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

MINUTES
January 15, 2009

A teleconference meeting of the Grant Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 15, 2009.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Susan Gutierrez, Chair, CSU
Mary Lindsey, Vice Chair, PI
Kate Jeffery, UC
Chris Shultz, UC (Alternate)
Andrew Grant, UC
Dean Kulju, CSU
Tim Bonnel, CCC
Karen Micalizio, CCC (Alternate)
Lisa Douglass, AICCU
Catherine Graham, AICCU
Tina Miller, PI (Alternate)
Judi Sveen, PI
Sally Pace, K-12
Sharon Bowles, HS
Coleetta McElroy, CASFAA

STAFF:

Diana Fuentes-Michel, Executive Director
Catalina Mistler, Chief, PASD
Steve Caldwell, Manager, PASD
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

AICCU	Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities
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 Chair Gutierrez called the meeting to order, roll call was taken, a quorum was
2 recognized, and Chair Gutierrez asked for introduction by Commission staff present.

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

4 Chair Gutierrez reported on the November 21, 2008 commission meeting she attended,
5 at which a panel presented information on the impact of national events on federal and state
6 financial aid policies. She presented her written report on the October 9, 2008 meeting. CSAC
7 staff presented the proposed 2009-10 Legislative and Budget principles.

8 Chair Gutierrez provided a reminder of the attendance commitment, which is found in
9 Uniform Policies and Guidelines. She commented that the “Handy Guide to Bagley-Keene” is
10 also helpful and will be available on the CSAC website.

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

12 Director Fuentes-Michel met with Chair Gutierrez, along with Gloria Falcon and Chief
13 Mistler prior to the holidays to discuss information from State Controller’s Office related to the
14 management of the Cal Grant Program, the state of the budget, and issues related to cash flow
15 management for the State of California.

16 The Governor’s 2009-10 proposed Budget, also includes many across the board
17 reductions such as: maintaining the Cal Grant Entitlement award program; making reductions to
18 award levels; de-coupling fee policy from aid policy for Cal Grant Programs for the first time by
19 not covering the total statewide tuition and fee increases for UC (\$7,542) and CSU (\$3,240);
20 reducing the award for non-public institutions from \$9,708 to \$8,322; freezing the income
21 ceiling for 2009-10, potentially eliminating Cal Grant opportunities for thousands of students who
22 would have qualified under the formula; and eliminating the 22,500 Cal Grant Competitive
23 awards. The Governor’s proposal also includes the consolidation of the functions of CSAC with
24 The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), thus potentially disseminating
25 the functions of the Student Aid Commission and decentralizing the Cal Grant Program. The
26

1 Administration estimates savings of the consolidation to be approximately \$2 Million, beginning
2 in fiscal year 2010-11.

3 The proposed budget also removes the assumption for the sale of EdFund, leaving a
4 \$500 Million deficit in the General Fund. The Governor has hired a sale advisor to continue to
5 look into the sale. A sale/transfer is uncertain due to the current credit market crisis and the
6 change of the federal administration. A sale is not anticipated until 2010-11.

7 The Commission is scheduled to meet for a special teleconference in January to
8 consider its positions on these issues.

9 The Governor's proposed Budget also includes a two-day furlough on the first and third
10 Fridays of every month, which translates into a 10 percent reduction in pay. The Commission
11 will be closed on those days until further notice.

12 **TAB – 3 COMMISSION STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS**

13 Chief Mistler reported that the Commission is currently processing 2009-10 Cal Grant
14 GPA Verification Forms and is beginning to download and match ISIRs with Cal Grant
15 applications. Awards will be processed when all campus budgets are received. It is anticipated
16 that staff will begin making awards in early March.

17 Staff has provided GPA upload training to high schools using CCC Confer. Member
18 Bonnel was acknowledged for allowing use of the forum. Staff will release an Operations Memo
19 with information regarding new reports, including modifications to the Cal Grant roster.
20 Institutions may provide feedback through January 16th; however, there should be no impact to
21 institutions and both roster formats will be available.

22 Staff will begin to send correspondence to students who did not receive payment for fall
23 term requesting that they inform CSAC if they are attending a different school or are not
24 enrolled.

25 Six new Cal Grant schools received in-person training; GPA Upload Training is available
26 on You-tube and Teacher-tube.

1 The call center hours are currently from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. and during the last two
 2 weeks in February call center hours will be expanded.

3 Chafee payment rosters are currently being processed and staff is working with the
 4 California Department of Social Services in amending the 2009-10 contract through 2011-12.
 5 Staff will be working to make the 2009-10 application available online.

6 **TAB – 4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 9, 2008 MEETING**

7 On **MOTION** by Member Pace, **SECONDED** and **CARRIED**, the GAC APPROVED BY
 8 ROLL CALL VOTE the October 9, 2008 meeting minutes.

9 Member Alternate Micalizio and Member Graham ABSTAINED.

10 **TAB – 5 REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM OCTOBER 9, 2008 MEETING**

11 #5 - Will review legal opinion and provide to the Commission Chair; may/may not be
 12 placed on February Commission agenda depending on review.

13 **TAB – 6 VETERAN’S BENEFITS WORKGROUP UPDATE & RECOMMENDATIONS**

14 The workgroup met earlier in the morning and agreed to continue the discussion during
 15 the general meeting. Regarding need analysis, the group leaned toward option #2. Some
 16 members were supportive, contingent upon expanding the number of veterans eligible for Cal
 17 Grant.

18 Regarding tuition/fee coverage, a new option, #5 arose in which the student would
 19 choose either veteran’s educational benefits or Cal Grant to cover tuition/fees charged. This
 20 option should be coordinated with counseling/guidance on how to use veteran’s educational
 21 benefits and Cal Grant to the student’s best advantage. Members indicated interest in trying to
 22 maximize the benefit to veterans, to allow students to have fees covered by Chapter 33 in
 23 addition to receiving a stipend equivalent to fees charged.

24 Commission staff was asked to schedule an additional workgroup meeting date.

25 **TAB – 8 UPDATE ON GRANT DELIVERY SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE II**

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1 Debi Jackson reported that staff has been moving forward with all of the components of
2 the remaining phase two changes. Staff is still working on migrating additional reports and
3 Roster data file changes will be migrated after 16th of January. Staff is in the process of testing
4 the real-time award macros, roster payments, school changes, and anticipates completion by
5 the end of January or beginning of February.

6 Internal testing of WebServices will begin next week. Before remaining components are
7 implemented, an Ops Memos will be sent, providing information of any changes.

8 Staff continues to work on future item changes from the advisory meetings that were not
9 part of original project.

10 Chief Mistler reported that the Commission will clearly identify what changes have been
11 made and how the process will be different.

12 **TAB – 7 DISCUSSION OF USE OF STAKEHOLDERS FORUMS RELATED TO GAC**
13 **WORKGROUP TOPICS**

14 Chair Gutierrez explained that the use of stakeholders forums in December, 2008
15 regarding veteran's educational benefits, was an attempt to help the functioning of the GAC
16 workgroup to be more efficient, gather more ideas/input from the segments, and to have the
17 information available for the workgroup. She acknowledged Member Jeffery for leading the first
18 forum.

19 Member alternate Micalizio indicated that she thought it was good to bring in a wide
20 section of stakeholders and that it was effective and efficient. She also thought that the
21 stakeholders appreciated the opportunity to make comments.

22 Member Pace felt that this workgroup was very well organized.

23 Member Kulju mentioned concerns regarding the limit of two GAC members participating
24 in the forums and ensuring that the most representative members are included. Chair Gutierrez
25 responded that workgroup/forum leaders may consider various options when selecting which
26 GAC members will be included in the forums.

1 Member Graham questioned whether or not someone other than herself could
2 participate and Chief Mistler replied that involving other staff is encouraged.

3 Member Jeffery offered the perspective that the forum was an opportunity to clarify
4 issues and bring information forward as opposed to using the forum to move towards a decision.
5 She also indicated that she was able to improve the briefing paper she provided to GAC as a
6 result of going through the process with the stakeholders forum.

7 Chair Gutierrez acknowledged the analysis Member Jeffery provided and felt it made it
8 easier to focus on the workgroup. Member Jeffery responded that the stakeholders meeting
9 brought up many of the points included in her briefing.

10 Chair Gutierrez said that she would like to have future stakeholders forum information
11 available on the Commission website. Manager Falcon agreed that Commission staff could do
12 so.

13 Member Jeffery pointed out that she was asked for notes from the forum, but did not
14 have any and if that kind of information was going to be expected, it needs to be decided who
15 will be responsible.

16 Chief Mistler indicated that Commission staff would not be able to take notes, but may
17 be able to highlight some of the areas of discussion.

18 Member Kulju asked how it is decided that the stakeholders forum is necessary and
19 Chair Gutierrez replied that it can be decided as topics arise and depending on how complicated
20 the issue is. The Chair and workgroup leader can determine whether a forum is necessary.

21 **TAB – 9 CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE TOPICS**

22 No future topics were brought forward.

23 There being no further business, the meeting of the Grant Advisory Committee was
24 adjourned.

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26 SUSAN GUTIERREZ
GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR