

SBVC Academic Senate Legislative Update
Wednesday, 16th February 2022

From the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC):

AB 928 (Berman, 2021) – Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee.

Status: 10/6/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 566, Statutes of 2021.

Summary: The Donahoe Higher Education Act requires a student who earns an associate degree for transfer (ADT) to be deemed eligible for transfer into a California State University baccalaureate program when the student meets certain requirements.

As many faculty may recall, this was the bill that called for a single general education pathway to the CSU and UC systems as well as automatic placement on an ADT pathway. The ASCCC is working with the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates and others to determine the best general education pathway for students, and we welcome input through the portal on ASCCC.org.

AB 1111(Berman, 2021) – Postsecondary education: common course numbering system.

Status: 10/6/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 568, Statutes of 2021.

Summary: Would require the California Community Colleges, on or before July 1, 2024, to adopt a common course numbering system for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses, and require each community college campus, on or before July 1, 2024, to incorporate common course numbers from the adopted system into its course catalog. The bill would require the common course numbering system to be student facing and ensure that comparable courses across all community colleges have the same course number. By requiring community college campuses to incorporate common course numbers in their catalogs, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

AB 927 (Medina, 2021) – Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program.

Status: 10/6/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 565, Statutes of 2021.

Summary: Would extend the operation of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program indefinitely. The bill would remove the requirements that the program consist of a maximum of 15 community college district programs and for a student to commence a program by the end of the 2022–23 academic year. The bill would require a community college district seeking approval to offer a baccalaureate degree program to provide evidence of unmet workforce needs to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, as provided.

From the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC):

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AB 102 – Pupil attendance at community colleges: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships: county offices of education.

Status: Read first time in CA Senate on 1/25/2022.

Summary: Current law authorizes the governing board of a school district to authorize a pupil who meets specified criteria to attend community college. Current law limits the number of pupils a principal is authorized to recommend for a community college summer session pursuant to those provisions to 5% of the total number of pupils in any grade level, as specified. Current law, until January 1, 2027, exempts from the 5% limitation pupils who meet specified requirements, prohibits the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges from including enrollment growth attributable to pupils enrolled pursuant to these provisions as part of its annual budget request for the California Community Colleges, and requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to report to the Department of Finance the number of pupils who enrolled and received a passing grade in a community college summer session course under these provisions. This bill would extend those provisions indefinitely.

AB 288 – California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021.

Status: Read first time in CA Senate on 2/1/2022.

Summary: Would enact the California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021, which would prohibit each public and private institution of higher education in the state that receives, or benefits from, state-funded financial assistance, or that enrolls students who receive state-funded student financial assistance, from reducing certain students’ institution-based financial aid offer below their financial need, except as specified. The bill would make its provisions severable.

AB 295 – Public postsecondary education: pilot program for free cost of attendance: working group.

Status: Read third time in CA Assembly on 1/27/2022. Passed and sent to CA Senate.

Summary: Would establish a working group consisting of representatives from the State Department of Education, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, the Trustees of the California State University, the Regents of the University of California, and faculty, staff, and students from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to consider the creation of a pilot program, as specified, that would cover the cost of attending postsecondary education in the state by replacing the system of charging students tuition, fees, and additional expenses for enrollment at a public postsecondary institution. The bill would require the working group to submit a report to the Legislature on the pilot program.

AB 551 – Teachers’ Retirement System: individual retirement plans: administration.

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Status: Read third time in CA Assembly on 1/27/2022. Passed and sent to CA Senate.

Summary: Current law authorizes the State Teachers' Retirement System to administer an individual retirement plan described in Section 408A of Title 26 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as a Roth IRA, for the purpose of accepting a rollover from an annuity contract or custodial account offered by the system to the extent the rollover complies with specified federal law. Current law establishes the Teachers' Deferred Compensation Fund, which is continuously appropriated, to serve as the repository of funds received by the system for various deferred compensation plans. Current law specifies where in the fund certain premium and fee revenues received by the system are to be deposited. This bill would also authorize the system to administer an individual retirement plan as described in Section 408 of Title 26 of the United States Code.

AB 1505 – Community colleges: full-time faculty obligation.

Status: Read first time in CA Senate on 2/1/2022.

Summary: Current regulations require a community college district to increase its base number of full-time faculty over the prior year in proportion to the amount of growth in funded credit full-time equivalent students. These regulations, in years in which the board of governors determines that the annual Budget Act does not contain adequate funding to warrant full implementation of this full-time faculty obligation, authorize a community college district to instead choose to maintain, at a minimum, the full-time faculty percentage attained by the community college district in the prior fall term. This bill would require the board of governors to adopt regulations that require the fall of 2023 full-time faculty obligation for each community college district to be set to the actual full-time faculty number reported for the fall of 2022 and annually adjusted pursuant to these regulations.

SB 20 – Student nutrition: eligibility for CalFresh benefits.

Status: Read third time in CA Senate on 1/6/2022. Passed and sent to CA Assembly.

Summary: Current state law provides that, for the purposes of determining eligibility, certain postsecondary educational programs, as determined by the State Department of Social Services, are considered employment training programs, thereby qualifying a student participating in one of those programs for an exemption, unless prohibited by federal law. Current law expresses legislative intent to clarify educational policies for purposes of improving access for low-income students to the CalFresh program. Current law also requires the Student Aid Commission to provide written notice to recipients of Cal Grant awards who qualify for participation in the CalFresh program under the federal regulation. This bill would additionally require the commission, to the extent that it possesses pertinent information, to provide written notice to students who qualify for a waiver of the community college enrollment fee that they qualify, or may qualify, for benefits under the CalFresh program.

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SR 45 – Relative to academic freedom.

Status: Re-referred to committee on 8/18/2021.

Summary: This measure would resolve that the Senate recognizes that academic freedom, as determined by the American Association of University Professors, entitles teachers to “full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution”. The Senate recognizes that academic freedom, as determined by the American Association of University Professors, entitles teachers to freedom in the classroom discussing their subject, and states that teachers should not introduce into their teaching matter that has no relation to their subject. Under such a policy, within their subject discipline, a faculty member can articulate or even advocate positions or concepts that may be controversial in nature without fear of retribution or reprisal. The Senate declares that academic freedom is a necessary requisite for teaching and learning in California Community Colleges.

From *Cal Matters*:

AB 1602 – Student, faculty, and staff housing: California Student Housing Revolving Loan Fund Act of 2022.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Higher Education on 1/14/2022.

Status: [Assembly Bill 1602](#) by Assembly member Kevin McCarty, a Democrat from Sacramento, would create a \$5 billion fund that would lend money, interest-free, to public colleges and universities seeking to expand their supply of affordable housing.

Under McCarty’s plan, the University of California, California State University, and to a smaller extent, the California Community Colleges, would tap into these funds swiftly, build more student homes, and then over a period of no more than 30 years use student rental income to repay what they borrowed – a revolving zero-interest loan. Then the state could lend another round of money for student housing as the coffers for this program replenish.

The loan would be managed by the State Treasurer. Campuses would be able to use funds to build new structures, demolish old ones and renovate existing dorms. McCarty wants the bill to pass in the next few months and go into effect immediately. The money would reach campuses mid-2023 at the earliest.

College Corps Program:

The California Volunteers [College Corps](#) program, backed by \$159 million in mostly state money, promises to award up to \$10,000 to 6,668 low-income students who volunteer in K-12 education, on climate action or to reduce food insecurity.

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Not only is the program a way for students to give back to their community but it's also an opportunity that allows students to be "learning about a career and also earning while learning that career," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley.

Student participants will begin volunteering through the program fall of 2022. Upon completing 450 hours during the academic year, each will get \$10,000.

The money is split up into two buckets — \$7,000 paid out regularly and a final lump sum of \$3,000 after a year of service. As students fulfill their hours, they'll be paid as if they're campus employees through their college or university's payroll system. Even if students don't volunteer the full 450 hours, they'll receive a prorated amount of the initial \$7,000. But to receive the final \$3,000, students will need to complete the full 450 hours of service.

Unlike the federal AmeriCorps, undocumented students may participate in the California volunteer program. State officials want 20% of the volunteers to be undocumented students who receive state financial aid. They're eligible for the same \$10,000 available to other students, but their pot will come from state dollars only, while federal funds will cover a portion of \$3,000 other students will be awarded.

AB 1400 - Guaranteed Health Care for All.

Status: Died on the third reading of the file on 2/1/2022.

Summary: Despite, or perhaps because of, an aggressive last-minute push by progressive activists ahead of a crucial deadline, legislation to create a government-run universal health care system in California died Monday without coming up for a vote.

The single-payer measure, Assembly Bill 1400, was the latest attempt to deliver on a longtime priority of Democratic Party faithful to get private insurers and profit margins out of health care. Because it was introduced last year, when it stalled without receiving a single hearing, it needed to pass the Assembly by Monday to continue through the legislative process.

But even the threat of losing the party's endorsement in the upcoming election cycle was not enough to persuade the Assembly's Democratic supermajority to advance the bill for further consideration, effectively killing the effort for another year.

After several tense hours Monday afternoon, during which a scramble of meetings took place just off the Assembly floor, Assemblymember Ash Kalra, the San Jose Democrat carrying AB 1400, announced that he [would not bring up the measure for a vote.](#)