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FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

Memorandum

DATE: October 6, 2014
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – October 2014

Colleagues,

The following are items of interest and importance for our system, and are provided for your information. If you have comments or concerns on any of these items, feel free to email me at bharris@cccco.edu, or telephone me at (916) 322-4005.

1. **California Community College Baccalaureate A Reality:** By now you all know that Governor Brown signed into law SB 850 authored by Senator Marty Block making the community college Baccalaureate a reality in California. As I wrote in this communication last month, there were many who worked hard on this bill, but Senator Block deserves much of the credit for his tireless leadership, as does San Diego Community College District Chancellor, Constance Carroll. We have begun working on the approval process for colleges interested in applying for one of the 15 pilots, and will take that draft process to the Consultation Council this month, and to the Board of Governors for their consideration in November. I will not go into detail on the process here, but would remind everyone that the Board of Governors process will require that any pilot meet the requirements of the legislation regarding industry demand and lack of duplication with the UC and CSU. Because there are certain to be far more than fifteen applications for these coveted opportunities, the process will need to be transparent and very objective in nature. We will keep you informed of the process as it is developed and ultimately approved by the Board.
2. **Awards for Innovation in Higher Education:** As I mentioned to you previously, the Budget Act of 2014 provided \$50 million in one-time funding for the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. This program is intended to recognize California community colleges, California State University (CSU) campuses and University of California (UC) campuses that implement innovative policies, practices or systems to significantly increase the number of bachelor's degrees awarded, allow students to complete bachelor's degrees within four years after beginning higher education, and ease transfer through the state's education system. The committee to select which campuses receive awards and determine award amounts met for the first time on September 16th. Two of the six committee members are connected to the California community colleges. Board of Governor member Arnoldo Avalos was appointed by Governor Brown as a representative of our system and Dr. Constance Carroll was appointed by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. The awards will be made based on the extent to which the changes described in the applications can: 1) achieve the state's priorities at a lower cost and without requiring students to pay increased tuition or fees; 2) involve broad participation across educational segments and systems and can be replicated; and 3) demonstrate a commitment to achieving the state's priorities and are sustainable over the long-term. Dr. Carroll informed me late last week that the committee voted unanimously to allow these funds to recognize the activities of community colleges establishing a four-year degree program under SB 850. Any community college, CSU campus, or UC campus may submit, individually or as part of a group, an application for an award before the January 9, 2015, deadline. I would encourage any of you who believe that you have



policy, practice or systems in place that meet the program criteria to apply for an award. You can obtain additional information about the awards at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/innovationawards/>.

3. **Campus Sexual Assault Issues:** Since I wrote to you regarding this subject last month, there has been increased federal and state legislative activity on this issue. Governor Brown signed into law SB 967 (de Leon), legislation that establishes an affirmative consent standard for sexual activity involving a student. It also requires colleges that receive state funds for student financial aid to adopt policies concerning sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, and implement sexual violence prevention and outreach programs. In addition, both the UC and CSU have now assigned a designee at each of their colleges to whom students are to report any campus sexual assaults and have expanded support for those students. Although I cannot require you to do the same, I strongly encourage each of you to identify someone on your campus to whom cases of sexual assault can be reported. I further recommend that you clarify your policies in this area to ensure that students feel comfortable reporting such incidents and that it is clear in your policies and procedures that any such reports will be confidential and carefully investigated and dealt with. I am certain that all of you have always taken this issue seriously, but we need to ensure that it is very clear to our students and the public how such incidents are to be reported and that we intend to thoroughly follow up on any report.
4. **Workforce and Economic Development Initiative:** At the recent Board of Governors retreat in September there was a great deal of conversation related to an initiative on workforce education and economic development. I have enclosed some of the background information we provided to the Board. The Board is very interested in this project as a logical follow-up to our student success initiative. We plan to conclude the 22 recommendations of the Student Success Task Force late next year and the Board feels strongly that we need to be prepared to follow that activity with one in workforce. The two driving efforts of our system continue to be restoring access and enhancing student success. There should be no feeling that those priorities will change. The addition of workforce and economic development as a major initiative is a logical and timely outgrowth of the student success activity. In fact many people in the field thought our career and occupational programs did not initially receive enough focus in that activity. We will take more details on the charge of the group and its possible makeup to the Consultation Council in October and then the Board of Governors for their consideration in November. It should also be understood that this new initiative, should the Board approve it in November, will be an outgrowth of our current regional strategy – Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy. Our regionalization of this work has been strongly encouraged by the Administration, Legislature and the Department of Finance, and will need to continue if we hope to seek additional funding to implement the program as we have done with Student Success.
5. **Final Legislative Actions:** The deadline for the Governor to sign, veto or allow bills to be enacted without his signature was September 30, 2014. Except for urgency measures, which go into effect immediately upon the Governor's signature, legislation signed by the Governor and chaptered into law becomes effective on January 1, 2015. Enclosed you will find a Chancellor's Office State Legislative Update and Legislative Matrix that reflect the final legislative actions. If you have any questions or would like copies of any bill, please contact Vice Chancellor Vince Stewart at (916) 445-4434. You may also access legislative information on the Legislative Counsel's website at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>.
6. **Associate Degrees for Transfer:** I have enclosed the most recent report on your collective progress on the Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) program. Congratulations on all the efforts you and your staff have undertaken that has now brought us to 91 percent of goal. I am especially appreciative of many of your colleges that have not only achieved 100 percent of goal, but in some cases exceeded the goal. I do remain concerned over the colleges that are significantly below goal, and would again remind you that the Board of Governors will be looking carefully at this report in January when we present them with the final summary of progress. If there is anything we can do to help any of you meet your goal in the final quarter of the year, please do not hesitate to request assistance, and as always, if any of you think the report on your college is inaccurate, please contact me directly at (916) 322-4005.
7. **Cohort Default Rates:** Last month I mentioned this topic and wanted you all to see the Op Ed we produced as a means of trying to stay ahead of this issue. I have received a number of positive comments from the piece from community and civic leaders who were very pleased with our approach and surprised how little borrowing is being done by our students. I realize for some of you this remains a very serious situation and we are certainly dedicated to providing you with as much support as possible as you work to get your default numbers reduced. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you think there is something additional we can be doing, and also please keep me informed if you feel your college is in slipping into deeper trouble.