

# Minutes

## Action Item

Approval of minutes of November 7, 2014

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

**November 7, 2014**

A meeting of the California Student Aid Commission's Strategic Policy and Planning Committee was held on Friday, November 7, 2014 at the Commission's Board Room located at 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, California and the various locations listed on the amended meeting notice dated October 29, 2014.

Committee Chair Michele Siqueiros called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

The following Committee Members were present:

Michele Siqueiros, Chair  
Nancy Anton  
Brian Conley  
Jacqueline Doud  
Hal Geiogue  
Jack Scott  
John R. McDowell, Jr., Ex Officio

The following Committee Member was absent:

Harry Le Grande

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2014 AND SEPTEMBER 18, 2014**

**MOVED** (Doud), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** unanimously, the Committee **APPROVED** the minutes of August 27, 2014 and September 18, 2014, as presented.

***In Favor:** Committee Members Anton, Doud, Geiogue, Scott and Siqueiros*

***Abstained:** Committee Member Conley*

***Absent:** Committee Member Le Grande*

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2015

Dr. Angelo Williams, Legislative Director, presented an update on the final disposition of Commission-supported legislation and other bills that will have an effect on the Commission's programs. There was discussion about Senate Bills (SB) 174 and 798 (De León) and the use of the term "special education fund," as well as continuing efforts to implement Assembly Bill (AB) 2160 (Ting). Dr. Williams also presented the draft 2015-16 legislative agenda, which is in alignment with the Commission's policy priorities. Further discussion ensued about the legislative concept of expanding eligibility, and removing the age limit or adjusting it in increments.

## CONSIDERATION OF SCORING CRITERIA FOR AWARDING COMPETITIVE CAL GRANTS

Ms. Catalina Mistler, Chief of the Program Administration & Services Division, reported on the Commission's progress on increasing the Cal Grant Competitive paid rate, including recommendations made by the Cal Grant Competitive Communications Workgroup. Ms. Mistler also reported on the recommendations from the Cal Grant Competitive Scoring Matrix Workgroup and more discussion followed. She then presented the Commission staff's recommendations on how to increase the paid rate.

Mr. Matthew La Rocque, Research Analyst with The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), made comments, including recommendations made by TICAS regarding the Cal Grant scoring matrix. Discussion followed.

**MOVED** (Anton), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED** the following recommended action:

In an effort to pay 100 percent of the Competitive award offers, staff recommends that the Commission authorize staff to do the following:

1. Withdraw awards for unpaid students only (those that do not have any code posted for fall) on December 10, 2014.
2. Offer additional awards to the next cohort(s) of eligible students.
3. Continue to review and analyze the disadvantaged data to provide comprehensive recommendations concerning changing the Competitive scoring matrix and review options of giving the withdrawn students a priority status if they apply the following academic year.
4. Continue to identify options for collecting enrollment files or other data exchanges with campuses that could increase the paid rate for the Competitive award offers.
5. Report back at the February Commission meeting any recommendations to changing the Competitive scoring matrix.

*In Favor:* Committee Members Anton, Conley, Doud, Geiogoue, Scott and Siqueiros

*Absent:* Committee Member Le Grande

## CONSIDERATION OF PAID RATES FOR CAL GRANT ENTITLEMENT AWARDS

Ms. Mistler provided information on the statutory limitations to expanding the Cal Grant Entitlement (E2) program, including a discussion of the age limit and gap year requirements. She also provided

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an update on the Transfer Entitlement Workgroup discussions that focused on the outreach efforts for community college transfer students. Concerns were raised about capacity issues affecting transfer students, the role of the receiving institutions, and the need for more coordination between the financial aid offices and transfer centers.

Ms. Mistler also provided an update on the High School Entitlement (E1) application process and the Commission's partnership with the State Department of Education to verify graduation. Some discussion followed about Cal Grant award take rates by geographical district. Mr. Matt La Roque expressed support of looking into a greater role for the receiving institutions.

**MOVED** (Geiogoue), **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the Committee **APPROVED** the staff recommendation, amended as follows (changes in bold and underlined italics):

To better identify the status of students offered an High School Entitlement Cal Grant award, staff recommends:

1. Use campus enrollment files or Pell files, if available, to identify whether the student is enrolled and which college or campus he or she is attending to list them on the correct Cal Grant Roster and pay them.
2. Use Board of Governors (BOG) fee waiver data, if available, to identify students who do not complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application to target them with information about the Cal Grant Programs.
3. Support additional administrative funding to increase staff to: 1) better promote the Cal Grant Entitlement programs; 2) research data and information to identify issues and solutions; and, 3) increase the monitoring of Cal Grant payments to ensure eligible Cal Grant offered awardees are paid.
4. Check with the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) on their numbers and the number of students that were not paid as to why students either did not attend or did not get paid.
5. Look at the 40 percent, which are the students who did not get paid; and provide data on the offer rates and take rates.
6. Look at a geographical district on how many Cal Grant awards are made within the geographical areas and to look at those rates and see if the outreach is one of the reasons why students are not being paid or understand their Cal Grant.
7. Reach out to the four-year institutions that have program agreements with transfer students and to work with them to get information out to their students.

*In Favor:* Committee Members Anton, Conley, Doud, Geiogoue, Scott and Siqueiros

*Absent:* Committee Member Le Grande

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

The Committee may consider the following agenda items at a future meeting:

1. Consideration of a ten-year legislative plan for the California Student Aid Commission;
2. Consideration of possible legislation to increase the 22,500 Cal Grant awards; and

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3. Update on recent lawsuits filed by institutions against the federal government and their possible impact on the Commission's programs.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

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NANCY ANTON  
COMMITTEE CHAIR