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**Action Item**

***Strategic Policy and Planning Committee***

Approval of the minutes of February 21, 2013

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

***Responsible Person(s):*** Catalina Mistler, Chief  
Program Administration & Services Division

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**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION  
STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**February 21, 2013**

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A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission's Strategic Policy and Planning Committee was held on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at the Rancho Cordova City Hall, Council Chambers, located at 2729 Prospect Park Drive in Rancho Cordova, California.

Committee Chair Michele Siqueiros called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m.

The following Committee Members were present:

Michele Siqueiros, Chair  
Nancy Anton  
Brian Conley  
Hal Geioque  
Harry Le Grande

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following members of the public provided a summary of general California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) activities:

- Ms. Sonia Ramos, Project Director, San Jose Cal-SOAP Consortium; and
- Ms. Imelda Simos-Valdez, Project Director, Southern San Joaquin Valley Cal-SOAP Consortium.

Ms. Ramos also urged the Committee to consider including outreach in its new charter.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1 – CONSIDERATION OF A CHARTER FOR THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE (Action)**

Mr. Keith Yamanaka, Chief Deputy Director, presented a proposed draft charter for the Committee's consideration. The Committee discussed changes to the draft charter.

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Conley, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, the amended draft charter, as follows:

(Deletions are in strike-through text; additions are in italicized and underlined text.)

Draft Charter

The Strategic Policy & Planning Committee shall be responsible for:

1. examining and making recommendations to the Commission on policy matters associated with financial aid;
- ~~2. making recommendations to the Commission on state and federal executive, legislative and budget issues associated with financial aid;~~
2. periodically reviewing and recommending any updates as needed to the Commission's written Governance Policies and the Commission's Orientation Manual;
3. examining and making recommendations to the Commission on governance matters, such as meeting procedures and committee structure;
4. developing and making recommendations on strategic planning for the Commission; and
5. identifying and recommending policy and legislative proposals for Commission consideration, including making recommendations to the Commission on state and federal executive, legislative and budget issues associated with financial aid.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – CONSIDERATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET ISSUES AFFECTING COMMISSION PROGRAMS (Information/Action)**

The Committee discussed revisions to the Guiding Principles and agreed, by consensus, to amend the principles, as follows, and directed Commission staff to provide greater definition (including the addition of “financial literacy” to the language) and bring the revised principles back to the Committee for its consideration:

(Revisions are in italicized and underlined text.)

**PRINCIPLES:** Recognizing the critical need to maintain Legislative and Executive support for postsecondary educational opportunities, the Commission seeks to:

1. Support College Access That Is Equitable, Affordable and Comprehensive;\*
2. Ensure the Availability of Information on Higher Educational Opportunities;\*
3. Advocate For and Preserve the Flow of Financial Aid; and\*
4. Ensure Adequate Support and Flexibility for Commission Operations and Its Programs.\*

\*Numbering principles in no way indicates priorities; all principles are equally considered.

Ms. Lori Nezhura, Legislative Director, provided an overview of the staff analysis process and presented the slate of legislative bills affecting Commission programs for the Committee's consideration. After some discussion, the Committee took the following actions:

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **WATCH** position on **Assembly Bill (AB) 233** (Wieckowski): Student Loan Wage Garnishment;

Committee Member Conley **MOVED**, and Committee Member Geiogoue **SECONDED**, to **APPROVE** a **SUPPORT** position on **AB 303** (Calderon, Ian): Cal Grant Program: members and former members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Committee Member Anton offered an **AMENDMENT** to support **AB 303** on the condition that it is for people who are eligible at the time of high school graduation.

On **AMENDED MOTION** by Committee Member Conley, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **SUPPORT** position on **AB 303** (Calderon, Ian): Cal Grant Program: members and former members of the Armed Forces of the United States, pending confirmation that it provide eligibility only to those who were eligible for a High School Entitlement Cal Grant at the time of high school graduation.

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **SUPPORT** position on **Senate Bill (SB) 150** (Lara): Pupils: Concurrent Enrollment in Community College.

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Conley, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Roll Call Vote, a **SUPPORT** position on **SB 141** (Correa): College Education Benefits: Children of Deported Parent.

***In Favor:** Committee Members Conley, Le Grande and Siqueiros  
**Abstained:** Committee Members Anton and Geiogoue*

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Conley, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Roll Call Vote, **Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 11** (Wieckowski): Student Loan Bankruptcy Discharge.

***In Favor:** Committee Members Anton, Conley, Le Grande and Siqueiros  
**Abstained:** Committee Member Geiogoue*

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **SUPPORT IN CONCEPT** position on **AB \_\_\_\_** (Wieckowski): Student Loan Counseling.

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **WATCH** position on the following four bills:

- **SB 58** (Canella): Public Postsecondary Education: Funding;
- **AB 67** (Gorell): Public Postsecondary Education: Funding;
- **AB 138** (Olsen): Public Postsecondary Education: Tuition and Fees; and
- **AB 159** (Chavez): Postsecondary Education.

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Anton **SECONDED** (Conley) and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **SUPPORT** position on **SB 285** (De León): Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program.

Committee Member Conley **MOVED**, and Committee Member Le Grande **SECONDED**, to APPROVE a SUPPORT position on AB 330 (Chau): Student Financial Aid: disclosures.

Committee Member Anton offered an AMENDMENT to watch AB 330.

On **AMENDED MOTION** by Committee Member Conley, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **WATCH** position on **AB 330** (Chau): Student Financial Aid: disclosures.

On **MOTION** by Committee Member Anton, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED**, by Unanimous Consent, a **WATCH** position on **AB 475** (Brown): Pupil Counseling.

Ms. Nezhura presented the Federal legislative update. Additionally, Committee Member Conley provided an update on his Washington D.C. visits with Members of Congress, the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Ms. Janet McDuffie, Chief of the Administration & External Affairs Division, provided an update on the 2013-14 budget, a summary of the Federal College Access Challenge Grant Program and its maintenance of effort requirement and waiver process.

Committee Chair Siqueiros requested that the Committee receive a copy of the 2012-13 Challenge Grant application.

The following members of the public provided comments:

- Ms. Debbie Cochrane, Research Director for The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), commented on concerns about institutions manipulating their cohort default rate (CDR) in order to remain eligible for state and federal financial aid and urged the Commission to weigh in on the issue; and
- Ms. Monica Roberts, Project Director of the Sacramento Cal-SOAP, speaking on behalf of all Cal-SOAP project directors, expressed their special interest in the Committee's support for securing a waiver for the Challenge Grant maintenance of effort requirement and offered to provide information on Cal-SOAP services at a future meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – REVIEW OF THE COMPETITIVE CAL GRANT PROGRAM TO CONSIDER WAYS MORE EFFECTIVELY TO FILL ALL OF THE 22,500 AUTHORIZED AWARDS (Information/Action)**

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, provided an overview of the Competitive Cal Grant Program and the application process. Ms. Debbie Cochrane commented on TICAS's proposal for disbursing authorized awards by using take rates to better estimate the number of awards to offer. Further discussion ensued.

The Committee directed Commission staff to return to the Committee with an analysis and recommendations, including proposed changes to the formula, legislative statutes, or other changes, that will enable the Commission to award and distribute 22,500 Competitive Cal

Grants. The Committee also requested data on the distribution of awards among the community colleges, California State Universities, Universities of California and independent colleges. Additionally, the Committee directed staff to respond to the recommendations presented by Ms. Cochrane in terms of the possibility of spring term awards and increasing the percentage of award offers.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT (Information/Action)**

Ms. Keri Tippins, General Counsel and Chief of the Legal and Audit Services Division, presented a status update on the revisions to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. The Committee directed Ms. Tippins to invite Mr. Ted Prim, Deputy Attorney General, to a future meeting to discuss proposed changes.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Information/Action)**

The Committee may consider the following topics at future meetings:

1. Federal College Access Challenge Grant redistribution of funding;
2. Manipulation of cohort default rates
3. Staff report on recommended changes to the Competitive Cal Grant award formula and/or policy changes;
4. Revision of policy guiding principles;
5. Out-of-state travel funding for trips to Washington, D.C.;
6. Access to advisory groups;
7. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Update; and
8. Review of governance policies.

Committee Member Anton agreed to act as the ad hoc committee on the manipulation of cohort default rates. Committee Member Geiogue agreed to act as the ad hoc committee on governance policy review.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Strategic Policy & Planning Committee was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

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MICHELE SIQUEIROS  
CHAIR