

Item 17

Information Item

Update on the Commission's Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA) and consideration of specific issues

The Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA) establishes the administrative, fiscal, and information security requirements for eligible institutions participating in the Cal Grant program. The current IPA expires June 30, 2016.

Staff provided an information item on the IPA at the Commission's September 17-18, 2015 meeting. Commission staff informed Commissioners that there were a number of ongoing issues that external stakeholders had expressed concerning proposed amendments to the IPA. At the meeting, external stakeholders voiced their concerns about not having face-to-face meetings and the absence of open dialogue during stakeholder meetings. Since there were many unresolved issues, the Commissioners directed staff and external stakeholders to attempt to resolve those issues through a face-to-face meeting before the November Commission meeting, if possible. If additional time were needed for more consultation, then additional meetings would be scheduled as necessary. Further, unresolved issues were to be expressed through statements of the problems, options for resolving those problems, and recommendations. External stakeholders and Commission staff were to exchange data to assist in working out the problems.

Following the directive from the Commission, staff began working to provide information to the external stakeholders about the issues for which options were to be developed, as well as developing the items of data staff would need from the external stakeholders. An in-person meeting with external stakeholders will take place in November or December to discuss the issues, data and proposed IPA changes to resolve those issues. Additionally, teleconference calls with segmental representatives will take place to discuss action items in preparation for the in-person meeting.

Staff anticipates that the exchanges of data and information and the discussions of the issues will take time, commensurate with the significance of the issues. Therefore, staff would recommend that a one-year, interim IPA be implemented for the 2016-2017 year. The interim IPA would include just the minor edits and text changes. Staff will present the interim IPA at the February Commission meeting, and will implement the face-to-face discussions with the external stakeholders on the formal IPA.

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