

AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Meeting: 12:45 p.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Virtually via Teleconference

Debra S. Farar, Chair
Maryana Khames, Vice Chair
Silas H. Abrego
Diego Arambula
Douglas Faigin
Jack McGrory
Krystal Raynes
Romey Sabalius
Lateefah Simon

- Consent**
1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of July 22, 2020, *Action*
 2. Statement of State Legislative Principles for 2021 and 2022, *Action*
- Discussion**
3. Sponsored State Legislation for 2021, *Action*
 4. Federal Agenda for 2021 and 2022, *Action*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**Trustees of the California State University
Office of the Chancellor
Glenn S. Dumke Auditorium*
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, California**

July 22, 2020

Members Present

Debra S. Farar, Chair
Maryana Khames, Vice Chair
Silas H. Abrego
Douglas Faigin
Jack McGrory
Romey Sabalius
Lateefah Simon

Lillian Kimbell, Chair of the Board
Timothy P. White, Chancellor

Trustee Farar called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 12, 2020 were approved as submitted.

State Legislative Update

Mr. Garrett Ashley, vice chancellor for university relations and advancement, reported that the while the CSU faces a significant challenge this year, the CSU's budget reduction was proportionally smaller than other areas of the state budget. He recognized the collective efforts of campus leadership, the chancellor, the office of Advocacy and State Relations, students, faculty, staff and community supporters. Despite the stay-at-home order and advocacy that had to take place virtually, this coalition was able to adjust and ensure that the CSU remained a top budget priority.

***PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Governor's proclamation of a State of Emergency resulting from the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 issued on March 12, 2020 and March 17, 2020, respectively, all members of the Board of Trustees may participate in meetings remotely, either by telephonic or video conference means. Out of consideration for the health, safety and well-being of the members of the public and the Chancellor's Office staff, the July 21-22, 2020 meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees was conducted entirely virtually via Zoom teleconference.**

Ms. Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, assistant vice chancellor for advocacy and state relations, provided an update on the current legislative process by highlighting bills that impact the CSU and are moving forward in the legislative process. She also shared budget advocacy efforts, including the #CSUforCA social media campaign, and thanked the coalition that came together to advance the CSU budget request.

Trustee Sabalius expressed his appreciation for the support position on AB 2972, Trustee Eisen asked for details on the data that would be collected in the Statewide Longitudinal Student Database (SB 2), and Trustee Simon requested an analysis on the positive impacts that ACA 5 would have at the CSU.

Federal Legislative Update

Mr. Ashley reported that there has been significant activity in Washington D.C. relative to higher education, and the connection and coordination with state government in response to COVID-19 is unprecedented. The pandemic has dominated federal policymaking since March, including with regard to higher education.

Mr. Jim Gelb, assistant vice chancellor for federal relations, reviewed the CSU's activities and actions in Washington this year and provided a glimpse of what the CSU might expect later this summer. Advocacy efforts include emergency funds for students, funding to stabilize institutions, and regulatory flexibility related to student aid programs and compliance requirements. The CSU also continues to advocate for legislation to permanently protect and support Dreamers, and has advocated on behalf of international students to successfully reverse administrative action that would have forced international students to take in-person classes in the fall or risk deportation.

Trustee Farar adjourned the meeting.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Statement of State Legislative Principles for 2021 and 2022

Presentation By

Garrett P. Ashley
Vice Chancellor
University Relations and Advancement

Nichole Muñoz-Murillo
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Advocacy and State Relations

Summary

This item contains the proposed Statement of State Legislative Principles for 2021 and 2022. The legislative principles listed below are the same as those adopted by the board in 2019.

Background

At the beginning of every two-year legislative session, the Board of Trustees adopts a formal Statement of State Legislative Principles for the California State University. The principles provide basic parameters to guide positions taken by the chancellor and system representatives on matters pending before the California legislature.

Statement of Legislative Principles

As the state's greatest producer of bachelor's degrees, the California State University plays a critical role in arming future leaders with the skills and knowledge for them to thrive in the workforce, strengthen the economy and actively contribute to the quality of life in California. The CSU achieves these results by providing affordable, accessible and high-quality education, as outlined in the Master Plan for Higher Education. The system and its leaders, faculty and staff remain committed to this important work for the betterment of today and tomorrow.

The following constitute the core principles guiding recommendations on legislation:

1. Work with the legislature and governor to allow the California State University to continue its oversight of academic affairs and matters relating to the internal governance of the university.

2. Preserve the integrity of the collective bargaining process.
3. Remain neutral on matters in which the state seeks to legislate the general public health and safety while not singling out the California State University.
4. Preserve the integrity of the California State University's budgetary process, and seek adequate funding to serve current and future students, support the work of faculty and staff, provide for ongoing operations, capital outlay and infrastructure needs, and to meet the workforce demands of the state.
 - a. Provide that all funds must be appropriated to the Board of Trustees.
 - b. Proposals for operational, student success and academic programs, and capital outlay needs must be approved and prioritized by the Board of Trustees.
 - c. Provide the operational authority and flexibility, as well as the necessary tools, for the university to respond to the needs of students and the state.
5. Seek to influence the outcome of issues which, while not affecting the California State University alone, would have a disproportionate impact on the university's activities.
6. Seek to secure representation of the California State University on appropriate boards, commissions, task forces, study groups, etc., whose work may have a significant impact on the system. Representatives to such bodies shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees or the chancellor.
7. As both the chief administrative officer and a trustee, the chancellor is recognized and designated by the Board of Trustees as the spokesperson for the California State University regarding its positions on state and federal legislative proposals. When practical, the position to be taken on a legislative proposal should be discussed with the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations before that position is communicated to the legislature. Unresolved positions on a legislative proposal will be decided by the chancellor in consultation with the chair of the board. When practical, changes in position on pending legislative proposals will be shared with the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations prior to communication of the change to the legislature. When this is not practical, changes in position will be shared with the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations immediately following communication of the change to the legislature.

The following resolution is recommended for adoption:

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the Statement of Legislative Principles for 2021 and 2022 be adopted; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the chancellor is authorized to take positions on pending legislation on behalf of the California State University system; but prior to taking or changing such positions on legislative matters, the chancellor shall consult, when practical, with the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any unresolved positions on a legislative proposal will be decided by the chancellor in consultation with the chair of the board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the chancellor shall keep the Board of Trustees regularly informed of the positions taken and of such other matters affecting governmental relations as deemed necessary and desirable.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Sponsored State Legislation for 2021

Presentation By

Garrett P. Ashley
Vice Chancellor
University Relations and Advancement

Nichole Muñoz-Murillo
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Advocacy and State Relations

Summary

This item contains one sponsored legislative proposal for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

2021 Legislative Proposal

In August, Chancellor Emeritus Timothy P. White requested proposals from system and campus leaders for possible inclusion in the Board of Trustees' sponsored bill package for the 2021 legislative year. Proposals were analyzed by staff with consideration given to whether there was a clearly identified need, programmatic and fiscal implications, and overall alignment with system initiatives and priorities. The following is recommended for adoption by the Board as sponsored legislation for 2021.

College Mental Health Services Program

We recommend the Board of Trustees sponsor legislation to annually appropriate funding from the Proposition 63 administrative fund to bolster student mental health services being offered on public college campuses.

This legislation establishes the College Mental Health Services Program, which would direct ongoing funding to the California State University, California Community Colleges and the University of California to expand student mental health services. While the CSU has made substantial investments in student mental health services, expanding these services has been highlighted as a top priority for students, faculty and campus leaders. The COVID-19 pandemic has further amplified the need for ongoing investment in providing these services to students.

Adoption of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the state legislative proposal described in this item is adopted as the 2021 Board of Trustees' sponsored legislation.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Federal Agenda for 2021 and 2022

Presentation By

Garrett P. Ashley
Vice Chancellor
University Relations and Advancement

James M. Gelb
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Federal Relations

Summary

This item details the system's federal priorities for 2021 and 2022.

Background

Every two years, the CSU reviews and updates its federal priorities in conjunction with the beginning of a new two-year session of Congress. In some years – like this one – this also coincides with a change in the White House.

This agenda is guided by system objectives of preserving access, providing quality instruction, preparing students for the workforce and promoting completion of students' educational goals. It is informed by the CSU Office of Federal Relations' assessment of the current political and fiscal landscape in Washington and has been reviewed by the Chancellor's Senior Leadership Council. The core principles outlined below (in bold italic lettering) are designed to provide a broad umbrella under which the CSU can react to the wide range of policy ideas that typically surface throughout a Congressional session; also included are bulleted illustrations of items that are ripe for advocacy in 2021 and 2022.

Overall, the agenda hews closely to the system's approach in recent years. The CSU can and should continue to promote federal investments in its students and institutions as efficient, productive targets of resources that will strengthen America's economy and well-being. Given the program's benefit to our students, the CSU should also continue to place maintaining a robust Pell Grant program among its top priorities. While the CSU will frequently be called upon to respond to proposals made by others, the federal agenda identifies priority areas that should be the subjects of proactive pursuit.

Summary of CSU System Priorities for 2021 and 2022

The California State University (CSU) consistently provides an outstanding return on federal investments in its students, institutions and research. With 23 campuses and approximately 486,000 students, the CSU is the nation's largest public four-year university system, providing access and success for unprecedented numbers of underserved and low-income students. Every year, 129,000 new CSU graduates enter the workforce across all economic sectors.

The system's top federal priorities for 2021 and 2022 are:

- Support and protect Dreamers, including by immediately restoring Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protections
- Secure necessary federal relief and flexibilities for institutions and students in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Invest in student success by significantly increasing the maximum Pell Grant and restoring annual cost-of-living increases to the program

A full list of CSU system priorities for 2021 and 2022 follows.

Improve College Access and Timely Completion through Aid to Students: The CSU remains one of the nation's best bargains. Significant state and institutional grants provide vital support to our low-income students. Federal financial aid programs remain critical to these students, including nearly 230,000 who rely on need-based Pell Grants. More than 63,000 Pell recipients earn CSU bachelor's degrees each year.

- Enhance the Pell Grant program by significantly increasing the maximum grant; restoring automatic cost-of-living increases to the maximum grant; and reserving any surplus funds for future program needs or improvements
- Invest in the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Work-Study programs
- Prioritize resources for institutions serving the greatest number of students with need
- Support policies that minimize college debt burden and promote higher education philanthropy

Prepare Students for College Success: The CSU is continuously working to improve K-12 student readiness and measure the performance of CSU-trained teachers. The federal government is a vital partner.

- Provide robust funding for effective pipeline programs like GEAR UP and TRIO, and expand pre-K investments
- Maintain a strong federal partnership with universities to transform the preparation of America's teachers and school leaders, especially for high-need schools

Foster Degree Completion for California's Diverse Population: The CSU provides more than half of all undergraduate degrees granted to California's Latino, African American and Native American students and is a leader in transitioning veterans to the workforce. Federal capacity-building programs and targeted grants help bridge completion and equity gaps.

- Support federal policies that assist California's Dreamers – young people brought to the US as children – and provide them with long-term stability and opportunities
- Maintain strong support for Hispanic- and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions through increased investments in capacity-building programs
- Support the needs of veterans on campus and smooth their transition to the civilian workforce
- Promote policies that reduce recidivism by expanding access to a college education

Educate Students for Tomorrow's Workforce: Every year, 129,000 new CSU graduates drive California's and America's economy in the information technology, life sciences, agriculture, business, hospitality, healthcare, education, public administration, entertainment and multimedia industries. Targeted federal programs help propel their success.

- Support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, including through funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF)'s Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation, Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship and Hispanic-Serving Institutions programs
- Invest in USDA's Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

Solve Societal Problems through Applied Research: In laboratories, at field sites and through programs at the CSU, students, faculty and collaborating scientists advance California's capacity to address key issues of significance to our state and nation. Federal investments are vital to continued progress.

- Maximize opportunities for comprehensive universities to compete for federal resources, including in STEM programs
- Maintain strong funding for NSF, National Institutes of Health, and national security research and training
- Invest in Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA) program

Enhance Campus Health, Safety and Infrastructure: State-of-the-art facilities and innovative programs help make campuses vibrant and secure for all.

- Promote policies that support students' well-being and basic needs, including housing and food security and mental health
- Fund programs that enhance campus safety and assist campuses with addressing sexual violence
- Support investments in infrastructure and assets that provide campuses opportunities to partner with their communities, improve facilities, and promote job training and strategic economic growth, including in connection with federal maritime responsibilities

The CSU federal agenda process recognizes that priorities may evolve over time. The OFR will continue to work with the campuses and system leaders to refine and develop proposals, and to assist all in working productively with their representatives in Congress and with federal agencies in the year ahead.

The following resolution is recommended for approval:

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the Federal Agenda for 2021 and 2022 be adopted.