

Consultation Council -- July 2015
Notes by Rita M. Mize, Ph.D.

(Note that these are not official minutes but rather an attempt to provide greater transparency regarding the Consultation process and to ensure that those who have not attended the council meeting will be more aware of the ongoing discussions within the California Community College system.)

1. Student Senate – The student representatives reported that they had held elections and training for newly-elected officers last weekend.
2. Workforce Task Force – Van Ton-Quinlivan reported that her office has received 218 comments from 130 individuals as well as 8 letters regarding the preliminary recommendations of the “Strong” Workforce Task Force. The comments will be reviewed by the Executive Committee (Sunita Cooke, Tim Rainey, and Lynn Shaw) and they will make recommendations to the writing team for presentation at the July 29 meeting of the full commission. At that time the TF will draft a final set of recommendations representing the work of the task force. In the meantime, all interested parties are encouraged to send additional comments to their respective representatives on the committee. (The League’s representatives are trustee Linda Wah – lswah@pasadena.edu and CEO Bill Scroggins bscroggins@mtsac.edu)

A brief summary of the major recommendations, prepared by Lizette Navarette) is available by [clicking here](#).

The final recommendations of the Strong Workforce TF will be discussed at the September 10th Consultation meeting, then heard for first reading at the September 21-22 Board of Governors meeting and hopefully, be approved by the BOG at their November 16 - 17 hearing.

3. State Budget -- The short budgetary conversation included the \$60 million provided for basic skills in the budget. While there is additional legislation (AB 770, Irwin) proposing the use of these funds, the administration has

indicated that the language in the budget bill ([SB 81/2015, page 33](#)) is sufficient for the colleges. This language establishes the “Community Colleges Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Program” which calls for the Chancellor’s Office to distribute multiyear grants to districts that focus on adopting or expanding the use of evidence-based models of academic assessment and placement, remediation, and student support that accelerate the progress of underprepared students toward achieving postsecondary educational and career goals. Vice Chancellor Dr. Pam Walker has met with her predecessors to learn more of the history of basic skills programs as the Chancellor’s Office develops processes and procedures for distributing these grants.

Dr. Walker also will be meeting with the Department of Finance to receive additional perspective regarding the \$10 million for community colleges to provide basic skills instruction for CSU students.

4. Legislative Update

AB 288 (Holden) – This concurrent enrollment bill was approved by the Senate Education Committee on July 1 and included a number of amendments including:

- Greater emphasis on the inclusion of students from underrepresented groups.
- Additional reporting requirements re: FTES so that costs can be more adequately determined.
- Additional oversight for the Chancellors Office to allow them to deny funding for programs which may not meet the requirements of the legislation.
- Additional faculty consultation regarding remedial instruction.
- Sunset date in 2022.
- Establishment of a statewide cap of 10% of FTES by special admit students.

AB 288’s next hearing will be in August in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

(Further information on this legislation – as well as the full list of bills followed by the League -- is available on the League's website under the "Advocacy" tab at: <http://www.ccleague.org/advocacy>)

SB 42 (Liu) – This bill was heard in the Senate Education Committee on July 7 and has been significantly amended to establish the Office of Higher Education and Accountability with appointment of the executive director by the Governor, and subject to Senate confirmation. Its roles would include a data clearinghouse; there are no seats on the advisory board for the higher education segments seats. If this bill is approved in the Legislature, it is expected to be vetoed by the Governor who defunded its predecessor, the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

AB 1385/1397 (Ting) – The Chancellor's Office indicated that they did not take a position or testify on these two accreditation bills as a courtesy to the author, as well as because of the imminent release (in September) of the Chancellor's task force report.

Other Matters:

Chancellor Harris noted the importance of an additional \$15 million in the budget for the *Institutional Effectiveness Initiative* and urged patience as his office works out the details for use of these funds.

The Chancellor also indicated that he had taken action on distributing funds for *inmate education* because it was essential to have the funding out in the field before July 1.

Chancellor Harris asked that VC Vince Stewart be notified by any college/district that has been contacted regarding *America's College Promise* (President Obama's free tuition proposal). While there is relatively little chance that this will be adopted or funded, Democrats authors and the Administration are appealing to local colleges to sign on to it. While this is an important issue, it is fraught with difficulty for California's Community Colleges because, due to our unique fee waivers, the cost of the program to

California, would be approximately \$400 million with no likelihood of any federal funding.