



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: Mt. San Antonio College
Board of Trustees
Subcommittee on Governmental Relations

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor

DATE: April 1, 2022

RE: Meeting Agenda and Proposed Scope of Work

Agenda

- I. Current Scope of Work with Nossaman LLP
- II. Current Legislative Priorities Document
- III. How Legislative Priorities are Chosen
- IV. Current Legislation
- V. Set Intention of the Subcommittee
- VI. Expansion of Scope

I. Current Nossaman Scope of Work

State Legislative Scope of Work

- **Direct Legislative Advocacy:** Nossaman proposes to offer the following services to accomplish this task:
 - Assist the President's office and assigned staff in developing a valuable state legislative advocacy strategy for the year.
 - Proactively identify state budget issues being considered that will impact Mt. SAC, and aggressively advocate on the College's behalf.
 - Monitor the introduction of legislation related to California Community Colleges and recommend positions and legislative strategies.
 - Notify the President and staff of pertinent legislative informational hearings related to Mt. SAC's priorities, and coordinate participation and testimony.
 - Monitor the appropriate Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees for state budget developments the impact Mt. SAC provide regular updates to the President and appropriate staff.
 - Arrange any targeted key state legislative meetings for Mt. SAC regarding legislative goals and priorities. This includes preparing talking points and/or briefing materials as needed.
 - On legislation deemed a priority by Mt. SAC, lobby legislators and committee staff, request amendments, attend legislative hearings and provide testimony.

- Identify and inform Mt. SAC of significant amendments to priority legislation and provide regular updates to the President and appropriate staff.
 - On legislation and budget proposals deemed a priority by Mt. SAC, advocate Mt. SAC's goals with the Governor's office and Department of Finance. This includes providing advocacy materials.
 - Monitor the Governor's actions on all priority bills and engage when necessary.
 - Provide regular legislative updates to the Board of Trustees.
 - Visit Mt. SAC to provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees, both orally and in writing, on the final outcome of our work on priority legislation and budget issues.
- **State Budget Issues:** Nossaman will ensure Mt. SAC has a proactive role in shaping state budget issues. Nossaman will work with Mt. SAC to anticipate concerns, needs, and priorities within the budget process, and advocate those positions in advance of the May Revision. Nossaman will work with Mt. SAC to outline a detailed position letter on all aspects of the budget deemed a priority. Nossaman will advocate through meetings with Legislative Members, the California Community College's Chancellor's Office, meetings with the Governor's office and the Administration, and testifying in budget hearings.
 - **Monitoring and Bill Tracking Services:** Nossaman Policy Advisors regularly monitor all of the activities of the California Legislature, including hearings, briefings, and press related events. Tracking legislation and budget proposals allows Nossaman to provide Mt. SAC with up to the minute advice on whether to support or oppose bills that may impact Mt. SACs' goals. Nossaman uses Capitol Track at the state level to ensure we can create Mt. SAC a bill tracking reports that reflect priority policy areas. Our bill reports can be tailored and structured to Mt. SAC's liking. Nossaman will send state bill reports on a weekly basis to ensure Mt. SAC is up to date on the ongoing status of each bill.
 - **Coordination of Legislative/Regulatory Efforts:** California Community College policy can be impacted through legislation and regulations at the Board of Governors level. The pairing of legislative and regulatory work will be an on-going focus of our Scope of Work. Our approach to regulation advocacy will continue to take the form of a partnership with Mt. SAC to identify regulatory objectives, prioritize those objectives, and then develop a strategy for achieving those priority objectives.

Federal Legislative Scope of Work: Hourly, As-Need Basis

- Arrange any targeted key federal legislative meetings for Mt. SAC regarding legislative goals and priorities.
- Prepare talking points and/or briefing materials as needed.
- Brief all Mt. SAC meeting attendees on what to expect during meetings, and provide information about the staff or members the meetings will be held with.
- Participate in federal meetings with Mt. SAC representatives.
- Provide strategic advice on any follow up required from the meeting.

II. Current Legislative Priorities Document

1. **Student Equity and Achievement Program (SEAP):** SEAP was created in 2018 and merged funding for three formally separate initiatives: the Student Success and Support Program; the Basic Skills

Initiative; and Student Equity. Integrating these efforts into a single program advances our goal of demolishing once and for all the achievement gaps for students from traditionally underrepresented populations. SEAP has never received a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) since its establishment; yet the need for these funds for our students continues to grow. The College supports a permanent annual COLA for SEAP.

2. **Workforce Development:** California Community Colleges will play a key role in the State's economic recovery needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacts. The recession we are experiencing, due to the pandemic most significantly impacted low income and minority populations, which are the populations that California Community Colleges serve more than any other higher education segment in the State. CCC's will play a large part in the economic recovery from this recession, with a focus on education our State's hardest hit communities. CCC's are the State's job training providers, as we partner with K-12 districts, universities, and industry to provide career ladder opportunities. Through the State's continued investments in the Strong Workforce Program, Guided Pathways, and Career Education, we stand ready to partner with the State and ensure our students are trained and prepared for the labor industries that are growing in our region. The College strongly supports ongoing investments and policies that support the CCCs in preparing our students for the workforce, including expanded work-based learning and short-term training, and retraining in high demand jobs.
3. **Basic Needs:** The College believes that student success is directly impacted by their access to basic needs, such as food, housing, technology, transportation, and mental health services. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for these services to be provided to our students. The College strongly supports any policy and/or budget related efforts aimed at increasing CCC students' ability to access basic needs and mental health services. Efforts on these issues are underway through proposed policy changes by the California Community Colleges Chief Executive Officer's (CEOCCC) Affordability Housing and Food Insecurity Taskforce created in 2018. The College strongly supports the recommendations of the Taskforce, and additional resources at the federal level to support free community college.
4. **Noncredit:** The College has one of the largest noncredit programs in California. There have been several statewide community college initiatives and regulations that have not adequately considered the special challenges inherent to noncredit education, even when that inclusion would have been a valuable addition to the initiative. The College will continue to advocate for equitable legislative and regulatory considerations for noncredit students and programs. This includes how the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) funding is disbursed and for it to remain funded with adequate COLA ensuring that adults in the community will have equitable access to noncredit programs.
5. **Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act:** The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) is important to our College for many reasons, including that it governs federal financial aid programs for our students. Federal financial aid consists of student loans and need-based financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), and Federal Work-Study. The HEA has been expired since 2013 and extended by Congress while debates over the reauthorization take place. We anticipate significant changes to be proposed in the reauthorization process, including increased student aid support through efforts to make community college free for students, as well as policy changes related to accreditation, regulation reform, student loans, and additional transparency. It is important during reauthorization of the HEA that any changes to law reflect the diverse student population and interests of our students.

The College supports additional resources to lessen and/or eliminate the cost for students to attend community college in California.

6. **Student Veterans:** Mt. San Antonio College is thankful for the service of our veteran students and their families. We offer many resources and opportunities to help these veterans and their family members achieve their educational and vocational goals at Mt. SAC. In 2010 Mt. SAC was selected by the California Community College Chancellor's Office as a pilot site for the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) project. The VRC project established an innovative, collaborative effort to ease the transition for our student Veterans as they navigate our community college system. Today Mt. SAC continues to demonstrate both its motivation to meet the needs of Student Veterans and an ability to marshal resources to meet those needs through the VRC. The College strongly supports our student veterans, and any state and/or federal policies or funding proposals to ensure they can reach their educational goals.
7. **COVID-19 Relief:** As the state and federal government continue to find ways to assist communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will advocate for continued support of our students and those most underrepresented. The flexible funding we have been granted to support students through emergency grants has been a tremendous help to them, and been a driving force in why many students have not given up on their educational goals during the pandemic. We will continue to support policies and financial resources to provide students with the access to technology they need to succeed in a distance or online learning format, including access to broadband, computers, and software. The College supports the need for resources for colleges to successfully transition courses to online and distance platforms, including the need for professional development, training, and technology support for staff.

III. How Legislative Priorities are Chosen

Nossaman works with the President and Cabinet to discuss current legislative proposals, trends, and priorities. Legislative Priorities are then outlined in a document, and provided to the Board of Trustees for review, input and approval. These priorities are updated every year.

IV. Current Legislation

- **SB 20 (Dodd):** Would require the California Student Aid Commission to notify California College Promise Grant students that they may also be eligible for CalFresh benefits. Recommended Position: Support.
- **SB 641 (Skinner):** Would require the Department of Social Services to convene a workgroup that would submit a legislative report on how to improve the CalFresh application process for college students. Recommended Position: Support.
- **SB 1141 (Limon) (CCCCO Sponsored):** Would remove the two-year cap on full-time enrollment in credit courses that can be counted towards achieving AB 540 status and change the threshold to qualify from three to two years of full-time attendance. Current Position: Support.
- **AB 75 (O'Donnell):** This bill would set forth the Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2022 as a state general obligation bond act that would provide \$12,000,000,000 to construct and modernize education facilities, as provided. The bond act

would become operative only if approved by the voters at an unspecified statewide election in 2022. Current Position: Support.

- **AB 288 (Calderon):** Would prohibit each institution of higher education from reducing certain students' institution-based financial aid award below their financial need beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year. Recommended Position: Support.
- **AB 1187 (Irwin):** Would provide that supervised tutoring for all credit and noncredit courses, as authorized pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board of Governors by July 31, 2023, is eligible for state apportionment. Recommended Position: Support.
- **AB 1232 (McCarty):** Would create a nonresident tuition exemption for recent immigrants, refugees, and asylees who have settled in California, resided in the state for less than one year, and enrolled in credit English as a Second Language courses. Recommended Position: Support.
- **AB 1467 (Cervantes):** Would require sexual assault counselors to be independent from the Title IX office and be appointed based on a demonstrated ability to effectively provide sexual violence victim services and response. Recommended Position: Need feedback.
- **AB 1491 (McCarty):** Would cap CAEP carryover to 15% after the first year of the 3-year planning period under certain circumstance. Current Position: Oppose.
- **AB 1505 (Rodriguez):** Would require the Board of Governors to adopt regulations that require the Fall 2023 full[1]time faculty obligation for each community college district to be set to the actual full-time faculty number reported for Fall 2022 and annually adjusted pursuant to these regulations. Recommended Position: Oppose.
- **AB 1602 (McCarty):** Would provide zero-interest loans to qualifying applicants of the UC, CSU, and the CCC for the purpose of constructing affordable student, faculty, and staff housing. Recommended Position: Support.
- **AB 1691 (Medina):** Would authorize classified employees of a participating community college district meeting certain requirements to withhold an amount from their monthly paycheck during an academic year to be paid out during the summer recess period. Recommended Position: Need feedback.
- **AB 1705 (Irwin):** Would prohibit colleges from requiring students to enroll in pre-transfer level English or math coursework except under very limited circumstances and provide clarifying amendments to current equitable placement practices consistent with existing regulations. Recommended Position: Oppose.
- **AB 1712 (Medina):** Would require the California Community Colleges (CCC), California State University (CSU), and University of California (UC) to convene a campus climate and sexual misconduct workgroup, develop a campus climate and sexual misconduct survey, provide the survey to students beginning on January 1, 2024, and every three years thereafter, and report the results to the governing board of each institution. Recommended Position: Watch.

- **AB 1733 (Quirk):** Would require all open meetings to have options for teleconference participation, allow for the use of teleconference in closed sessions, and remove existing provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act that require each teleconference location to be identified in the notice and agenda and accessible to the public. This bill includes an urgency statute. Recommended Position: Need feedback.
- **AB 1746 (Medina):** Would revise and recast the provisions establishing and governing the existing Cal Grant Program into a new Cal Grant 2 and Cal Grant 4 program, expand eligibility to be consistent with Pell Grant income eligibility, and include an inflationary increase to community college awards. Recommended Position: Support.
- **AB 1752 (Santiago):** Would require persons who are employed to teach adult or community college classes part-time to receive compensation in at least an amount that bears the same ratio to the amount provided to full-time employees with comparable duties relative to time spent. Recommended Position: Oppose.
- **AB 1856 (Medina):** Would increase the number of instructional hours that a part-time community college faculty member may teach at one district from 67% to 85% of a full-time assignment. Recommended Position: Oppose.
- **AB 1993 (Wicks):** Would require an employer, including community colleges and state agencies, to require each person who is an employee or independent contractor, and who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, to show proof of vaccination to the employer. Recommended Position: Watch.
- **AB 2266 (Santiago):** Would remove, for the purpose of determining eligibility for the California College Promise Program, the qualification that students be first-time students and the exclusion of students who have previously earned a degree or certificate. Recommended Position: Need feedback.
- **AB 2637 (B. Rubio):** Would exempt an approved school of nursing or approved nursing program that is accredited, maintains a minimum pass rate of 80%, and meets other specified criteria from the requirement to seek Board of Registered Nursing approval for changes to clinical simulation hours and placements. Recommended Position: Need feedback.
- **AB 2820 (Medina):** Would add a sunset date to provisions that authorize the creation of Calbright. Specifically, this bill would provide that the California Online Community College Act is inoperative on January 1, 2024, and appropriate Calbright's funding for specified purposes. Recommended Position: Watch.

V. Set Intention of the Subcommittee

The Subcommittee should discuss intention and goals for committee meetings, as well as process and involvement in the governmental relations program at the State and Federal level.

VI. Expansion of Scope

Nossaman can provide additional services to the College, focused on increased Board involvement.

Some of those services could include:

- An annual Legislative Workshop with all of the Colleges state and federal representatives each year in February/March.
- Full and direct coordination of all advocacy related trips to Washington DC, and Sacramento.
- Coordinating key tours of the campus and programs.
- Invitations to the College's legislative delegation to more regularly interact with the Board of Trustees.

Nossaman would like additional direction from the subcommittee about what additional services are desired, related to governmental relations.