

Minutes

Action Item

Approval of minutes of September 17, 2015

DRAFT

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION STUDENT IMPACT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2015

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission's Student Impact Committee was held on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at the Commission Boardroom located at 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, California.

Committee Chair Devon Graves called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

The following Committee Members were present:

Devon Graves, Chair
Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Vice Chair
Nancy Anton
Jessica Foresti
Michael Marion, Jr.
Hal Geiogue, Ex Officio

The following Committee Member was absent:

Jose Solorio

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 APRIL 16, 2015

MOVED (Sawyer), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of the April 16, 2015 meeting, as presented:

***In Favor:** Committee Members Anton, Foresti, Marion, Sawyer and Graves*

***Absent:** Committee Member Solorio*

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Committee Chair Graves welcomed members back and provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda. He also announced that he graduated from the California State University system in June and is now enrolled in the University of California, Los Angeles.

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

Committee Member Anton reported that the overall format of the current draft is slightly different than the version presented in January, and that after further consultation with the presenters, it was decided to eliminate the draft recommendations and only report the information that was presented. She remarked that Dr. Hans Johnson's testimony, which was presented at a separate Commission meeting, would be added to the report, along with references to the Commission's website where readers may access the full video recording, all handouts, and links to further information. Committee Member Anton asked for feedback and promised that a final draft would be provided in print to the Commission prior to final distribution. She anticipates that the final report will be completed by November.

PRESENTATIONS BY STATEWIDE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Amparo Diaz, Governmental Relations Coordinator for the California State Student Association (CSSA), presented an overview of her organization's priority issues, including:

- Increasing student involvement in campus decision-making processes;
- Establishing inclusive, safe and healthy campus environments;
- Expanding advocacy;
- Educating students about financial aid options and deadlines; and
- FAFSA Simplification.

Ms. Amparo reported that CSSA agrees with the recommendation of Commission staff and stakeholders regarding the new scoring matrix for the 2015-16 Competitive Cal Grant Program.

Mr. Guillermo Rogel, Chair of the University of California Student Association (UCSA) Board, reported that UCSA's core tenet is "accessibility and affordability." He then presented a summary of UCSA's major advocacy issues, including:

- Dream Loan Program for undocumented students;
- Ensuring budgetary increases for Assembly Bill 200, which pertains to increasing Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards; and
- UC Undergraduate Campaigns
 - UConsent, a campaign against sexual violence and mandates training for faculty, students and high school students; and
 - How Are U, a campaign to reform mental health counseling services.

UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA 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

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by segment for 2013-14, 2014-15 and the start of 2015-16. Ms. Mistler indicated that the Commission has partnered with the Selective Service System to verify and match student data. Mr. Tae Kang, Senior Programs Manager, explained the data exchange process between the Commission, the Selective Service System and the institutions. Additional discussion followed.

Mr. Kang also reported that the U.S. Department of Education has announced that it will accept prior-prior year income information as a step towards FAFSA Simplification, and has moved the FAFSA deadline up to October 1, 2016. He noted that the Commission has formed workgroups to discuss the impact of the change on the Cal Grant, Grade Point Average (GPA) and Dream Act application processing.

UPDATE ON MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Tae Kang reported on two major changes to the application and eligibility criteria 2015-16 Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) Program, including the addition of a March 2nd deadline and a new asset ceiling of \$150,000. He noted that the changes resulted in a decrease in award offers, but staff is continuing to work with the campuses to submit their data, which will hopefully result in increased numbers. Lastly, Mr. Kang mentioned that a lifetime cap will also be implemented.

OUTREACH PLANS FOR 2016-17

Ms. Catalina Mistler provided an update on the Commission's high school counselor workshops and institutional support webinars scheduled for the year that will provide information about GPA submission, Cal Grant, Dream Act and Middle Class Scholarship application processes. She also reported that the Commission's training staff will be involved in various community outreach events, such as local education fairs, annual community festivals, and other events that reach high school students and their families.

Ms. Patti Colston, Communications Manager, provided an overview of the Commission's partnership with Get Schooled and related activities across the nation. Ms. Colston also reported on the College Access Tax Credit Program.

Mr. Bryan Dickason, Student Services Planning and Development Specialist at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, commented that the new FAFSA deadline will impact college admissions, acceptance of records and financial aid. He also noted that the Commission's financial aid publications and counselor trainings will need to be available much earlier than in the past.

Ms. Colston mentioned that an alternative training model called "Financial Aid University" has been successfully piloted in six states, and staff is hoping to test the free two-hour training course at the Commission, upon adding a California component. Some discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee will discuss the following items at future meetings:

- Update on outreach plans for 2016-17 in November and February meetings;
- Update on the impact of prior-prior year income requirement and the October 1st FAFSA deadline;
- Update on the online alternative financial aid training model; and

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- Update on the reasons why the Commission has been unable to close the gap between the Cal Grant award offer rate and the paid rate.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Student Impact Committee was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

DEVON GRAVES
COMMITTEE CHAIR