed that section from the rulemaking package and will be addressing it in future rulemaking.

More discussion ensued regarding the word “each” in reference to reporting enrollment and persistence data. Ms. Tippins indicated that the Commission would be required to extend another 15-day public comment period if the language were reverted to the original language. She reiterated that the issue could be included in the next round of rulemaking.

Additional discussion followed regarding concerns about delaying the implementation of the regulations.

Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Student Financial Aid Specialist with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO), commented that she has participated in nearly all of the SB 70 work group discussions and that the Community College segment supports moving forward and correcting the “each” in the second round of rulemaking.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Beltran, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, to move forward on the agenda and allow the General Counsel to continue and make changes in the next round of rulemaking with regard to the word “each” in reference to the reporting of enrollment and persistence data, as well as clarification of the job placement data requirements.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell  
*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

Commissioner Geiogue requested that the minutes reflect the conversation.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – CONSIDERATION OF TERMS FOR COMMISSION OFFICERS (Information)**

Chief Deputy Keith Yamanaka presented the agenda item. Some discussion followed and Commissioner Moore indicated that the Commission needs more transparency and consistency in defining the term “annual” in reference to the length of office.

Commissioner Shah **MOVED** and Commissioner Siqueiros **SECONDED** to hold annual elections at the November meeting. Discussion followed regarding the inconsistencies in the orientation manuals pertaining to the terms of office and Commissioner Anton indicated that a motion by the Committee is needed acknowledging that the Commission is changing the term start and end dates. Commissioner Arzate articulated that if the Commission approves the motion on the floor, then the change would be reflected in the documents that currently exist going forward.

On **AMENDED MOTION** by Commissioner Shah, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, to hold annual elections at the November meeting and direct the PEN Committee to create a process for screening candidates.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell  
*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – REPORT OF THE STUDENT IMPACT COMMITTEE (Action)**

Committee Chair Garcia Vasquez provided a summary of the February 20, 2013 meeting. The Committee did the following:

- Recommended adoption of a charter, including outreach in its responsibilities;
- Received a Dream Act update and were made aware of the difficulties that AB 540 students encounter in accessing their awards;
- Reviewed issues arising from the budget proposal to fund Cal Grants using TANF funds and concluded that there is no impact to students receiving their funds;
- Determined they did not have the necessary data to support or oppose the recommendations made by the Legislative Analyst's Office in its report, "An Analysis of New Cal Grant Eligibility Rules;"
- Decided to consider the following topics at future meetings:
  - Student debit cards and associated fees;
  - Dream Act update;
  - Outreach update; and
  - Input from student associations on issues of concern.

***Agenda Item 5.a – Consideration of a charter for the Student Impact Committee***

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, the following proposed draft charter:

(Revisions are in italicized and underlined text.)

Draft Charter

The Student Impact Committee is responsible for:

1. Examining policy issues and outreach associated with financial aid from a student and parent (family) perspective, and bringing those issues to the attention of the California Student Aid Commission with recommendations for appropriate actions;
2. Identifying and recommending policy and legislative proposals for Commission consideration.

***In Favor:*** Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell

***Absent:*** Commissioner Keene

***Agenda Item 5.b – Update on the Dream Act***

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, and Mr. Tae Kang, Manager of Grant Operations, provided an overview of the Dream Act application implementation, including the processes for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years. Ms. Mistler shared a thank you letter to the Commission from a Dream Act student and Chairman McDowell requested that the Commission acknowledge and respond to the student.

Ms. Rhonda Mohr expressed the CCCCO's concerns about operational issues, including 1) the requirement to verify high school diploma for a Dream Act student, but allow a non-

Dream Act student to self-certify, and 2) the requirement to identify AB 540 students on its rosters, when the institutions only report the number of AB 540 students processed for resident tuition purposes.

Ms. Mistler responded that the high school verification issue is in reference to draft verification guidelines and the same process is actually in place for both Dream Act and non-Dream Act students, which allows the student, high school or college to verify high school diploma. In addition, Commission staff is working on a requirement that will allow institutions to opt out. In regards to identifying AB 540 students, the Legislature is interested in the cost of AB 540 and may require the Commission to provide information on all AB 540 students including undocumented students and U.S. citizens who meet AB 540 requirements.

***Agenda Item 5.c – Consideration of issues arising from the budget proposal to fund Cal Grants using TANF funds, including the impact on Cal Grant recipients and institutions***

Chairman McDowell called for questions and, hearing none, moved on to the next agenda item.

***Agenda Item 5.d – Consideration of recommendations from the LAO report on the Analysis of New Cal Grant Eligibility Rules***

Commissioner Geioque requested an update on the target savings from the cohort default rate and graduation requirements.

Ms. Janet McDuffie, Chief of the Administration & External Affairs Division, reported that the 2011-12 data requested by LAO for its report was not available; therefore, Commission staff provided the savings targeted when the budget was put together. However, the target did not include students who may change schools. In actuality, many students changed schools and received their Cal Grant awards, resulting in the 2011-12 savings not meeting the original target savings. In addition, some students who were eligible for both Cal Grant A and B, but were awarded Cal Grant B because they could access it in the first year, became ineligible for the Cal Grant B when the new eligibility requirements went into effect. If those students had been awarded the Cal Grant A, they would have maintained eligibility and so the Legislature agreed to allow those students to be switched over to the Cal Grant A, resulting in adjusted target savings. Some additional discussion ensued.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE  
(Action)**

Committee Chair Siqueiros provided a summary of the February 21, 2013 meeting, which included approval of its charter and recommended positions on legislative bills.

***Agenda Item 6.a – Consideration of a charter for the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee***

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, the Strategic Policy & Planning Committee's amended draft charter, as follows:

(Revisions are in italicized and underlined text.)

Draft Charter

The Strategic Policy & Planning Committee shall be responsible for:

1. examining and making recommendations to the Commission on policy matters associated with financial aid;
- ~~2. making recommendations to the Commission on state and federal executive, legislative and budget issues associated with financial aid;~~
2. periodically reviewing and recommending any updates as needed to the Commission's written governance policies and the Commission's orientation manual;
3. examining and making recommendations to the Commission on governance matters, such as meeting procedures and committee structure;
4. developing and making recommendations on strategic planning for the Commission; and
5. identifying and recommending policy and legislative proposals for Commission consideration, including making recommendations to the Commission on state and federal executive, legislative and budget issues associated with financial aid.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell

*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

**Agenda Item 6.b – Consideration of state and federal legislative and budget issues affecting Commission programs**

Committee Chair Siqueiros reported that the Committee discussed revisions to the Guiding Principles and directed Commission staff to provide further clarification and bring the revised principles back to the Committee for its consideration. The Committee identified core issues such as consumer loan protections for students, financial literacy and ensuring appropriate operations and efficiency from the Commission in terms of delivering financial aid.

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, the amended guiding principles, as follows:

(Revisions are in italicized and underlined text.)

**PRINCIPLES:** Recognizing the critical need to maintain Legislative and Executive support for postsecondary educational opportunities, the Commission seeks to:

1. Support College Access That Is Equitable, Affordable and Comprehensive;\*
2. Ensure the Availability of Information on Higher Educational Opportunities;\*
3. Advocate For and Preserve the Flow of Financial Aid; and\*

4. Ensure Adequate Support and Flexibility for Commission Operations and Its Programs.\*

\*Numbering principles in no way indicates priorities; all principles are equally considered.

***In Favor:** Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell*

***Absent:** Commissioner Keene*

In addition, Committee Siqueiros presented the state legislative bills that were considered by the Committee.

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED** positions of **SUPPORT** for the following legislative bills:

- **Senate Bill (SB) 141** (Correa): College Education Benefits: Children of Deported Parent;
- **SB 150** (Lara): Pupils: Concurrent Enrollment in Community College;
- **Assembly Bill (AB) 303** (Calderon, Ian): Cal Grant Program: members and former members of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- **SB 285** (De León): Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program; and
- **Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 11** (Wieckowski): Student Loan Bankruptcy Discharge.

After an initial vote, some discussion followed about procedural issues with regard to majority votes and abstentions made in Committee. The Commission discussed reconsidering the legislative bills individually.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Shah, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, to reconsider the previous legislative bills individually.

***In Favor:** Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell*

***Absent:** Commissioner Keene*

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED** a **SUPPORT** position on **SB 141** (Correa): College Education Benefits: Children of Deported Parent.

***In Favor:** Commissioners Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell*

***Abstained:** Commissioners Anton and Geiogoue*

***Absent:** Commissioner Keene*

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **SUPPORT** position on **SB 150** (Lara): Pupils: Concurrent Enrollment in Community College.

***In Favor:** Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell*

***Absent:** Commissioner Keene*

Committee Chair Siqueiros reported that questions arose in Committee about whether AB 303 applied eligibility to Californians who served in the military or non-Californians who

served in the military in California. Since the Committee's discussion, it has been clarified that AB 303 is a benefit for Californians that served in the military.

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **SUPPORT** position on **AB 303** (Calderon, Ian): Cal Grant Program: members and former members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell  
*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **SUPPORT** position on **SB 285** (De León): Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell  
*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED** a **SUPPORT** position on **AJR 11** (Wieckowski): Student Loan Bankruptcy Discharge.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell  
*Abstained:* Commissioner Le Grande  
*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **WATCH** position on **AB 233** (Wieckowski): Student Loan Wage Garnishment.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell  
*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **WATCH** position on the following four bills:

- **SB 58** (Canella): Public Postsecondary Education: Funding;
- **AB 67** (Gorell): Public Postsecondary Education: Funding;
- **AB 138** (Olsen): Public Postsecondary Education: Tuition and Fees; and
- **AB 159** (Chavez): Postsecondary Education.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell  
*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **WATCH** position on **AB 330** (Chau): Student Financial Aid: disclosures.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell  
*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **WATCH** position on **AB 475** (Brown): Pupil Counseling.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell

*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

On **MOTION** by the Committee, the Commission **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **SUPPORT IN CONCEPT** position on **AB \_\_\_\_** (Wieckowski): Student Loan Counseling.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogoue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell

*Absent:* Commissioner Keene

***Agenda Item 6.c – Review of the Competitive Cal Grant program to consider ways more effectively to fill all of the 22,500 authorized awards***

Committee Chair Siqueiros reported that the Committee directed Commission staff to bring back recommendations on how to ensure that all 22,500 authorized Competitive Cal Grant awards are distributed.

***Agenda Item 6.d – Consideration of recommendations for revisions to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act***

It was reported that Ms. Keri Tippins provided a status update and was asked to invite Deputy Attorney General Ted Prim to make a presentation on the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act at a future Committee meeting.

Lastly, Committee Chair Siqueiros provided a list of topics that the Committee plans to consider at future meetings. Future topics include:

1. Federal College Access Challenge Grant redistribution of funding;
2. Manipulation of cohort default rates (Committee Member Anton will act as an ad hoc committee);
3. Staff report on recommended changes to the Competitive Cal Grant award formula and/or policy changes;
4. Revision of legislative and budget guiding principles;
5. Out-of-state travel funding for trips to Washington, D.C.;
6. Access to advisory groups;
7. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Update; and
8. Review of governance policies (Committee Member Geiogoue will act as an ad hoc committee).

*The following portion of agenda item 6.b was discussed out of sequence.*

***Continuation of Agenda Item 6.b – Consideration of state and federal legislative and budget issues affecting Commission programs***

Committee Chair Siqueiros noted that the Committee agreed to forgo the Federal Legislative Update until the Commission meeting. Ms. Lori Nezhura, Legislative Director, proceeded to give a presentation on federal legislative issues. Some discussion followed.

Commissioner Garcia Vasquez **MOVED** and Commissioner Siqueiros **SECONDED** to send a resolution to Congress and the President regarding the Commission's concerns about sequestration and its impact on students.

Chairman McDowell directed staff to draft the resolution and bring it back to the meeting for the Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Conley provided a report on his Congressional visits in February, which included meetings with the Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee and the Department of Education. Commissioner Conley also met with Congress Members Karen Bass, John Garamendi, George Miller and Loretta Sanchez, and California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice Harris.

Ms. Margie Carrington, President-Elect of the California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA), extended an invitation to Executive Director Fuentes-Michel and the Commissioners to attend the March 5<sup>th</sup> Day at the Capitol. Chairman McDowell also expressed interest in attending CCCSFAAA's next Board Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – CONSIDERATION OF STANDING ITEMS ON COMMISSION AGENDAS (Action)**

Chief Deputy Keith Yamanaka presented the staff recommendation on standing agenda items. Some discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a standing closed session and the Commission deferred any action on a standing closed session until Deputy Attorney General Ted Prim was available to consult at a future meeting.

Chairman McDowell requested that going forward all Commissioners are to receive the notices for each standing committee meeting. Chief Deputy Yamanaka clarified that Commissioners who are not committee members may participate as members of the public. Staff will provide hard copies of agenda materials to Commissioners who are not committee members, by request only.

The Commission Unanimously **APPROVED** the standing agenda items, as follows:

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Public Comment
- Minutes
- Consent Agenda
- Chair's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Committee Reports
- New business to be considered at future meetings [as the last agenda item]

**In Favor:** Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah, Siqueiros and McDowell

**Absent:** Commissioner Keene

**AGENDA ITEM 8 – CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER TO HAVE IN-PERSON COMMISSION MEETINGS IN PLACE OF TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS (Action)**

Chief Deputy Director Keith Yamanaka presented the agenda item. Commissioners weighed the pros and cons of conducting in-person meetings. Pros include better audibility, more efficiency, increased debate and time-savings by scheduling committee meetings immediately before the full Commission meetings. Cons include increased travel costs and staff workload.

The Commission agreed to continue meeting in person with the standing committees meeting the day before the full Commission meeting in order to report out and bring recommendations to the Commission. However, the committees may meet via teleconference if there is a particular issue they want to pursue.

**AGENDA ITEM 9 – NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS (Action)**

Chairman McDowell noted that the Student Impact Committee and Strategic Policy & Planning Committee have announced the topics they plan to consider.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Keri Tippins announced that the Commission would meet in closed session to confer with or receive advice from legal counsel and may take action on the pending litigation pursuant to California Government Code section 11126(e)(1): Consideration of proposed settlement with RSUI Indemnity Company regarding denied claims for insurance coverage.

The Commission recessed into closed session at 5:00 p.m.

**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

Chairman McDowell reconvened the open session of the Commission meeting at 5:15 p.m. and reported that there is nothing to report. He also brought attention to a briefing paper submitted by Commissioner Doud regarding private educational institutions.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2013**

Commission Chairman John R. McDowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

John R. McDowell, Jr., Chairman  
Ana Beltran, Vice Chair  
Cris Arzate, Secretary  
Brian Conley  
Johnny Garcia Vasquez  
Hal Geioque  
Harry Le Grande  
Jamillah Moore  
Ishan Shah

The following Commissioners were absent:

Nancy Anton  
Jacqueline Doud  
Barry Keene  
Michele Siqueiros

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

***Continuation of Agenda Item 6.b – Consideration of state and federal legislative and budget issues affecting Commission programs***

Ms. Lori Nezhura, Legislative Director, presented the following draft Resolution for the Commission’s consideration:

**Proposed Draft**

**Resolution of the California Student Aid Commission, February 22, 2013**

Whereas, today’s elementary, secondary and postsecondary students are the future leaders, innovators and scholars of our nation;

Whereas, California has the most populous and diverse student body in the nation;

Whereas, the federal Budget Control Act of 2011 imposes across the board cuts, known as sequestration, amounting to 8.2% cuts to educational grants and programs benefitting California’s students;

Whereas, anticipated cuts to TRIO and GEAR-UP will leave low-income and underrepresented California students without the tutoring, counseling, and financial aid assistance necessary for them to access and be successful in college;

Whereas, cuts to English Acquisition State Grants will result in over 113,500 California English Language Learners losing vital services intended to promote language proficiency and academic achievement;

Whereas, 5,700 Federal Work Study recipients and 15,000 Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant recipients will fail to receive \$16.7 million in financial aid for college in California;

Whereas, a projected \$15 million in cuts to State Grants for Career and Technical Education means over 330,000 California high school and community college students will cease to receive preparation for employment in high-demand, 21<sup>st</sup> century fields; therefore be it

Resolved, that the California Student Aid Commission strongly urges Congress and the President to take all steps necessary to protect students from harmful sequestration cuts to financial aid and educational support services proven successful in California and all across the nation.

On **MOTION** by Commissioner Garcia Vasquez, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED** to amend the sixth paragraph of the draft Resolution to add reference to the potential harm to Pell Grants after the first year of the sequester, affecting 1.01 million students, as follows:

(Revisions are in italicized and underlined text.)

Whereas, 5,700 Federal Work Study recipients and 15,000 Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant recipients will fail to receive \$16.7 million in financial aid for college in California; and the loss and/or reduction of Pell Grant funding after the first year of the sequester, will affect more than one million California college and university students; and

*In Favor:* Commissioners Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah and McDowell

*Absent:* Commissioners Anton, Doud, Keene and Siqueiros

The Commission Unanimously **APPROVED** the draft Resolution, as amended.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Garcia Vasquez, Geiogue, Le Grande, Moore, Shah and McDowell

*Absent:* Commissioners Anton, Doud, Keene and Siqueiros

Commission staff will distribute the Resolution as soon as possible to the President and the California Congressional Delegation, with copies to the California Legislature and the Governor.

Lastly, Executive Director Fuentes-Michel provided a brief update on the 2013 Steps to College fair that took place in early February.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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CRIS ARZATE  
SECRETARY