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Action/Information Item

Governmental Relations Committee

Approval of March 14, 2006 Minutes

Recommended Action: The Committee is asked to approve the minutes.

Responsible Staff: Steve Caldwell, Chief Governmental Affairs and Research Division

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CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
Governmental Relations Committee**MINUTES OF MEETING****March 14, 2006**

A teleconference meeting of the Governmental Relations Committee was convened at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at the California Student Aid Commission's Boardroom, 3300 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho Cordova, California.

Committee Members Present:

James Fousekis, Vice Chair
Michele Dyke

Commissioners Present:

James Sandoval, Commission Chair

Committee Vice Chair asked for public comment – there was none.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE POSITIONS ON BILLS AFFECTING THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO SB 1264 AND SB 1383

Steve Caldwell, acting Chief of Governmental Relations and Research summarized the status of the Legislative session indicating that the Legislature is in session and is between the January Governor's Budget and the May Revision.

The Committee discussed the upcoming budget hearings.

- **AB 840** (Arambula) which would allow students who were notified that they qualified for a Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement award without reference to whether or not they were California residents at the time of high school graduation to continue to receive their awards through the end of their eligibility for Cal Grants. The Committee had taken a SUPPORT in CONCEPT position at a past meeting and elected to retain that position;
- **AB 2813** (De LaTorre) which would delete the requirement that, in a student's first year of enrollment in a qualifying institution, the maximum Cal Grant B award is only for the amount of the access award. It would also raise the age limit for the exemptions and increase the annual limit of Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards. The Committee elected to consider a position on the bill at its April Commission meeting;

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- **SB 1264** (Alquist) which would change the annual March 2nd Cal Grant deadline to June 30th. The Grant Advisory Committee provided input on SB 1264 and would present its findings to the Commission at its April meeting. The Committee agreed to consider a position on SB 1264 after hearing the Grant Advisory Committee's report on its discussion of the bill.
- **SB 1383** (Ortiz) which would allow students who have not passed the CAHSEE to be considered for Cal Grant awards. The Committee agreed to consider a position on SB 1383 at the April Commission meeting.

The Committee also discussed the Grant Delivery System proposal that would be considered in the spring deliberations on the state budget.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AND CONTINUATION OF THE FEDERAL REPRESENTATION CONTRACT

Mr. Caldwell, summarized the issue as a discussion to consider continuing the contract with the firm of Mayer, Brown, Rowe and Maw LLP through September 2006 as the Commission's representative in Washington D.C. The contract expired on March 6, 2006.

After some discussion, the Committee elected not to extend the contract. Staff was directed to compose a letter of appreciation to the firm and to work with EDFUND's staff representatives on federal issues in the future.

There was no public comment for the Governmental Relations Committee. The meeting of the Governmental Relations Committee was adjourned.

James Fousekis
Committee Vice Chair