

Minutes

Action Item

Approval of minutes of April 7, 2016

DRAFT

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION STUDENT IMPACT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2016

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission's Student Impact Committee was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at the University of Redlands, Building 221, Armacost Library, 2nd Floor, Redlands Room, 1200 E. Colton Avenue, Redlands, California.

Committee Chair Devon Graves called the meeting to order at 2:26 p.m.

The following Committee Members were present:

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

The following Committee Member was absent:

Jose Solorio

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 FEBRUARY 4, 2016

MOVED (Anton), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of the February 4, 2016 meeting, as presented:

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

***Absent:** Committee Member Solorio*

California Student Aid Commission

CHAIR'S REPORT (INFORMATION)

Committee Chair Graves welcomed Commissioner Valladolid to the Student Impact Committee. He then reported on his recent activities, including participation in the Black College Expo in Los Angeles and a Cash for College Workshop at the University of California, Los Angeles. He also encouraged other Commissioners to participate in local outreach events.

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

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, presented an update on staff's activities done in preparation for the October 1st FAFSA release, including the implementation of an earlier award processing deadline, reconciliation process, and Grade Point Average (GPA) upload cycle. Mr. Tae Kang, Senior Programs Manager, commented that the system changes that are being made to accommodate the early FAFSA release have an impact on the current Grant Delivery System (GDS), which is at capacity.

Some discussion ensued about the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 2160 (Ting), which requires that high schools submit GPAs to the Commission electronically. Mr. Kang reported that some high schools continue to submit paper GPAs despite the mandate. Concerns were raised about the potential delay in receiving GPAs and the resulting impact on the October 1st FAFSA release. Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel, reported that Commission staff provided language to the Legislature to amend the Ting bill to help students meet the earlier deadline.

Ms. Mistler presented the proposed timeline for the new awarding process and Mr. Kang presented a comparison of the current and proposed process flows for awarding and notification. Mr. Chris Carter, Director of Student Financial Support, University of California Office of the President (UCOP), expressed appreciation and support for the changes being made by the Commission to help the students and institutions.

UPDATE ON OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION PLANS FOR 2016-17 (INFORMATION)

Ms. Catalina Mistler presented an update on the 2016-17 Cash for College Workshop season and the development of the new Workshop Management System (WMS). Ms. Mistler also presented a list of 2016 outreach events that staff participated in during the March 2nd season, and reported that various community organizations have invited the Commission to participate in outreach events after the March 2nd deadline to deliver information about the next steps in the financial aid process and promote the October 1st FAFSA release.

Some discussion followed about possibly working with the African American, Asian Pacific Islander, Latino and Native American steering committees at the California State University, as well other higher education segments, to receive guidance on how best to provide outreach to these under-represented groups.

UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT (INFORMATION)

Mr. Tae Kang presented a report on the California Dream Act, including an update on the 2016-17 application process, and the total number of applications, award offers and paid rates by segment and program for 2014-15 and 2015-16. He also reported on the results of stakeholder consultations and unpaid Dreamer surveys that identified issues that impact the paid rate, including lack of awareness as well as the delay in processing the AB 540 affidavit. Further discussion ensued.

California Student Aid Commission

UPDATE ON MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP (INFORMATION)

Mr. Tae Kang provided an update on the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) application process, and the implementation of the new eligibility cap for the 2016-17 year. Mr. Kang also presented data on the maximum award amounts, number of award offers, paid rates and income levels for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years. He noted that the paid rate is expected to be higher once the institutions have completed their payment reconciliations in the WebGrants system.

There was some discussion about the ten percent gap in the award paid rate and Mr. Kang clarified there are a number of reasons for the gap, such as ineligibility due to unsatisfactory academic progress, leave of absence, or a mid-year change from an undergraduate to a graduate program. Mr. Chris Carter commented that MCS dollars are directly offset by the receipt of need-based aid, and over the course of the financial aid process, a student may receive a new award that changes the student's MCS eligibility.

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 3:30 p.m.

DEVON GRAVES
COMMITTEE CHAIR