



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

September 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 20-21 – Board of Governors Meeting
Sacramento, CA

Oct. 7-9 – RP Group
Strengthening Student
Success Conference
Oakland, CA

Oct. 11 – Last Day for
Governor Brown to Sign or
Veto Bills

Oct. 26-28 – ACBO Fall
Conference
Redondo Beach, CA

Oct. 30 – IEPI Workshop
on Student Support
(Re)defined in Action
Allan Hancock College

Nov. 19-21 – League
Annual Convention
Burlingame, CA

Follow tracked bills at:
www.ccleague.org/bills

Have an event you would
like to highlight? Send
event info to:
lizette@ccleague.org.

Legislature Concludes Session – Many College Victories

Throughout the first half of September, the Senate and Assembly met to determine the fate of over 1,100 bills to meet the September 11 deadline, which marked the end of the first year of the two-year legislative session. Governor Brown has until October 11 to sign or veto bills. The League tracked and monitored approximately 150 bills in this first year of the legislative session. Particular attention was paid to concurrent enrollment, outcomes and goals, collective bargaining, accreditation, and for-profit higher education, among others.

The League Government Relations team would like to thank community college supporters for their strong commitment to advocacy as evidenced by the overwhelming number of letters, faxes, and visits to legislators. Now through October 11, the League's advocacy and communication efforts will focus on affecting the Governor's actions on the League's priority bills. Below summarizes the status of the most important ones:

AB 288 College and Career Pathways Act

Summary: This bill would reduce the fiscal penalties and policy barriers that currently limit concurrent enrollment. It also would establish a voluntary framework for high school and community college partnerships.

League Position: Support (Sponsor)

Status: Governor's desk

AB 573 For-Profit Closure: Student Assistance

Summary: This bill would provide financial and other educational assistance to students affected by the closure of Corinthian Colleges.

League Position: Support

Status: Governor's desk

AB 798 College Textbook Affordability Act

Summary: This bill would lower textbook expenses for students by creating incentives for campuses to use Open Educational Resources.

League Position: Support

Status: Governor's desk

AB 1385 Accreditation

Summary: This bill would prohibit the accrediting agency from imposing a special assessment on community colleges to pay for the accrediting agency's legal fees for any lawsuit unless there has been an affirmative vote of the majority of the chief executive officers of all of the community colleges.

League Position: Oppose

Status: Held on the floor

AB 1397 Fair Accreditation Act of 2015

Summary: This bill would add composition, transparency, and appeals processes and requirements to the California Community Colleges accrediting agency.

League Position: Oppose

Status: Held on the floor

SB 42 Office of Higher Education Accountability

Summary: This bill would establish the Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability as the statewide postsecondary education coordinating and planning entity.

League Position: Concern

Status: Governor's desk

Assembly Selects New Leaders



On Thursday, September 3, Assemblymember Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) was selected as the new Assembly Speaker. The official vote to designate Rendon as speaker-elect will be in January. It is unclear when he will succeed the current speaker, Toni Atkins (D-San Diego). Anthony Rendon will join Senate pro Tempore Kevin de León in California's legislative leadership ranks — which marks the first time both houses in the country's largest state will be led by Latinos.

Anthony Rendon will also enjoy another 'first' as he will be the first speaker elected under the new term limits approved by voters in 2012; this will allow him to serve up to 12 years in either the Assembly or Senate. Under the new term limits, Rendon could potentially be the longest sitting Assembly Speaker since 1996 when Californians first imposed term limits.

Assemblymember Chad Mayes of Yucca Valley will replace Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen of Modesto as Assembly Minority Leader in January 2016. Similar to Anthony Rendon, Chad Mayes will be the first legislative leader elected under the new term limits and will also be able to serve up to 12 years in either house.

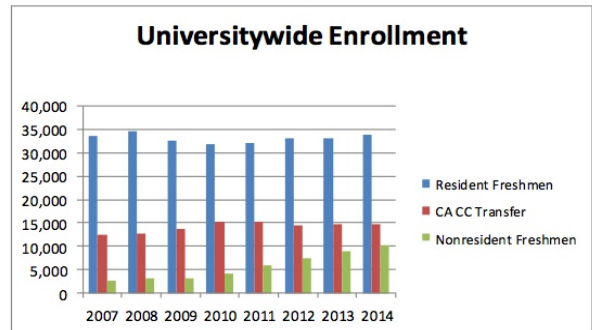
In the Senate, Republicans approved similar leadership changes as they installed Senator Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield) as their leader, replacing Senator Bob Huff (R-San Dimas). The change happened months earlier than expected.

Legislators Express Concern Over UC Enrollment

On August 26, Assemblymember Jose Medina, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, and Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair of the Assembly Subcommittee No. 2 on Education

Finance, co-chaired a joint oversight hearing to examine the University of California (UC) undergraduate admissions and enrollment.

The Legislature was particularly interested in gaining a better understanding of the implications of nonresident students at public research universities, and in understanding UC admissions and enrollment trends. This year, a record number of Californians sought admission to the UC for Fall 2015. UC reported that it received 103,117 applications for Fall 2015, an increase of 3% over Fall 2014. However, despite increased applications, the number of resident freshman admitted to UC has been declining.



Systemwide, California freshman admissions were reduced by 1.7% (1,039 students) from 2014 and nonresident admissions increased by 12.8% (3,453) from 2014. California Community College stakeholders are increasingly interested in tracking resident student enrollment into the UC. More than 29,000 CCC students applied for transfer to UC in Fall 2014, a 33% increase since 2007. Of those, 19,219 were offered a spot at UC in Fall 2014. Given the growth in demand, UC noted that it anticipated that a higher percentage of California applicants would accept their admission offers in Fall 2015, which would have retained California undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2015 at approximately the same number as their Fall 2014 enrollment.

In testimony by Stephen Handel, Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Admissions, at the University of California Office of the President, Handel assured legislators that UC Transfer Pathways provide community college students with a single set of courses to complete for transfer into a particular major at any UC undergraduate campus. Transfer Pathways now exist for ten of UC's most popular majors; eleven more will be released later this year.

During the hearing, members of the Legislature exclaimed that UC actions regarding California resident admissions seemed inconsistent with the provisions of the 2015-16 Budget Act, which provides UC with an additional \$25 million from the General Fund if UC increases enrollment by 5,000 California undergraduate students in 2015-16 or 2016-17. UC has not indicated if it intends to comply with the residency enrollment expectation and access those funds.

Board of Governors Will Consider Two Major Reports

Recently, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office released two major task force reports, which include important sets of recommendations for the Board of Governors to consider at its September meeting.

The first report is part of a nine-month research and engagement effort addressing needed changes to the community college system's approach to the economic and workforce development programs. The Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy, appointed in November 2014 by the Board of Governors, began with a series of regional conversations and focus sessions with key stakeholders across the state. Concern focused on data, which reveals that **an** estimated 30% of California jobs will require specialized training, a certificate, or an associate's degree by 2025. In addition, the 2013-14 Student Success Scorecard indicates that the average

completion rate of CTE students is 49.9%. The Task Force drafted 25 recommendations to address the projected shortfall of middle-skill workers, and to propose policies and practices which would increase the capacity of California Community Colleges to deliver on California's growing workforce needs. The draft of the full report is available here: [Taskforce Report - Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy](#). For a copy of the League's analysis, please click [here](#).

The second report the Board of Governors will consider is by the Task Force on Accreditation, which analyzed the state of accreditation in California's community colleges. Crafted by representatives from the ten major organizations within the system, the Task Force report concluded that the current accrediting agency for community colleges, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) is no longer operating in the interest of its member institutions.

The Task Force found that despite repeated calls for reform, the ACCJC continues to sanction its member institutions at a higher rate than other regional accreditors, that it does not apply those sanctions in a consistent manner, nor has it been responsive to recommendations made by the Chancellor's Office, the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges, the RP Group or the Academic Senate. It therefore requested that the Chancellor's Office consider the possibility of using an alternative regional accrediting body.

The League is very interested in your thoughts regarding the accreditation process in California and what steps, if any we should take to improve it. Throughout the year, we will continue to engage on this important topic. To read the full report, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the League's Government Relations staff:

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