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FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

Memorandum

DATE: November 2, 2015
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – November 2015

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. **AB 288 Concurrent Enrollment:** I know you all share my excitement at the signing of AB 288 (Holden) our sponsored legislation on concurrent enrollment. Our Vice Chancellor of External Relations, Vince Stewart recently detailed the features of the bill and I thought you would all appreciate the information. According to Vince, "The idea is to have community college districts and K-12 districts create formal partnerships at the district level (rather than single school to college, which is harder to sustain) around building a college-going culture and getting students college-ready by the time they graduate high school. These partnerships would employ concurrent enrollment as the method of delivering instruction, which means students receive their high school curriculum taught by high school teachers and have access to college-level course work taught by community college faculty during their four years of high school. While there's flexibility with regard to the models used (for example Middle College High Schools and Early College High Schools enable students to earn both a high school diploma and associates degree during their four years of high school), community colleges and high schools would achieve the college-ready outcome by aligning curriculum (this could be done along a CTE pathway like engineering, or preparing for transfer to a four-year university). The benefit to exposing students to college-level course work is that they see themselves as college "material" while still in high school and gain a better understanding of what it takes to go to and be successful in college. AB 288 was designed to establish better and longer-lasting relationships between our colleges and high schools and to ensure more students are prepared for college-level work (especially in math and English) so they avoid basic skills/remedial instruction and are more successful in whatever postsecondary environment they choose (community college, CSU, UC or private). It's worth noting that prior to the passage of AB 288, concurrent/dual enrollment was limited to students who were either academically advanced, or seeking vocational/CTE courses. AB 288 opens up concurrent/dual enrollment to a broader range of students and allows for a broader range of instruction." Congratulations go to Vince, his team and all of you who supported this important effort!
2. **Continued Input on the Accreditation Task Force Report:** We have received a large number of letters and resolutions in support of the Accreditation Task Force Report. In an important development, last week after a good deal of discussion the CEO Board voted unanimously to endorse the report. Their motion was crafted to emphasize that one of the potential options moving forward would be to reconstitute the existing commission (enclosed). By the time I take a recommendation to the Board of Governors later this month, I expect to have heard from all of the governance groups that are part of the Consultation Council and will share the details of this feedback with the Board at that time. We have also received numerous individual letters and some individual



resolutions from regional groups. We have received one resolution in opposition to the report and one that did not reference the report, but was in support of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). By now you have probably also received a communication from ACCJC that details additional "Listening Sessions" at Bakersfield College and Rancho Santiago College. As I previously mentioned, Vice Chancellor Walker is working to schedule a meeting with the ACCJC leadership to discuss the format for a future meeting between the Commissioners and the members of the Task Force. I will provide the Board with all the communications we have received on this subject and will make a recommendation to them on a next step in this process.

3. **Community College Emergency Preparedness Plans:** Given the recent and very tragic events at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, I want to call your attention to legislation that was signed into law by Governor Brown earlier this year. Assembly Bill 767 authored by Assembly Member Miguel Santiago requires the Chancellor's Office, in consultation with the California Office of Emergency Services, to update in 2016 and every five years thereafter our emergency preparedness standards and guidelines to assist our districts and campuses in the event of a natural disaster, hazardous conditions or terrorist activity on or around one of our campuses. In addition, this legislation requires us to consider including an active shooter response plan to these guidelines and standards. This bill was precipitated by a 2014 report published by the Federal Bureau of Investigations, "A study of Active Shooter Incidents in the U.S.," which found that 25 percent of active shooter incidents from 2000 to 2013 occurred in an educational environment. Some of the most recent shooter incidents were on the campuses of UC Santa Barbara, Umpqua Community College, Seattle Pacific University, Florida State University, Wayne Community College in North Carolina, and on the campus of our own Sacramento City College. California community college emergency preparedness standards do not currently require inclusion of active shooter plans and this bill attempts to ensure that our colleges have an adequate plan to respond to active shooter incidents by incorporating the plan into our emergency preparedness standards and guidelines. Our Educational Services Division will be taking the lead on implementation of AB 767 and the update of these guidelines and standards. We plan to update our Board of Governors on the status of these plans, as well as other efforts focused on campus safety and security at future Board meetings.
4. **Helping Dreamers:** Last month the U.S. Department of Education visited San Francisco to announce the release of a Resource Guide to help educators, school leaders and community organizations better support undocumented youth, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. The guide includes resources aimed at high school and college students and includes, among other things, an overview of the rights of undocumented students; tips for educators on how to support undocumented youth in high school and college; and information on non-citizen access to federal financial aid. We have distributed the guide to your financial aid officers. This complements work we have been doing in English and Spanish through our I Can Afford College outreach campaign to raise student awareness about California's own Dream Act provisions, which exempt these students from having to pay non-resident fees and make them eligible to receive financial aid.
5. **College Textbook Affordability Act:** Among the many bills signed into law this year by Governor Brown was Assembly Bill 798 authored by Assembly Member Susan Bonilla. This legislation creates the College Textbook Affordability Act to provide grants to participating California Community College and California State University campuses to promote the development and expanded use of Open Educational Resources (OER), which are teaching, learning and research materials provided free of cost to students. The use of OER by campus faculty can dramatically reduce the cost of textbooks and other instructional materials for students, which has been one of, if not the most, rapidly increasing educational expenses. Estimates by the Student Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) indicate that since 1978 college textbook costs have increased by 812 percent and according to the College Board the average undergraduate student should budget between \$1,200 and \$1,300 for textbooks and supplies each year. In a 2014 Student PIRG study, 65 percent of students indicated that they skipped buying or renting a textbook because it was too expensive and 94 percent of those students felt that in so doing their grades would suffer. Additionally, almost half of the students said the cost of textbooks impacted how many courses they were able to take. While the Chancellor's Office has been working with the Academic Senate to encourage our faculty to give consideration to the least costly practices in assigning college textbooks, the expanded use of OER will allow students and faculty to access textbooks and related materials online for free, or purchase hardcopies that are more affordable and flexible than traditional textbooks.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA



28 October 2015

Dear Chancellor Harris:

On the important matter of the future of accreditation of California's 113 Community Colleges, and in direct response to the work of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Accreditation Task Force, both the Trustee and CEO Boards of the Community College League of California have unanimously endorsed the following motions.

At its meeting on September 11 & 12, 2015, the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

"...to endorse the report of the Chancellor's Task Force on Accreditation...and noted that the board endorses the report and its focus on continuing a statewide dialogue. The board's priority is to have an accreditation process that functions to support student success and is consistent with the standards of four-year universities."

At its meeting on October 23, 2015, the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

"Move to endorse and support the Task Force report to explore any and all options, including a recasting of the current accrediting agency, to result in an improvement of the accrediting process. This body [CEOCCC Board] and the CEOs we represent commit to supporting the process to seek this new model of accreditation."

Respectfully Submitted,

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Connecting Community Colleges for a Strong California

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