

# Minutes

## Action Item

Approval of minutes of November 13-14, 2014 and January 16, 2015

---

### CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**November 13-14, 2014**

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 in State Capitol Room 4202, and Friday, November 14, 2014 in State Capitol Room 437 located at 1301 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, California.

#### **Thursday, November 13, 2014**

Chairman John R. McDowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

John R. McDowell, Jr., Chairman  
Ana Beltran, Vice Chair  
Cris Arzate, Secretary  
Lande Ajose  
Nancy Anton  
Brian Conley  
Jacqueline Doud  
Jessica Foresti  
Hal Geioque  
Devon Graves  
Harry Le Grande  
Michael W. Marion, Jr.  
Jamillah Moore  
Wm. Gregory Sawyer  
Jack Scott

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairman McDowell introduced and welcomed the newest Commission appointments: Commissioners Lande Ajose, Jessica Foresti and Michael Marion. He announced that this would be his last meeting as chair as elections would be held during this meeting. Chairman McDowell provided an overview of the Commission's achievements over the past few years, including the

## California Student Aid Commission

successful implementation of the Commission's newest programs and the development of important partnerships. Lastly, Chairman McDowell thanked the Commissioners and staff for their work.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

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

### CONSENT CALENDAR, including

- ❖ **Approval of Minutes of September 18-19, 2014**
- ❖ **Consideration of Redistribution of the \$206,643 in 2014-15 California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Funding for Continued Development of the New Database**
- ❖ **Consideration of Designating Commissioner(s) as Director(s) on the EdFund Board**

**MOVED** (Sawyer), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED** the Consent Calendar.

***In Favor:** Commissioners Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and McDowell*

***Abstained:** Commissioners Ajose and Foresti*

***Absent:** Commissioners Doud and Marion*

### UPDATE FROM STUDENT IMPACT COMMITTEE CHAIR DEVON GRAVES ON THE DREAM ACT IMPLEMENTATION, THE MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP IMPLEMENTATION, FINANCIAL AID ISSUES AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Committee Chair Graves invited a representative to provide an update on the work of the Student Senate of California Community Colleges (SSCCC).

Mr. Victor Costa of Berkeley City College is SSCCC's Region III External Affairs Senator and serves as the liaison to the California State Student Association. Mr. Costa reported on his organization's advocacy efforts, including:

- Cal Grant Program reform;
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) reform;
- Proposition 13 reform;
- Decreasing Student Loan Debt; and
- Amendments to the California Education Code to afford more rights to Student Trustees.

Committee Chair Graves provided an update on the 2015-16 Dream Act application process, including the addition of some clarifying questions; simplification of the parent signature process; enhancements to the skip logic for the institution's correction process; additional automated student email notifications, and website and messaging improvements. He also provided a summary of the gender distribution, income levels and ages of Dream Act applicants who received award offers. Committee Chair Graves also presented an overview of the issues surrounding the AB 540 Certification Process. Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, and Mr. Tae Kang, Senior Programs Manager, provided additional information and discussion followed.

## California Student Aid Commission

Lastly, Committee Chair Graves provided updates on the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS), including award data, application deadline, and outreach efforts.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

General Counsel Keri Tippins announced the following:

- ❖ **The Commission will meet in Closed Session to discuss and may take action on personnel matters pursuant to California Government Code, Section 11126(a)(1).**

Chairman McDowell recessed the Open Session at 9:50 a.m. and announced that he would reconvene the Commission meeting at 1:00 p.m. He convened the Closed Session at 9:50 a.m. and adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

### **RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

Chairman McDowell reconvened the Open Session at 1:04 p.m. and announced there was nothing to report out of the Closed Session.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Diana Fuentes-Michel presented her written report and, in addition, provided an update on the Commission's General Fund transfer request of up to \$258,000 for 2014-15 Cash for College funds, which is necessary to continue the program in January. Discussion ensued.

Executive Director Michel also provided an update on the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 hearing held on October 22, 2014 in Redondo Beach to discuss the first year of implementation of the Middle Class Scholarship program.

### **STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

- ❖ **Legislative Update and Consideration of Legislative Proposals for 2015**

Dr. Angelo Williams, Legislative Director, presented an update on the final disposition of Commission-supported legislation and other bills that will have an effect on the Commission's programs. He also presented the 2015-16 legislative agenda consisting of a ten-year plan that is in alignment with the Commission's policy priorities. Discussion followed regarding the concept of expanding eligibility.

- ❖ **Consideration of Scoring Criteria for Awarding Competitive Cal Grants**

Mr. Matthew La Rocque, Research Analyst with The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), provided comments about the recommendations made by TICAS regarding the Cal Grant scoring matrix.

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, provided an update on the Commission's progress on increasing the Cal Grant Competitive paid rate, including recommendations made by the Cal Grant Competitive Communications Workgroup. Ms. Mistler also reported on the recommendations from the Cal Grant Competitive Scoring Matrix Workgroup and more discussion followed. She then presented the Commission staff's recommendations on how to increase the paid rate.

## California Student Aid Commission

**MOVED** (Anton), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Commission **APPROVED** the following staff recommendation, as amended (changes are in bold and underlined italics):

In an effort to pay 100 percent of the Competitive award offers, staff recommends that the Commission authorize staff to do the following:

1. Withdraw awards for unpaid students only (those that do not have any code posted for fall) on December 10, 2014.
2. Offer additional awards to the next cohort(s) of eligible students.
3. Continue to review and analyze the *disadvantaged* data *on disadvantaged students* to provide comprehensive recommendations concerning changing the Competitive scoring matrix and review options of giving the withdrawn students a priority status if they apply the following academic year.
4. Continue to identify options for collecting enrollment files or other data exchanges with campuses that could increase the paid rate for the Competitive award offers.
5. Report back at the February Commission meeting any recommendations to changing the Competitive scoring matrix.

*In Favor: Commissioners AJose, Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Foresti, Geiogoue, Graves, Le Grande, Marion, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and McDowell*

### ❖ Consideration of Paid Rates for Cal Grant Entitlement Awards

Ms. Mistler provided information on the statutory limitations to expanding the Cal Grant Entitlement (E2) program, including a discussion of the age limit and gap-year requirements. She provided an update on the Transfer Entitlement Workgroup discussions that focused on the outreach efforts for community college transfer students. Lastly, Ms. Mistler provided an update on the High School Entitlement (E1) application process and the Commission's partnership with the State Department of Education to verify graduation.

Discussion ensued and Ms. Mistler highlighted the Committee's November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting discussion with regard to the Committee's changes to the staff recommendation.

Mr. Dean Kulju, Financial Aid Director at the California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office, commented on the Cal Grant take rate for CSU students in light of the number of students who were admitted but do not ultimately attend.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Graves, and **SECONDED**, to **APPROVE** the staff recommendation amended by the Strategic Policy & Planning Committee as follows (changes in bold and underlined italics):

To better identify the status of students offered an *High School* Entitlement Cal Grant award, staff recommends:

## California Student Aid Commission

1. Use campus enrollment files or Pell files, if available, to identify whether the student is enrolled and which college or campus he or she is attending to list them on the correct Cal Grant Roster and pay them.
2. Use Board of Governors (BOG) fee waiver data, if available, to identify students who do not complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application to target them with information about the Cal Grant Programs.
3. Support additional administrative funding to increase staff to: 1) better promote the Cal Grant Entitlement programs; 2) research data and information to identify issues and solutions; and, 3) increase the monitoring of Cal Grant payments to ensure eligible Cal Grant offered awardees are paid.
4. Check with the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) on their numbers and the number of students that were not paid as to why students either did not attend or did not get paid.
5. Look at the 40 percent, which are the students who did not get paid; and provide data on the offer rates and take rates.
6. Look at a geographical district on how many Cal Grant awards are made within the geographical areas and to look at those rates and see if the outreach is one of the reasons why students are not being paid or understand their Cal Grant.
7. Reach out to the four-year institutions that have program agreements with transfer students and to work with them to get information out to their students.

Additionally, a **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Graves, and **SECONDED**, to **AMEND** the above motion with the following addition:

8. Commission staff will provide an update at the February 2015 Commission meeting.

Dr. Linda Williams, Sierra College Financial Aid Director and California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAA) President-Elect, commented that the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) does not currently provide any BOG or enrollment data. Mr. Tim Bonnel, CCCCCO Student Financial Aid Programs Coordinator, expressed the CCCCCO's concerns about requiring this data and suggested that the Commission work with the Chancellor's Office to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this data exchange. Additional discussion ensued and Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel, clarified that the Commission had been working with the Chancellor's Office on an MOU for several years but was last directed to work directly with the campuses. Mr. Dean Kulju suggested that the Commission inform the campuses which students are in question so that they can review their files.

Questions were raised about whether the Commission needed to take formal action or simply provide staff with guidance to move forward. There was some discussion about including additional requirements in the next Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA).

The **MOTION** was **WITHDRAWN** (Graves).

**MOVED** (Anton), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Commission **APPROVED** to direct Commission staff to report to the Commission at its February 2015 meeting with a recommendation.

# California Student Aid Commission

*In Favor: Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Foresti, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Marion, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and McDowell*

## ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS

### Election of Chair

Commissioners Beltran and Geiogue both **ACCEPTED** their nominations for the office of Chair of the Commission.

The Commission **APPROVED** the election of Commissioner Geiogue as Chair by a Roll Call Vote of 9-6.

*In Favor of Commissioner Geiogue: Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Marion, Moore, Sawyer and Scott*

*In Favor of Commissioner Beltran: Commissioners Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Foresti and McDowell*

### Election of Vice Chair

Commissioners Beltran and Graves both **ACCEPTED** their nominations for the office of Vice Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Arzate **WITHDREW** his nomination.

The Commission **APPROVED** the re-election of Commissioner Beltran as Vice Chair by a Roll Call Vote of 9-6.

*In Favor of Commissioner Beltran: Commissioners Ajose, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Marion, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and McDowell*

*In Favor of Commissioner Graves: Commissioners Anton, Doud, Foresti, Geiogue, Graves and Le Grande*

### Election of Secretary

Commissioner Arzate **WITHDREW** his nomination.

**MOVED** (Scott), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Commission **APPROVED** the election of Commissioner Conley as Secretary of the Commission.

*In Favor: Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Arzate, Beltran, Conley, Doud, Foresti, Geiogue, Graves, Le Grande, Marion, Moore, Sawyer, Scott and McDowell*

## RECESS

Chairman McDowell recessed the Open Session at 3:55 p.m.

#####

# California Student Aid Commission

**Friday, November 14, 2014**

Chairman John R. McDowell, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

John R. McDowell, Jr., Chairman  
Ana Beltran, Vice Chair  
Cris Arzate, Secretary  
Lande Ajose  
Nancy Anton  
Brian Conley  
Jacqueline Doud  
Jessica Foresti  
Hal Geiogue  
Devon Graves  
Harry Le Grande  
Michael W. Marion, Jr.  
Wm. Gregory Sawyer  
Jack Scott

The following Commissioner was absent:

Jamillah Moore

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Phyllis Johnson, graduate of the University of Phoenix and Heald College, commented on her student loan debt and asked for more controls and more conservative payment plans.

## **SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT DEBT IN CALIFORNIA**

### **Featured Presenter:**

Mark Kantrowitz, Ed.D., Senior Vice President and Publishers, Edvisors.com, provided an overview on the current state of student debt in the United States and the potential impact on the economy.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF STUDENT DEBT**

Ms. Laura Choi, researcher, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, discussed the impact of student debt on households and communities.

Ms. Debbie Cochrane, Research Director, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), provided the organization's just-issued report on student debt for 2013 graduates across the country, based on information from 1,000 colleges.

## California Student Aid Commission

Dr. Su Jin Jez, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration, California State University, Sacramento, provided information about her 10 years of research on the impact of family wealth on college access.

Mr. Gregory Leib, Chief Executive Officer and President of Terra Fossil, presented information about his goal of partnering with retailers and universities across the nation to “Stomp Out Student Loans” through the sale of Terra Fossil-branded wine.

### **PANEL DISCUSSION: WHAT COLLEGES ARE DOING TO HELP**

Ms. Veronica Villalobos Cruz, Vice President of External Relations, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, described what private nonprofit colleges are doing to support students.

Ms. Rachelle Feldman, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Financial Aid and Scholarships at University of California (UC) Berkeley, provided information about the Berkeley campus and the UC system.

Mr. Rhonda Mohr, the Dean who specializes in financial aid for the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, provided information about the low level of borrowing at community colleges and the system’s financial literacy initiative.

Mr. Dean Kulju, Director, Student Financial Aid Services and Programs, California State University (CSU) Chancellor’s Office, provided an overview of CSU activities.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Claudia Montesano, financial literacy coordinator at UC Berkeley and Ms. Jamie Stahl, UC Berkeley student and peer counselor, described the successful peer counseling program at that campus.

Mr. Jerrel Peterson described the Young Invincibles, a national nonpartisan organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunities for young adults. He said it is important to include young people in the design of programs so that they are relevant and meaningful.

Ms. Phyllis Johnson, a former student and current loan payer, spoke again. She advised students to be aware of the high cost of the money they borrow.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair-Elect Geiogue requested that Commissioners provide their input for any items they wish to be considered at a future meeting. He announced that the next Commission meeting in January 2015 will be a Budget discussion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

---

BRIAN CONLEY  
SECRETARY

# California Student Aid Commission

## CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2015

A teleconference meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was held on Friday, January 16, 2015 at the California Student Aid Commission Boardroom, located at 11040 White Rock Road in Rancho Cordova, California.

Chair Hal Geiogoue called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

Hal Geiogoue, Chair  
Ana Beltran, Vice Chair  
Brian Conley, Secretary  
Lande Ajose  
Nancy Anton  
Jessica Foresti  
Devon Graves  
Michael W. Marion, Jr.  
John R. McDowell, Jr.  
Jamillah Moore  
Wm. Gregory Sawyer  
Jack Scott  
Jose Solorio

The following Commissioners were absent:

Jacqueline Doud  
Harry Le Grande

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Geiogoue welcomed the newest appointee, Commissioner Jose Solorio.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING THE COMMISSION'S COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR 2015**

Chair Geiogoue presented a proposal to restructure the Commission's committees to address concerns of an unbalanced workload among the committees. Whether or not the committees were restructured, Chair Geiogoue stated that he expected to make membership assignments within the next week and for each committee to take up its respective draft charter as the first item of its

## California Student Aid Commission

business in February. The full Commission would then have the opportunity to consider all of the proposed charters at its February meeting.

On **MOTION** (Anton), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Commission **APPROVED** by Roll Call Vote the following recommendations:

1. Transfer the legislative and budget duties from the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee (SPPC) to the Audit Committee and rename it the Legislative, Audit and Budget (LAB) Committee.
2. Adopt the following four committees for 2015: the Personnel, Evaluations, and Nominations (PEN) Committee, the Student Impact (SI) Committee, the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee (SPPC), and the Legislative, Audit and Budget (LAB) Committee.
3. Request that each committee review its Charter and recommend any changes to the full Commission at the February 19-20 Commission meeting.

***In Favor:** Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Beltran, Conley, Foresti, Graves, Marion, McDowell, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Solorio and Geiogoue*

***Absent:** Commissioners Doud and Le Grande*

### **UPDATE ON THE 2015 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET, INCLUDING ITEMS RELATING TO THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS**

Ms. Olgalilia Ramirez, Legislative Analyst for the Strategic Policy, Media & Communications Division, provided highlights of the 2015 Governor's Budget.

There was some discussion regarding the University of California Regents' decision to raise tuition, which may result in the Commission seeking a funding deficiency for Cal Grants. Concerns were also raised about the need for restoration of the maximum Cal Grant award for the non-profit and WASC accredited for-profit independent California colleges. Chair Geiogoue commented that, overall, the 2015 Governor's Budget is a strong budget in support of the Commission's programs.

### **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT REPORT ON THE PUBLIC HEARING ON STUDENT DEBT AND FINANCIAL LITERACY**

Chair Geiogoue stated that the draft report, "Student Loan Debt: Impact and Options in California," a report on the information presented to the Commission at its Student Debt Symposium on November 14, 2014, was drafted by our consultant and presented as an information item only. It will be dealt with in more detail at the February Commission meeting. Chair Geiogoue announced that the Commission will receive an update on the development of the new Grant Delivery System and the next Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA) in February. Some discussion followed about ensuring that the Commission seeks input from the segments.

### **NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Chair Geiogoue provided the following overview of the February Commission meeting structure:

- Standing Committees will meet in the morning of Thursday, February 19, 2015.
- The full Commission meeting will convene Thursday afternoon and recess until Friday at 4:00 p.m. to allow any Committees to meet on any unfinished business.

## California Student Aid Commission

- The Commission meeting on Friday, February 20, 2015 will include the following:
  - A presentation by Mr. Hans Johnson, Senior and Bren Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC); and
  - An overview of the Grant Delivery System.
- The Commission meeting will be adjourned no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

There was discussion about the Commissioners reaffirming their commitment to stay until the meeting is adjourned to avoid losing a quorum. Chair Geiogue indicated that we will plan for the adjournment of our meetings by 3 p.m. on Fridays, which will help those Commissioners traveling long distances.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

---

BRIAN CONLEY  
SECRETARY