

Minutes

Action Item

Approval of minutes of February 4, 2016

DRAFT

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION STUDENT IMPACT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2016

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission's Student Impact Committee was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the Commission Boardroom located at 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, California.

Committee Chair Devon Graves called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The following Committee Members were present:

Devon Graves, Chair
Greg Sawyer, Vice Chair
Nancy Anton
Jessica Foresti
Debra Maxie
Jose Solorio
Hal Geiogue, Ex Officio

The following Committee Member was absent:

Ana Beltran

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Hearing no public comment, Committee Chair Graves proceeded to the next item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2015

MOVED (Sawyer), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting, as presented:

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

***Absent:** Committee Member Beltran*

California Student Aid Commission

CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION)

Committee Chair Graves welcomed the newest Committee Member, Commissioner Beltran, and Executive Director Lupita Cortez Alcalá to the Student Impact Committee. He also highlighted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) outreach events taking place throughout the state and encouraged Members to participate whenever possible.

UPDATE ON MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP (INFORMATION)

Mr. Tae Kang, Senior Programs Manager of the Program Support Services Branch, presented a report on the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS), including 2014-15 and 2015-16 data on applicants, awards, and income level comparisons, as well as data reflecting the phasing in of the maximum MCS award over a four-year period.

UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT (INFORMATION)

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, presented a report on the California Dream Act, including updates on applications, award offers and payments by segment and program for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. She also reported on the results of student feedback as to the reason for low paid rates, indicating that a majority of questionnaire respondents were unaware of their award offers. The feedback also revealed that students did not have enough financial aid to attend college. Commission staff has plans to improve communications with students and campuses to ensure that all eligible students are paid. Lastly, Ms. Mistler provided an update on changes made to the 2015-16 Dream Act Application pertaining to Selective Service registration. Mr. Kang provided an update on the 2016-17 Dream Act Application process. Some discussion followed regarding Selective Service as well as additional ways to communicate with students.

Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Dean of Student Financial Aid Programs, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), remarked that the CCCCCO is open to working with staff on brainstorming ways to improve communications and the take rate.

UPDATE ON 2017-18 FAFSA RELEASE ON OCTOBER 1, 2016 (INFORMATION)

Committee Chair Graves introduced this item and emphasized that California needs to demonstrate its readiness for the upcoming federal changes, and ensure that resources are available to students, high schools and institutions.

Ms. Catalina Mistler provided an update on the consultation process, and the Commission's student outreach and counselor training efforts. She indicated that the Commission has partnered with the California Department of Education to communicate directly with high schools about the changes.

Mr. Tae Kang provided an update on the changes to the Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR), which will require modifications to the Cal Grant award process, institutional rosters and California Aid Report (CAR).

Ms. Erin Gemar, South County Gilroy Cal-SOAP Project Director, commented on the early Grade Point Average (GPA) submissions, and expressed the Cal-SOAP projects' willingness to work with the Commission on outreach efforts.

California Student Aid Commission

DISCUSSION OF STUDENT DEBIT CARDS (INFORMATION)

Committee Chair Graves provided background information on new regulations regarding campus debit and prepaid cards, and presented a set of questions raised as a result. He noted that the purpose of this item is to introduce to the Committee and stakeholders for consideration, but the larger discussion will take place at the April meeting. Some discussion ensued about debit card access and transaction fees.

Ms. Rhonda Mohr commented about federal regulations that require no-fee transactions. Ms. Meredith Turner, Assistant Executive Director and Chief Governmental Officer of the California State Student Association (CSSA), expressed CSSA's concerns about access and fees, and highlighted their partnership with the Chancellor's Office to address those issues in legislation. Mr. Chris Carter, Director of Student Financial Support at the University of California (UC), commented that the UC system and its student association also have concerns about debit card use, and that none of the UC campuses use debit cards for Cal Grant recipients.

UPDATE ON OUTREACH PLANS FOR 2016-17 (INFORMATION)

Mr. Steve Caldwell, Senior Programs Manager of the Customer Relations Branch, provided an update on the Commission's outreach activities, highlighting events such as the Steps to College, Black College Expo, KCRA 3 Cal Grant Day, Cash for College Workshops and Cal-SOAP outreach efforts.

NEW BUSINESS TO 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 4:00 p.m.

DEVON GRAVES
COMMITTEE CHAIR