

# Minutes

## Action Item

Approval of minutes of November 4-6, 2015

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### DRAFT

## CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 4-6, 2015

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was held on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at the Marriott Hotel located at 11211 Point East Drive, Rancho Cordova, California, and continuing on Thursday, November 5, 2015 and Friday, November 6, 2015 at the Commission's Board Room located at 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, California.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Chair Hal Geiogoue called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

Hal Geiogoue, Chair  
Ana Beltran, Vice Chair  
Lande Ajose  
Nancy Anton  
Jacqueline Doud  
Jessica Foresti  
Devon Graves  
Harry Le Grande  
Debra Maxie  
John R. McDowell, Jr.  
Jamillah Moore  
Wm. Gregory Sawyer  
Jack Scott  
Jose Solorio

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Geiogoue welcomed the newest appointment, Commissioner Debra Maxie.

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## PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

## REVIEW OF VOTING RULES

Chair Geiogue discussed the Commission's voting rules and presented a proposal to modify the voting rules for the selection of the executive director to require at least eight affirmative votes, regardless of the number of Commissioners present.

Some discussion ensued about taking action by a consensus vote. Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel, explained that an amendment to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requires that each vote be recorded in the minutes and include the list of Commissioners and how each voted. However, the selection of the executive director will be held in Closed Session, and the minutes will not be made public.

## CLOSED SESSION

### ❖ PERSONNEL MATTERS

Ms. Tippins made the following announcement:

- ❖ **The California Student Aid Commission will be entering into Closed Session, pursuant to California Government Code Section 11126(a) on personnel matters.**

Chair Geiogue recessed the Open Session at 9:08 a.m. and convened the Closed Session at 9:09 a.m.

## RECONVENE OPEN SESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECESS

Chair Geiogue reconvened Open Session at 4:42 p.m. and announced that the Closed Session was recessed until Thursday, November 5, 2015.

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## RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Chair Hal Geiogue called the meeting to order at 8:57 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

Hal Geiogue, Chair  
Lande Ajose, Vice Chair  
Jacqueline Doud, Secretary  
Nancy Anton  
Ana Beltran  
Jessica Foresti  
Devon Graves

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Harry Le Grande  
Debra Maxie  
John R. McDowell, Jr.  
Jamillah Moore  
Wm. Gregory Sawyer  
Jack Scott  
Jose Solorio

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2015

**MOVED** (Sawyer), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Commission **APPROVED** the minutes of September 17-18, 2015 as presented.

*In Favor: Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Beltran, Doud, Foresti, Graves, Le Grande, Maxie, McDowell, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Solorio and Geiogoue*

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Geiogoue welcomed Commissioner Debra Maxie and announced that he has appointed her to the Student Impact and Strategic Policy & Planning Committees. He also presented the Commission Resolutions for former Commissioners, Michael Marion, Jr. and Brian Conley. Lastly, he reported on the recent visit by the Governor's Office and Department of Finance, as well as his trip to Washington, D.C. in response to an invitation by the President's Office to learn about the new changes in the FAFSA for 2016.

## ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS

Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel, discussed the process for the annual election of Commission officers. Each nominee provided a candidate statement and Commissioner Graves, who was nominated for the office of Vice Chair, relinquished his nomination.

### Election of Chair

The Commission unanimously **APPROVED** the nomination of Commissioner Hal Geiogoue as Chair.

*In Favor: Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Beltran, Doud, Foresti, Graves, Le Grande, Maxie, McDowell, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Solorio and Geiogoue*

### Election of Vice Chair

The Commission unanimously **APPROVED** the nomination of Commissioner Lande Ajose as Vice Chair.

*In Favor: Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Beltran, Doud, Foresti, Graves, Le Grande, Maxie, McDowell, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Solorio and Geiogoue*

### Election of Secretary

The Commission unanimously **APPROVED** the nomination of Commissioner Jacqueline Doud as Secretary.

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*In Favor: Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Beltran, Doud, Foresti, Graves, Le Grande, Maxie, McDowell, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Solorio and Geiogoue*

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

Mr. Keith Yamanaka, Acting Executive Director, presented his written report and highlighted the following activities implemented by the Commission:

- Grade Point Average (GPA) electronic submission for 2016-17;
- New Competitive Cal Grant scoring process pilot for 2016-17, with help from The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS); and
- Child Development Program, in partnership with the California Department of Education.

Mr. Yamanaka also noted the recent hiring of four new managers in the Program Administration & Services Division.

Questions arose regarding the institutions' access to their Cal Grant rosters through WebGrants. Mr. Tae Kang, Senior Programs Manager, discussed the changes in the process.

## **CALIFORNIA STUDENT OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS PROGRAM (CAL-SOAP) PROJECT DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Nicole Korgie-Jackson, Long Beach Cal-SOAP Project Director and Lead, presented her written report, including a sample of Cal-SOAP high school data collected for the College Going Data report, and highlights of Cal-SOAP's financial aid and outreach activities.

Some discussion followed about the map illustrating Cal-SOAP covered areas, and a list of the high schools included in those areas was requested. Concerns were raised about the neediest areas that are currently not being served by Cal-SOAP, such as San Bernardino and Riverside. The Cal-SOAP directors were urged to examine the population demographics so that resource allocations and operations are data-driven.

There was also some discussion about the connection between Cal-SOAP and the California Cash for College (CCFC) Program. Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, explained the CCFC funding, organization and activities.

## **CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2016**

There was some discussion about the draft 2016 meeting calendar and the following changes were proposed:

- Change January 15, 2016 to January 14, 2016; and
- Change September 8-9, 2016 to September 15-16, 2016.

Chair Geiogoue deferred the Commission's action to Friday, November 6, 2016 after the Commissioners have had the opportunity to review their availability for the revised dates.

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## APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS OVER \$100,000

Acting Executive Director Yamanaka presented the staff request to enter into a contract for a security risk assessment for a maximum of \$213,800. Ms. Tracy Howard, Chief Information Officer, discussed the requirement to complete the assessment every two years.

Concerns were raised about potential future costs, and the need to ensure that funding is properly allocated to maintain compliance with state requirements. Chair Geiogoue indicated that staff will provide a comprehensive status report in February of the progress and the costs. It was also suggested that staff regularly provide a Grant Delivery System Modernization (GDSM) Project Dashboard, which would provide an indication of the Commission's progress, deadlines, expenditures and other items. Mr. Fred Wood, GDSM Project Manager, commented that he will provide a progress report later in the agenda, and will be able to provide the requested dashboard.

**MOVED** (Le Grande), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Commission **APPROVED** the staff recommendation to authorize staff to enter into a contract for up to \$213,800 with an appropriate vendor to perform a security risk assessment.

*In Favor: Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Beltran, Doud, Foresti, Graves, Le Grande, Maxie, McDowell, Moore, Sawyer, Scott, Solorio and Geiogoue*

## REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

Chair Geiogoue announced that there were no reports from the ad hoc committees. However, in planning ahead, he inquired about the possibility of having the University of California or California Community Colleges segments make presentations to the Commission next year. Some discussion ensued about timing and the availability of system office representatives, and Chair Geiogoue indicated he would follow up with the segments.

## PRESENTATION OF RECENT COMMISSION REPORTS AND OTHER DATA

Chair Geiogoue noted that reports by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and the Education Commission of the States (ECS) are included in the agenda for the Commissioners' reference. It was suggested that the Commission staff provide a report on the ECS study and how the Commission is consistent with, or defers from, the guiding principles articulated by ECS for creating state policy. Chair Geiogoue reported that he has invited ECS to make a presentation at the February Commission meeting and staff can respond at that time.

## CLOSED SESSION

### ❖ PERSONNEL MATTERS

Chair Geiogoue announced that the Commission would convene into Closed Session and then the Standing Committees would meet.

Chair Geiogoue recessed the Open Session at 10:32 a.m. and convened the Closed Session at 11:00 a.m.

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## RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015**

Chair Hal Geiogoue called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

Hal Geiogoue, Chair  
Lande Ajose, Vice Chair  
Nancy Anton  
Jessica Foresti  
Devon Graves  
Harry Le Grande  
Debra Maxie  
Jamillah Moore  
Wm. Gregory Sawyer  
Jack Scott  
Jose Solorio

The following Commissioners were absent:

Jacqueline Doud, Secretary  
Ana Beltran  
John McDowell, Jr.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

## REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Chair Geiogoue reported that there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

## PRESENTATION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Loren Blanchard, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at the California State University (CSU), gave a Power Point overview of the CSU system, its students, goals, access and opportunity initiatives, graduation initiative, California workforce data, technology, and fiscal concerns.

Ms. Carolina Cardenas, Director of Academic Outreach and Early Assessment, gave a presentation on CSU's outreach efforts in 2013-14, including TRIO and college readiness, and their outreach messaging components.

Mr. Dean Kulju, Director of Student Financial Aid Services and Programs, discussed CSU's financial aid packaging, the role of Cal Grants, and CSU student indebtedness.

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Dr. Ed Mills, Vice President of Student Affairs at California State University, Sacramento, gave a presentation on the campus perspective.

Ms. Taylor Herren, President of the California State Student Association (CSSA), gave a presentation on CSSA's legislative priorities and advocacy campaigns, including open education resources, textbook affordability, "Dream Centers" for undocumented students, food sustainability, and integrated management systems.

There was some discussion regarding the Associate's Degree for Transfer Program, and the time to degree. Mr. Nathan Evans, Chief of Staff for CSU Academic Affairs, discussed community college students' accessibility to CSU's system of academic disciplines which provides thousands of pathways to degree, and is currently the preferred method of transfer. He also discussed strategies to help students, such as "Super Seniors," graduate, including the Course Match program.

## **RECESS**

Chair Geiogoue recessed the Commission meeting at 11:07 a.m.

## **RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

Chair Geiogoue reconvened the Open Session of the Commission meeting at 11:38 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT ITEMS**

### **LEGISLATIVE, AUDIT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Chair Moore reported that the Committee considered the following action and informational items on November 5, 2015, noting that the Committee expressed concerns about the possibility of receiving approval for the requested number of positions for the Program Administration & Services Division and the Information Technology Services Division.

#### **❖ Consideration of an Additional Budget Change Proposal (BCP) for Fiscal Year 2016**

Acting Executive Director Keith Yamanaka provided a summary of the BCPs presented to the Commission in September. Some discussion ensued and concerns were raised about the total number of positions being requested and the likelihood of success. There was also discussion about the need to examine the Commission's overall request in terms of staffing and dollars, the relative priority of all of the activities, and the Commission's basic needs in terms of compliance.

**MOVED** (Solorio), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Commission **APPROVED**, By Roll Call Vote, the Customer Assistance and Processing Unit and Institutional Support Unit budget change proposal for submittal to the Department of Finance.

***In Favor:*** Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Foresti, Solorio and Geiogoue

***Opposed:*** Commissioner Graves

***Abstained:*** Commissioners Le Grande, Maxie, Moore and Sawyer

***Absent:*** Commissioners Beltran, Doud, McDowell and Scott

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### ❖ Consideration of Commission's Policy on Travel to Washington, D.C.

Chair Geiogoue announced that there was a consensus to continue moving forward with this issue, and he has asked Commissioners Ajose and Moore to focus with staff on how to approach the situation.

### ❖ Update on State and Federal Legislation affecting Commission Programs

Chair Geiogoue reported that this item was informational only.

### ❖ Update on the Grant Delivery System Modernization Project

Chair Geiogoue remarked that this item was informational, and that the Full Commission will receive a comprehensive presentation on the status of the GDS at the February meeting.

## STUDENT IMPACT COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Graves reported that the Committee met on November 5, 2015 and discussed the following action and informational items.

### ❖ Consideration of Draft Report on the Commission's Public Hearing in November 2014: A Symposium on Student Debt in California

On **MOTION** by the Student Impact Committee, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Commission **APPROVED** the draft report on the Commission's Public Hearing in November 2014: A Symposium on Student Debt in California.

*In Favor:* Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Foresti, Graves, Le Grande, Maxie, Moore, Sawyer, Solorio and Geiogoue  
*Absent:* Commissioners Beltran, Doud, McDowell and Scott

Committee Chair Graves reported that the Committee received the following informational items:

- ❖ Update on Middle Class Scholarship
- ❖ Update on California Dream Act
- ❖ Update on Outreach Plans for 2016-17

Chair Graves reported that the Committee also began discussions about the federal changes to student financial aid, and will continue its discussion at the February meeting.

## STRATEGIC POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Anton reported that the Committee was the last to meet on November 5, 2015 and considered the following informational items.

- Update on the Commission's Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA) and Consideration of Specific Issues

Committee Chair Anton reported that, in light of the number of changes occurring on the federal level, with the Grant Delivery System, and the new administration, it was proposed that the Commission continue the current IPA, updated with minor and/or non-controversial technical

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changes, and direct staff to continue meeting with the segments to discuss and resolve issues and bring a proposed IPA to the February meeting for consideration.

Committee Chair Anton also reported that the segmental representatives at the November 5 Committee meeting expressed their support for the suggested approach.

- **Discussion and Comparison of Pell Grants and Cal Grants**

Committee Chair Anton brought attention to the comparison chart on the Pell Grant and Cal Grant programs and provided a summary of the most significant differences.

- **New Business to be Considered at Future Committee Meetings**

Committee Chair Anton reported that either the Strategic Policy & Planning Committee or the Student Impact Committee will consider a status update on institutions that were deemed ineligible based on Cohort Default Rate criteria; whether institutions have improved their practices; whether they have flip-flopped between eligible and ineligible status and the impact of that on their students; and whether the standards set in California are still appropriate.

## **PERSONNEL, EVALUATION & NOMINATIONS (PEN) COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Geiogue reported that the PEN Committee met on November 5, 2015 and approved their minutes.

## **FULL COMMISSION ITEMS**

### **CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2016**

Chair Geiogue reported that this item is continued from the Commission's discussion on November 5, 2015 and Commissioners were asked to review their availability for the additional two proposed meeting dates.

**MOVED** (Anton), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Commission **ADOPTED** the revised proposed 2016 meeting calendar with the following changes:

- Change January 15, 2016 to January 14, 2016; and
- Change September 8-9, 2016 to September 15-16, 2016.

***In Favor:** Commissioners Ajose, Anton, Foresti, Graves, Le Grande, Maxie, Moore, Sawyer, Solorio and Geiogue*

***Absent:** Commissioners Beltran, Doud, McDowell and Scott*

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

The Commission may consider the following items at a future meeting:

- Either the University of California or the California Community Colleges segments will make a presentation at February Commission meeting;
- Role of Technology and the Concept of Interactive Advising and Consideration of How to Include a Financial Aid Element

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## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the California Student Aid Commission was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

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JACQUELINE DOUD  
SECRETARY