



California Community Colleges

MEMORANDUM

January 21, 2020

ES 20-02 | Via Email

TO: Chief Business Officers
Chief Executive Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

FROM: Rhonda Mohr
Vice Chancellor, Educational Services and Support

RE: Assembly Bill 1504 – Student Representation Fee

Assembly Bill (AB) 1504, approved by the Governor October 4, 2019, amended Section 76060.5 of the Education Code to require a community college to collect a student representation fee of \$2 at the time of registration. One dollar (\$1) of every two-dollar (\$2) fee collected shall be expended to support the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges (SSCCC), the statewide community college student organization recognized by the Board of Governors (BOG) of the California Community Colleges. The legislation is effective January 1, 2020.

AB 1504 also amends prior language regarding a student's choice to opt-out of the fee. Students must be provided an opportunity to opt out of the fee, without providing a reason at registration. This bill also eliminates the authorization of a student election to collect or terminate the additional fee.

Action Required

Each college must collect \$2 from each student who initiates registration on or after January 1, 2020 for each term of registration. Each college or district must make a local decision regarding implementation of the Legislation, including processes to retroactively assess the fee if the college was not able to implement by January 1, 2020.

Colleges must report fee collection to the Chancellor's Office as described in the timeline below. One dollar (\$1) of the student representation fee is reportable to the Chancellor's Office by the colleges. The Chancellor's Office will then invoice colleges to collect the fees on behalf of the SSCCC.

Chancellor's Office, Educational Services and Support

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www.CaliforniaCommunityColleges.cccco.edu

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Consistent with previous legislation, this bill requires the community college to provide the student a means to refuse to pay the student representation fee, prior to charging the fee to the student. Additionally, this bill eliminates the requirement that the student provide a reason for refusing to pay the fee. To reiterate, all students must be offered an option to opt-out of paying the fee, without providing a reason, prior to being charged the fee.

The legislation refers to "...a student may refuse to pay...on the same form used to collect the fee". The legislation requires that the Chancellor's Office create a "form" that colleges must use to notify the student of the fee, as well as the option to refuse to pay the fee. The Chancellor's Office will work over the next few months on a standard format for this process, as well as work on title 5 regulations as needed to clarify requirements about its use.

There is no reimbursement to local agencies for any costs incurred, however districts may retain a portion of the fees collected equal to the actual cost of administering and collecting these fees up to, but no more than, 7% of the fees collected.

Timeline

January 1, 2020	Colleges that do not currently collect the \$2 student representation fee should begin to collect the fee for students that register on or after January 1, 2020. <i>Students who registered prior to January 1, 2020 are not subject to the \$2 fee unless previously required by election of the student body.</i>
October 2020:	Districts should report Student Representation Fee revenue in Fund 72 on the CCFS-311 annual Financial and Budget Report. An invoice for payment for the amount due to the BOG is automatically generated and available in the district-wide reports drop down menu.
February 2021:	Districts remit payments to the BOG, via the Chancellor's Office, on or before February 1, 2021 (and each year thereafter).
April 2021:	On or before April 15 (and each year thereafter), the BOG shall distribute the moneys to the SSCCC.

Student Senate for California Community Colleges Background

The SSCCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization that provides students with opportunities to take an active role in higher education advocacy, policy development, and participatory governance. Title 5 §51023.7 grants students the right to participate in the development of those policies and procedures that significantly impact them and the SSCCC is the mechanism for students to participate statewide in policy development. The SSCCC is guided by the delegates from all California community colleges and is recognized as the official voice of the over 2.1 million students by the Board of Governors, legislature, governor, and other education stakeholders. The new funding source will provide the SSCCC with resources to provide greater sustainability, institutional memory, and transparency, as well as funds for student leadership and advocacy training.

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For additional guidance and information, please be sure to review all applicable Education Code (sections 76060 et seq.) and California Code of Regulations, Title 5 provisions (sections 54801 et seq.) and the Budget and Accounting Manual (BAM). If you have any questions about these fees, please contact Gina Browne, Specialist in Educational Services and Support, or our Fiscal division at FiscalStandards@cccco.edu.

cc: Julie Adams, Interim Executive Director, Student Senate for California Community Colleges