

# Minutes

## Action Item

Approval of minutes of April 16, 2015

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### DRAFT

#### CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION STUDENT IMPACT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2015

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission's Student Impact Committee was held on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at the Commission Boardroom located at 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, California.

Committee Chair Devon Graves called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.

The following Committee Members were present:

Devon Graves, Chair  
Nancy Anton  
Jessica Foresti  
Jose Solorio  
Hal Geiogoue, Ex Officio

The following Committee Members were absent:

Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Vice Chair  
Michael Marion, Jr.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

**MOVED** (Anton), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting, with the following correction:

- On page 2, first paragraph under "Chair's Report," change the word "Learn" to "Earn."

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*In Favor: Committee Members Anton, Foresti, Solorio and Graves*

*Absent: Committee Members Marion and Sawyer*

## **CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE CHARTER**

**MOVED** (Anton), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Committee **APPROVED** the proposed charter as presented.

*In Favor: Committee Members Anton, Foresti, Solorio and Graves*

*Absent: Committee Members Marion and Sawyer*

## **UPDATE ON DREAM ACT**

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, presented a report on the California Dream Act, including updates on the application process, award offers and payments by segment, program and demographics (such as age, income and grade point average). She noted a typographical error in the titles for Tables 7 and 8 and clarified that the tables actually do not include the age demographic. Ms. Mistler also discussed the continuing consultation process with the segments and community groups to identify and resolve the issues that students continue to face at campuses.

## **UPDATE ON MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP**

Ms. Mistler provided an update on the 2014-15 Middle Class Scholarship award disbursements. She also discussed the Commission's continuing consultation with work groups and the communication to students about their awards.

Dr. Angelo Williams, Legislative Director, provided an overview of Senate Bill 15 (Block): Postsecondary education: financial aid: Graduation Incentive Grant program. He indicated that there is support in the Legislature for this bill and there has been informal discussion about the funding source.

Some discussion ensued about the status of suggested statutory changes regarding the establishment of an asset ceiling, application deadline, and limitation on the eligibility period. Concerns were also raised about non-middle class students benefitting from the program, and about the small amount of the award. Dr. Williams noted that Commission staff has had strong communication with the Senate and Assembly side regarding the proposed statutory changes.

## **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT REPORT ON COMMISSION'S PUBLIC HEARING IN NOVEMBER 2014: A SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT DEBT IN CALIFORNIA**

Mr. Ed Emerson, Chief of the Strategic Policy, Media & Communications Division, presented the draft Commission report, "Student Loan Debt: Impact and Options in California" and commented that staff worked to synthesize the information and include policy recommendations for the Commission's consideration.

Committee Chair Graves commented that these types of reports are informational and should be nonpartisan. He added that any overarching recommendations should not be included, but rather proposed separately to the Commission and that feedback from the segments should be sought.

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Mr. Bryan Dickason, Student Financial Assistance Programs Coordinator at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, commented on the recommendation to require financial literacy in the Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA), noting that the U.S. Department of Education explicitly states that institutions cannot require loan counseling after the initial loan counseling. Mr. Chris Carter, Director of Student Financial Aid Support at the University of California (UC) Office of the President, expressed similar concerns.

Committee Member Anton volunteered to work with staff and/or the consultant to improve the report's clarity and enhance its effectiveness. Commission Chair Geiogue indicated that he would assign Committee Member Anton to work with staff on the report.

### **PRESENTATION ON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CERTIFICATION**

Mr. Tae Kang, Senior Programs Manager for the Programs Administration & Services Division, presented an overview of the High School Cal Grant Entitlement processes, including high school graduation certification, timelines, data matching efforts with the California Department of Education, and award notification.

Ms. Mistler discussed the opt-out option for students whose college campuses verify high school graduation. She reported that Commission staff is working more closely with high schools to complete the certification process earlier so that their students do not need to self-certify their own graduation.

### **PRESENTATION ON CHAFEE FOSTER YOUTH PROGRAM**

Ms. Mistler presented an overview of the Chafee Foster Youth Program, including background on the federal and state funding, and a description of the application process. She discussed some of the enhancements made to the program as a result of stakeholder consultations. She also described changes that were made to eligibility criteria to give priority to students in light of insufficient funding, and noted that the awards are recycled for the next group of eligible priority students.

Ms. Mistler reported that Commission staff has established a workgroup to identify ways to streamline the process and make more timely payments, such as eliminating the need analysis report, improving enrollment status reporting, and providing electronic funds transfer as an option for award delivery. Further discussion ensued.

### **DISCUSSION OF WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Emerson reported that Commission staff has researched ways to improve the website's look, feel and functionality, and is in the process of seeking a contractor to implement improvements, including streamlining and integrating the Commission's multiple websites. He reported that the best solution would be to implement a modern Content Management System which could be easily maintained and updated.

Ms. Tracy Howard, Chief Information Officer, reported that staff is in the process of consulting with content owners within the organization to identify current problems, and meeting with local vendors to gather information for a Statement of Work for the purpose of developing and deploying a new Content Management System.

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## **NEW BUSINESS BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Committee had no new business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Student Impact Committee was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

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DEVON GRAVES  
COMMITTEE CHAIR