College of the Canyons Advocacy Team Meeting
2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, February 29, 2012
University Center, Room 223

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions
Bruce Fortine, Michael Muprhy, Barry Griibbons, Mike Joslin, Jennifer Brezina, Audrey Green, Diana Stanich, Elena Petrovitch, Cynthia Dorroh, Dena Maloney, Andrea McAfee, Earl Bayless, Rod Smith, Cathy Ritz, Claudia Acosta, Jill Mellady, Eric Harnish, Dianne Van Hook

Student Success Task Force Recommendations
Mr. Harnish reviewed the attached handout detailing the provisions of two pieces of legislation introduced as a result of the Student Success Task Force recommendations.

Dr. Van Hook provided background on a provision that would limit the number of units a student could take at a community college. Students who exceed the limit would be forced to pay the full cost of a course. She asked members to provide examples of employees who would be adversely impacted if that were implemented (e.g. students who hold an associate degree in one subject area, but return to community college to complete coursework in a different subject needed in order to pursue a different career).

Economic & Workforce Development Reauthorization
Dr. Van Hook reviewed the attached handout summarizing the benefits of SB 1402 (Lieu), which would reauthorize the Economic and Workforce Development Program at California Community Colleges. The program sunsets January 1, 2013, without reauthorization. Additional information will be emailed out to committee members.

Dr. Maloney noted that for every dollar the state invests in this program, it receives $3 in return. She noted that Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) funds have been used to upgrade COC’s Automotive Technology curriculum.

Upcoming Advocacy Trips
Dr. Van Hook provided an overview of the KHTS Bus Trip to Sacramento that is scheduled for March 21-22 and noted that the college will have representatives attending.

She also discussed the Capitol Days events being planned by the Community College League of California, where teams of trustees, faculty members, CEOs, and students will meet with legislators who sit on committees that review community college-related legislation.

Dr. Van Hook noted that KHTS is also planning a community advocacy trip to Washington, DC. It is too early to tell yet what issues will be discussed, but President Obama has proposed $8 billion in retraining funding for community colleges. California’s community colleges represent 25% of the students in the nation, so if that funding is realized, California could receive up to $2 billion.
Ms. Petrovitch noted that five Associated Student Government officers will be participating in the “March in March” student advocacy event on Monday, March 5.

Next Steps and Responsibilities
As bills move through the legislative process, members will be contacted to help write letters of support/opposition as needed.

A sign-up sheet was distributed to gather volunteers willing to speak on behalf of the college.
Student Success Task Force Recommendations

Overview of Implementation Legislation

SB 1456 (Lowenthal) – Student Success Act of 2012

This bill moves forward with implementing some of the recommendations made by the Student Success Task Force. It states that student success is the responsibility of the institution and student, supported by well-coordinated and evidence-based student and instructional services to foster academic success. It prioritizes the serving of students who are enrolled in a California Community College to earn degrees, career technical certificates, or transfer.

Requires students to:

- Identify an educational goal upon enrollment.
- Declare a major within a reasonable period after enrollment (specific deadline to be decided by Board of Governors).
- Maintain academic progress toward an educational goal and program of study identified in the student’s education plan according to standards established by the college, the district, and the state.

Requires colleges to:

- Provide orientation and pre-orientation services designed that give students information concerning campus procedures, academic expectations, and financial assistance.
- Use a common assessment instrument and administer assessment tests upon enrollment that determine student competency in Math, English and readiness for college.
- Provide assistance to students and help them identify aptitudes, interests, and educational objectives.
- Help students develop educational plans to fulfill their objectives.
- Provide referral to specialized support services such as financial aid, health services, campus employment, career services, veteran support services, foster youth services; Extended Opportunity Programs & Services, campus child care services, programs that teach English as a second language; and disabled student services.
- Evaluate each student's progress, and provide required advisement or counseling for students who are enrolled in remedial basic skills courses, who have not declared an educational objective goal as required, or who are on academic probation.
- Evaluate the success of their efforts in these areas.
SB 1062 (Liu) – Streamlines Board of Governors Operations

This bill also moves forward with implementing recommendations made by the Student Success Task Force to streamline operations at the Chancellor’s Office.

Current law states prevented the Board of Governors from adopting a regulation until the Department of Finance had certified to the Board of Governors and the Legislature that a source of funds was available to reimburse the cost. Under this bill, the board could move forward to adopt a regulation after it identifies a source of funds.

The bill also proposes to facilitate the hiring of executive staff in the Chancellor’s Office. The bill would allow the Board of Governors to hire a vice chancellor or assistant vice chancellor if the applicant:

- Has a minimum of five years of work experience in a local community college, or higher education policy position, or a technical or occupational capacity for which there is a shortage of qualified workers.
- Previously held permanent status in the civil service.
- Was employed by the Legislature for two or more consecutive years
- Held for two or more consecutive years one or more nonelected exempt positions in the executive branch.
Senate Bill 1402 (Lieu) reauthorizes the Economic and Workforce Development Program in California’s Community Colleges. The program is scheduled to sunset January 1, 2013. Reauthorizing the program will enable College of the Canyons to provide customized training and help local companies create jobs and remain competitive in a challenging economy.

- College of the Canyons has received $7.1 million from Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) program since 1997.
- With that funding, College of the Canyon’s Economic Development Division has provided training to 21,455 employees at 3,932 companies.
- The college’s Center for Applied Competitive Technology (CACT), which offers technology education and manufacturing training in a wide range of computer aided design and manufacturing disciplines, is funded through EWD grants totaling $2.6 million.
- EWD grants have enabled College of the Canyons to provide customized training to Santa Clarita’s largest, most recognizable companies:
  - Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital ($245,199) – COC developed and delivered a training program for 850 hospital employees as the hospital implemented a comprehensive technology upgrade.
  - Advanced Bionics ($101,000) – Trained 42 employees in advanced quality control processes required under federal law for the only manufacturer of cochlear implants in the United States.
  - Boston Scientific ($134,139) – Delivered high-skill training for 107 employees at advanced medical manufacturing company in project management, project development, rapid prototyping, and quality testing.