

Exhibit 8

Information Item

California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Project Directors Report

Nicole Korgie-Jackson will make a brief oral presentation at the meeting. The following is the written Cal-SOAP Project Director report.

Cal-SOAP Operations Update

2014-2015 Cal SOAP Contracts

- CSAC received support from the Department of Finance and the Governor's office to move forward with requesting alternative payment for Cal-SOAP contracts for the current year. This alternative consists in getting this year's federal grant funds as a grant instead of a contract under the basis of Section 4.06 of the State Contract Manual. This section establishes that the Cal-SOAP contracts are exempt from DGS approval as long as they are funded through the federal Challenge Grant.
- Cal SOAP consortiums were able to receive their initial 2014-15 reimbursements after CSAC expedited the process with the State Controllers Office.

Cal-SOAP Database

- CSAC IT has created a series of work releases and has begun needed modifications and updates for the Cal SOAP database. While these efforts are appreciated, the database is still a long way from being useful for Cal SOAP staff.
- CSAC IT will be requesting a further business analysis of work to be completed. This process may delay further updates on the current database system.
- CSAC staff and Project Directors will need to work on creating an "alternate" data tracking system that will best prepare data for upcoming Cal SOAP evaluation reports.

2015-2016 Funding

- CSAC will confirm with the Governor's Office and the Department of Finance whether the same section of the State contract manual could be applied under state funding the 2015-16 academic year contracts.
- If the 2015-16 contracts are approved under this condition, CSAC will consider adding language about minimum insurance requirements in the contracts.
- Cal SOAP funding is still pending final approval in the state budget.

California Student Aid Commission

- Project Directors are waiting on Annual Program Plan (APP) instructions from CSAC.

Project Directors Two Day Meeting

- The Project Directors from all fourteen consortiums are planning to hold an in-person meeting on August 3rd and 4th prior to the 2015-16 academic year.
- The agenda will include strategic planning, training on the database and updates from CSAC staff.
- Monica Roberts, the Projector Director for the Sacramento consortium has graciously reserved meeting rooms at the Sacramento County of Education.

Responsible Person(s): Nicole Korgie-Jackson
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