COMMITTEE COLLEGE LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW – March 2014

(Note: As a new Trustee in training, if you prefer different format, find necessary corrections, or just want to help my continuing education – please let me know. I appreciate your help. Thanks.)

Federal:

Appropriations and Budget -

The news for community colleges is mixed. Funding for SEOG, Federal Work Study, TRIO, and GEAR UP was all restored to pre-sequester levels. Most funding for Title III and V programs restored, and Perkins CTE and WIA were partially restored. Adult Basic Education and Literacy state grants were frozen at post-sequester 2013 levels. The automatic (CPI) increase in the maximum grant for AY 2014- 15 brought total to $5,780 – an $85 increase.

FAFSA (although our High Schools administer these tests for college financial aid eligibility, we obviously have a stake in how thoroughly they get all students to participate): New announcement re FAFSA, March 7th – “Obama will announce that the U.S. Department of Ed. is partnering with states to identify students who haven’t filled out the (FAFSA) form, starting this Fall. The department will also update the existing FAFSA completion tool. The online tool allows anyone to track how many students have filled out the FAFSA at our individual local schools in order to target communities and schools.” (http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/03/07/3979874/president-obama-to-unveil-fafsa.)

Pell Grants: The Pell Grant program has a surplus for FY 2014, and a relatively small shortfall in FY 2015. Beyond 2015 the program is slated to have significant shortfalls— “cliff effect.” The program is expected to then have a $5 - $6 billion shortfall each year.

(There’s a Legislative proposal to give Colleges a bonus based on number of Pell Grants.)

“The White House has introduced a proposal aimed at college affordability and student debt. Some items can be achieved through executive authority while others will need to be accomplished via HEA reauthorization (expiring 2014 & renewal to be multiyear process).

In January, the White House held a national summit on higher education - “dedicated to launching a plan of action for increasing college access and success for low-income and disadvantaged students.” Near-term actions include:

Creating a new system to rate institutions: Promoting income based repayment; Waiving financial aid rules for innovative programs such as competency based learning; Tightening standards of satisfactory academic progress. (There is a legislative proposal to tie College ratings, to ability to get student loans and grants, with “higher performing colleges getting larger grants and cheaper student loans.” (Source: AACC Leg Update Oct ’13)

In view of a lot of bad press lately, the Ed. Department is still working on stricter regulations for for-profit colleges (with possible effect on COM if we gain any of those students).

The General Ed Panel

“The GE panel met this fall, and discussed items ranging from modified eligibility metrics for GE metrics, to additional requirements for adding new GE programs. While the community college negotiators indicated they could support the final GE draft (with modifications), consensus was not met. The final GE regulations are expected soon.

DREAM Act
Last summer, the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform (Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act). Senate bill provides DREAMers expedited path to citizenship, & lifts the federal ban on in-state tuition for DREAM students.

Individual states would have the prerogative to decide whether or not to allow DREAM students to receive in-state tuition. DREAMers who spend five years in “residential provisional immigrant” (RPI) status would be eligible to apply for long-term permanent resident status. (Source: extracted and edited from presentation of Jee Hang Lee, Pres. For Public Policy, Assoc. of Community College Trustees, Jan. 2014) (Also, CA SB 141, approved in Oct., 2013, allows a student to pay resident tuition when their parent(s) have been deported, according to CA Leg Information.)"

Obama's newly unveiled budget request includes making the American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent (currently scheduled to expire in 2017), which gives a tax credit up to $2,500 for necessary expenses while attending college for degree or certificate. Obama's proposal also would exclude all Student Loan forgiveness from taxation. (For more info, see IRS “Tax Benefits for Education” http://www.irs.gov/uaetax-benefits-for-Education)

WARREN, WEINGARTEN LAUNCH DEBT CAMPAIGN:
March 6, 2014, Sen. Elizabeth Warren and AFT President Randi Weingarten launched a new student debt campaign, "Higher Ed, Not Debt," at the Center for American Progress. The campaign will push policies that encourage students to enroll in income-based repayment, making debt dischargeable in bankruptcy, boosting state funding for higher ed and pushing for-profit providers out of higher education. The push will be one of AFT's "main campaigns going forward," Weingarten said. "Everyone is telling our young people that college is really important, and yet all the rungs of the ladder of opportunity are pulled out from under them." (Politico March 6, 2014)

The 2013-14 academic year marks a half-decade since the economic recession hit, but concerns about the costs of attending college are influencing incoming freshmen more than ever, a new survey shows. While more than three-quarters of this year's freshmen were admitted to their first-choice institution, an all-time low of 56.9 percent chose to attend it. Nearly 48% — an all-time high -- said price and financial aid were "very important" in their decision about which institution to attend. The survey also finds that while most high school students use online ed. websites on their own time, very few see fully online courses in their higher ed. Future. Among students who were accepted but didn't enroll at their first-choice institution, about a quarter said lack of financial aid from that college was a very important factor in their decision, and 60% said the same of about financial aid from the institution they chose to attend. (http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/03/06/incoming-freshmen)

While up-front price was not the most-cited reason why students chose the college they did -- those are still the institution's "very good" academic reputation (which 64% of students said was "very important"), and its graduates' job placement rates ("very important" to 53.1% percent of students) -- the importance of costs should outpace those other factors within five years or so if it keeps rising at the current rates. Read more: http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/03/06/incoming-freshmen-more-driven-money-ever-survey-shows#ixzz3vCqdH1YU (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

Interesting National Survey, and a nationwide opportunity:

Interesting 2012 CIRP survey, which found that while the number of students who identified as liberal was actually declining, students were more liberal-leaning on issue-by-issue basis.

"In the months following the U.S. Supreme Court's striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act, more than 83% of students -- said they support the right of gay and lesbian couples to adopt children. Only about 40% of students said undocumented immigrants should be denied access to higher
education. That figure is 15.6% lower than at its 1996 peak. The % of freshman support for raising
taxes to reduce the federal deficit also peaked, at 36.9%, and 68.1% said wealthier people should pay
more taxes.

However, in a year in which a school shooting occurred every two weeks, students actually reported
less tolerance for gun control. Nearly 64%—20% points less than 1989, when the figure hit its high --
said they support stronger gun control by the federal government.”

Source: http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/03/06/incoming-freshmen-more-driven-money-
ever-survey-shows#ixzz2vCpSyLjh (Inside Higher Ed, Grasgreen, March 6, 2014)

The Digital Public Libraries of America” is one year old this month – with help of the Library Assoc. of
America (including College libraries), is urging every library to hook up to their incredible CONTENT
— funded by Gates, Sloan, Knight, etc., foundations, 40 libraries, academia, and technology projects
agreed to work together to create “an open, distributed network of comprehensive online resources that
would draw on the nation’s living heritage from libraries, universities, archives, and museums in order
to educate, inform, and empower everyone....” This is FREE, open source material for use in research,
development, and interdisciplinary education. (Source: CENIC presentation at SSU, March 10, ’14)

The League for Innovation in the Comm Coll Consortium, & the U.S. Dept of Ed., will assist in
“easing student transitions from H.S. to College” etc. through a no cost membership in the CCTI

California State:

California Community Colleges - The chief budget highlights as they may pertain to COM:

- As you know, SB1456 - “Student Success” - $200 million to support student success programs
  and strengthen support for underrepresented students. This includes $100 million for Student
  Success & Support and $100 million to close gaps in access and achievement for
  underrepresented students, as identified in Student Equity Plans.

NOW - Out of the funds for Student Success, $16 Million was for the technology necessary for
implementation. The Comm. College Chancellor’s Office has announced this week a new Board
Policy that “We need to adopt Security Standards to protect student’s records” since at least one
state has already suffered a substantial breach that compromised over 2million students
confidential records.

- Deferred Maintenance and Instructional Equipment - $175 million to be evenly split
  between deferred maintenance and instructional equipment.

- Proposition 39 - $39 million in funds owing to Proposition 39 to address energy efficiency
  projects and workforce development.

- Improving Statewide Performance – $2.5 M is provided to provide local technical assistance for
  implementation of effective practices in all districts, with priority placed on underperforming
  districts. Additionally, the Chancellor’s Office, will receive $1.1M and 9 new positions to
  develop indicators of student success & monitor performance.

- Flexibility - The Governor proposes to allow districts to reallocate up to 25% of funds from
  select categorical programs to other federal, state, or local programs to meet the needs of
  underrepresented student groups as identified in Student Equity Plans.

- Adult Education - The Governor reiterates his commitment to provide funding in the 2015-16
budget to implement plans being developed by regional adult ed consortia.

**Innovative Models of Higher Education** – $50 million in one-time funding (non-Proposition 98) proposed for incentive awards that recognize models of innovation in higher ed that 1) increase the number of students earning bachelor’s degrees, 2) increase the number of bachelor’s degrees earned within four years, and 3) ease transfer throughout the state’s education system.”

SB 967 (De Leon) Student Safety: Sexual Assault. This bill was just proposed last month that “Requires the governing boards of each comm. college district, the Trustees of CSU, and the Regents of the University of California to adopt policies concerning campus sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, incl. an affirmative consent standard in determining whether consent was given by a complainant. Requires boards to adopt sexual assault policies and protocols. (Source: CCC State Leg. Update 2-20-14)

“UC and CSU - The Governor continues the four-year investment plan begun in 2013-14 by funding 5% increases in general fund support for UC and CSU. This equates to an increase of $142.2 million each for the UC Regents and the CSU Board of Trustees. The universities are expected to adopt three-year sustainability plans that set targets for key measures. Further, the Administration reiterates its expectation that current tuition and fee levels are maintained through 2016-17.

Revenues will be revised in May, which sets the table for the passage and approval of a final budget by the end of June.” (Source: Dan Troy, Vice Chancellor, College Finance and Facilities Planning, CCC Chancellor’s Office)

Re Office of Governmental Relations, CCLC, March 2014 -

Currently, the California Legislature is focused on three major issues that have been under discussion within the community college system in recent months:

- Accreditation and related issues
- The Applied Baccalaureate Degree
- Dual/Concurrent Enrollment

A brief description of the bills in each of these three categories follows. Further information on them, including League’s position and the pros and cons of each, as well as an analysis of other legislation can be found at the CCLC website.

Accreditation: Apparently, the SF City College crisis spurred the Legislature to propose legislation to retain stability when under accreditation warnings, e.g.:

- AB 1199 (Fong) would provide three-year stability funding for colleges on “show cause” accreditation warnings;
- SB 965 (Leno), sponsored by the Chancellor’s Office, would provide partial stability based on the level of resources provided to a district in 2013-14 if the institution meets specific criteria. City College of S. F. meets the criteria of
the bill, and a stability mechanism is outlined for the district through the 2017-18 fiscal year;

- AB 2087 (Ammiano) would prohibit the Board of Governors (BOG) from appointing a special trustee with power to overrule a locally-elected board of trustees.¹ (Source: Comm. Coll. League of CA, March 6, 2014)

**Baccalaureate Degrees -**

- SB 850 (Block), currently in the Ed. Committee, would authorize Chancellor's Office to establish one applied baccalaureate degree pilot program per campus, on a limited number of campuses. Of possible interest to COM, this bill also would authorize the governing board of the district to enter into agreements with local businesses and agencies to for educational services to students participating in this baccalaureate degree pilot.

**Dual/Concurrent Enrollment -**

- AB 1451 (Holden) would allow the board of a community college district to enter into partnerships with school districts to set terms and conditions for dual enrollment of high school students. The bill would authorize community college districts to be funded for dually-enrolled students unless the school district has already received reimbursement for that instruction. This currently requires a recommendation from a community college dean of a career technical education department and with parental consent. (This was introduced Jan. 2014) - CCCC supports.

- AB 1540 (Hagman) would authorize our Board to enter into formal partnerships with school districts within Marin to allow secondary school pupils to enroll in one or more courses of computer science at our college if those pupils have “exhausted all opportunities to enroll in an equivalent computer science course at the high school of attendance”. This bill also would add computer science courses to the list of courses exempted from the 5% summer school limitation.

- AB 2352 (Chesbro) would exempt students attending an early college high school from the current Education Code mandate that all dual enrollment students be given lowest registration priority;

(For further information re 2014 Dual Enrollment bills, see: presentation of Vince Stewart, Vice-Chancellor Govt Rel. CCCChancellor's Office)

**Assembly Select Committee on Comm. Colleges met re Community Colleges: February 18, the Assembly Select Comm. on Community Colleges, chaired by Assembly member Steve Fox, with members Bonilla, Cooley, Garcia, Gomez, Hall, Holden, Mullin, Salas, Wagner, and Wilk, held a hearing to consider 3 sets of questions: How is student success being tracked? How are community colleges preparing students for the future? How are funds in the current-year budget used to**
help support our community college students achieve success?

Responses of both Assembly members and other panelists were very positive, noting the Scorecard is “a significant improvement over earlier accountability measures.” Additional suggestions were inclusion of the student/counselor ratio, & more in-depth analyses to break down gender within race. The Scorecard was called “the most transparent accountability measure in the country.” Other comments re additional data needs were: need for a statewide data system from preschool through grad school; more work improving the pathway from comm. colleges to the 4-year systems and for certs; need for statewide goals & updating Master Plan eligibility for CSU and UC; determining statewide transfer and cert. goals, & a higher ed coordinating body.

Members also cited the implementation of similar programs elsewhere; work with veterans on campuses; the work of “Doing What Matters” and the braiding of economic development resources; partnerships to align Workforce Investment Bds with comm. colleges and 4-year institutions; that career tech education needs continued investment and improvement, and dual enrollment leg. is essential for better links between high schools and comm. colleges.

With one half of students entering two-year colleges and one in five entering four-year universities needing remedial classes, college readiness will remain a top state education policy issue this year. Efforts to ensure that high school graduates are college & career ready, and also to better align K-12 and post secondary curriculum and establish consistent education standards across states will play an active role in states’ policy and political spheres in 2014. The primary issue is successful implementation of Common Core State Standards in math and English, already adopted by 45 states and set to go into effect this fall. Politically-motivated debates continue about the standards’ efficacy. As such, much of the action in the state legislative arena will involve advocating how the Common Core State Standards will increase postsecondary preparedness, reduce remediation rates and ultimately improve college completion.”
(Source: AASCU, “Policy Matters” January 2014)

Jarhid Keller, CIO for State Library System, noted this week the tremendous surge in connectivity due to now getting eRate discounts Statewide for schools and libraries. Some of our Marin Schools are just joining the Marin network as a result, e.g. Hamilton School. (Q: Is COM fully connected to our local schools?)

Next Issue will include overview of upcoming measures headed for the ballot!

(This report is solely the responsibility of Brady Bveis as an internal document, and in no way represents the opinions of the College of Marin Board or Administration.)