
**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Teleconference

MINUTES
March 12, 2009

A teleconference meeting of the Grant Advisory Committee (GAC) was held on Thursday, March 12, 2009.

The following GAC Members were present:

Susan Gutierrez, Chair, CSU
Mary Lindsey, Vice Chair, PI
Kate Jeffery, UC
Chris Shultz, UC
Andrew Grant, UC
Dean Kulju, CSU
Jammie Jelks, CSU
Tim Bonnel, CCC
Karen Micalizio, CCC (Alternate)
Darlene Wilson, AICCU (Alternate)
Barbara Bonardi, AICCU
Frederick Holland, PI
Sally Pace, K-12
Sharon Bowles, HS
Coletta McElroy, CASFAA

The following Commission Staff were present:

Catalina Mistler, Chief, PASD
John Bays, Chief, Information Technology
Janet McDuffie, Chief, Governmental and Public Affairs
Steve Caldwell, Manager, PASD
Bryan Dickason, Manager, Grant Operations
Gloria Falcon, Manager, PPD
Debi Jackson, Manager, Information Technology
Thea Pot-Van Atta, Manager, Student Support Services
Charles Wood, Program Compliance
Suzan Donald, PPD
Tae Kang, PPD
Kathy Spencer, PPD
Kristen Trimarche, PPD

Enrique Murillo, Commission Liaison

The following GAC Members were absent:

Rick Diffenderfer, CCC
Lisa Douglass, AICCU
Catherine Graham, AICCU
Judi Sveen, PI

AICCU	Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities ¹
CASFAA	California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
CCC	California Community College
CPEC	California Postsecondary Education Commission
CSU	California State University
HS	High School
K-12	Kindergarten – 12 th grade
PASD	Program Administration and Services Division
PI	Proprietary Institution
PPD	Program Policy and Development Branch
UC	University of California

1 Roll Call was taken, a quorum was recognized, and Chair Gutierrez called the meeting
2 to order.

3 **TAB – 1 COMMITTEE CHAIR’S REPORT**

4 Chair Gutierrez attended the February Commission Meeting and reported out on the
5 following:

- 6 • Commissioner Arciniega was not reappointed. Commission has one less appointed
7 member.
- 8 • The recommendation regarding excluding Veteran’s Education Benefits, was not
9 accepted by the Commission due to the fact that it would require a change to State
10 statue. A change in State statue would be required for any recommendation(s) for
11 the 2010-11 academic year.
- 12 • At the upcoming meeting Commissioners will be discussing the other proposal
13 regarding changing criteria so that students who went into the military service out of
14 high school would still be eligible for a Cal Grant Entitlement award.

15 **TAB – 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

16 Janet McDuffie presented the Executive Director’s report, which included the following
17 items:

- 18 • Executive Director Michel will be returning to work next week, she has been out-of-
19 the-office due to surgery.
- 20 • Cal Grant Program payments will be going out soon.
- 21 • The Commission is in discussion with State Controller’s office to determine if the EFT
22 process can be reestablished.
- 23 • Commission has experienced an increase of 20% of online applications and online
24 GPA processing is up 14%. Paper GPA forms are currently being processed.
- 25 • Cash for College – over 530 workshops were offered from January through Mar 2,
26 2009. Staff are now processing the site exit evaluation forms.

- 1 • The Commission has partnered with NDRC in LA region and far north region to do
- 2 an additional scholarship study, which provides an additional scholarship opportunity
- 3 for students.
- 4 • The 2009-10 State Budget was signed in February. The Commission programs
- 5 fared well, including avoiding elimination of the Competitive program, maintaining the
- 6 maximum award at private institutions of \$9708; full payment of fees at UC and CSU;
- 7 and income levels are set at 2009-10 allocation levels.

8 **TAB – 3 COMMISSION LIAISON COMMENTS**

9 Catalina Mistler presented the Commission Liaison comments, which included the
 10 following items:

- 11 • State Controller's Office has processed the Cal Grant Payments that were on hold for
- 12 February.
- 13 • Staff is processing paper GPAs and will continue to do so until all are entered in
- 14 preparation for running the March Transfer Entitlement and Competitive award cycles.
- 15 • The Commission will start processing the 2009-10 Cal Grant Entitlement Awards this
- 16 week. Award letters will begin going out next week.
- 17 • The September 2nd Cal Grant GPA application and information is posted on the CSAC
- 18 website and an Operations Memo has been released to schools.
- 19 • Commission staff are working on the report identifying Cal Grant students who indicate
- 20 they are receiving Veterans Benefits. This report will be available to help schools
- 21 identify and verify the amount of veterans benefits to determine Cal Grant eligibility. The
- 22 Commission will release an Operations Memo when this report becomes available.

23 **TAB – 4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

24 **4.a JANUARY 15, 2009**

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1 On **MOTION** by Member Holland, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the GAC APPROVED
2 the minutes WITH CHANGES BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

3 Member Bonnel and Alternate Wilson ABSTAINED.

4 **4.b FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

5 On **MOTION** by Member Kulju, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the GAC APPROVED the
6 minutes WITH CHANGES BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

7 Member Bonnel, and Alternates Micalizio and Wilson ABSTAINED.

8 **TAB – 5 REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM JANUARY 15, 2009 MEETING**

9 Kristen Trimarche presented the action items and recorded the updates.

10 **TAB – 6 WORKGROUP UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

11 **6.a CAL GRANT C AWARD SCORING AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

12 Mary Lindsey, workgroup chair announced that most of the time allotted for updates will
13 be focused on the Cal Grant C workgroup and presented the update, which included the
14 following potential recommendations:

- 15 • Not do anything with the points for 2009-10 academic year, but look to change how
16 those points might be distributed for 2010-11 academic year.
- 17 • Replace reference section with “need” category and take some of the 35 points and
18 redistribute between work and education and then place the balance of points in
19 need category.
- 20 • Replace reference with need category and redistribute all 35 points to need.

21 On **MOTION** by Member Lindsey, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the GAC APPROVED
22 BY ROLL CALL VOTE the recommendation for 2009-10 academic year to use 65 point scale
23 with the same current points by category, and for 2010-11 academic year to continue the
24 workgroup with the request for more data to review and incorporate a new, need category.

25 Member Bonnel, Alternate Micalizio and Member Bonardi OPPOSED.

26 Alternate Wilson ABSTAINED.

**GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
ACTION ITEMS 2009**

Shaded Items have been completed. (FAT = Future Agenda Topic; FWT = Future Workgroup Topic)

ITEM	DATE	TAB	AGENDA TOPIC	REQUESTED BY	ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
5	08/07/08	6.a	Cal Grant Account Maintenance & Annual Interest Calculation and Negative Interest	Chair Lindsey/ Janet McDuffie	CSAC Staff Counsel Tippins will review the interest earned information. The outcome will be shared with GAC and the Commissioners.	Janet McDuffie/ Keri Tippins	Legal opinion expected week of 1/19/09. Special Alert released 2/25. Waiting for response from Dept. of Finance.
5.a	03/12/09		Cal Grant Account Maintenance & Annual Interest Calculation and Negative Interest	Member Shulz	Revisit decision regarding use of calendar year v. fiscal year for remitting interest	Chief Mistler/ Gloria Falcon	Place on agenda for 5/7/09 meeting as part of Interest Discussion.
5.b FAT	03/12/09		Cal Grant Account Maintenance & Annual Interest Calculation and Negative Interest	Chief Mistler/ Gloria Falcon	Incorporate as a future agenda topic	Gloria Falcon/ Kristen Trimarche	Placed on agenda for 5/7/09 Meeting.
7 FWT	08/07/08	8	Duplicative Efforts	Chair Lindsey/ Commissioners	Add as new workgroup topic	Chair Lindsey/ Member Gutierrez	In progress - workgroup topic. 3/12/09 - topic to take a back seat to Cal C Topic.
16	10/09/08	3	Changes in 2009-10 Veteran's Benefits information on FAFSA	Information provided by Chief Mistler	Institutions will be notified regarding Veteran's Benefits and how Cal Grant need is affected by the changes on FAFSA.	Chief Mistler/ Bryan Dickason	Follow up Ops Memo to be sent with clarification. Letter to students to be shared w/schools before mailing.
17	10/09/08	3	APLE Under-utilization	Member Kulju	Display APLE under-utilization data on the website.	Chief Mistler/ Debi Jackson/ Alex Chen	Completed. Statistical reports located within "APLE Allocations & Applications Received" under "Financial Aid Programs" - APLE.
30	03/12/09	WG 1	Cal Grant C Award Scoring & Selection Criteria	Member Jeffery	Post preliminary statistical reports on CSAC website.	Gloria Falcon/ Edna Ong	Completed. Reports located within "Archive" area under "Reports."
31	03/12/09	4.a	1/15/09 Meeting Minutes	Chair Gutierrez	P.2, L 10: Change "is" to "will be"; P.4, L 11: Change "6" to "5"	Gloria Falcon/ Kristen Trimarche	Completed. Minutes located within "GAC Meeting Minutes" under "About CSAC" - "Advisory Committee" - "GAC".
32	03/12/09	4.b	2/2/09 Meeting Minutes	Chair Gutierrez	P.2, L6: Change "up" to "to"	Gloria Falcon/ Kristen Trimarche	Completed. Minutes located within "GAC Meeting Minutes" under "About CSAC" - "Advisory Committee" - "GAC".
33	03/12/09	WG 1	Cal Grant C Award Scoring & Selection Criteria	Workgroup Chair Lindsey	Request for additional data incorporating need criteria in award scoring.	Chief Mistler/ John Bays	Pending outcome of reports.