



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 3, 2020

9:00 am

Virtual Meeting

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

Catalina Cifuentes, Chair
Jamillah Moore, Vice Chair
Isaac Alferos
Jessica Bartholow
Juanita Doplemore
Hal Geiogue
Debra Maxie
Guillermo Mayer
Steve Ngo
Charles Nies
Wm. Gregory Sawyer
Caroline Siegel-Singh
David Valladolid

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Catalina Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

2. **Public comment on items not on the agenda.**

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of the Commission minutes of September 24, 2020 and October 7, 2020 (Action)

Commissioner Ngo **moved to the approve** the minutes. **Seconded by** Commissioner Valladolid.

Roll call vote:

The Commission **APPROVED** the minutes of September 24, 2020 and October 7, 2020 meeting.

In Favor (13): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Moore, Ngo, Nies, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the minutes of September 24, 2020 and October 7, 2020 meeting.

4. Chair's oral report on Commission related issues (Information)

Chair Catalina Cifuentes welcomed everyone and thanked presenters and staff for their assistance at the College Affordability Summit.

5. Executive Director's Report (Information)

Executive Director Marlene L. Garcia provided an update on Commission related programs and events. Executive Director Garcia introduced the Commission's new Executive Fellow, Daniela Rodriguez, and provided Ms. Rodriguez an opportunity to speak.

6. Presentation of Resolution to Judith Maxwell Greig, former Commissioner (Information)

Chair Cifuentes read the resolution for former Commissioner, Judith Maxwell Greig.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation and congratulations for former Commissioner, Greig.

Commissioner Bartholow announced her new opportunity working for Senator-elect and resignation from her role as a Commission member.

Commissioner Sawyer announced the end of his term serving as a Commission member.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation and congratulations for Commissioner Bartholow and Commissioner Sawyer.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 6

Alex Graves, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, shared his appreciation for Dr. Greig and her commitment to students.

7. Election of Commission Officers (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited General Counsel, Julia Blair, to present item 7.

Ms. Blair announced the list of nominations for election of Commission officers as follows:

- Commission Chair: Catalina Cifuentes
- Commission Vice Chair: Jamillah Moore
- Commission Secretary: Debra Maxie, Guillermo Mayer, Charles Nies.

Each nominee was provided an opportunity to share a few words.

Commissioner Mayer and Commissioner Nies expressed their appreciation for the nomination and withdrew themselves from consideration.

Commission Geiogoue **moved to approve** the nominations. **Seconded by** Commissioner Mayer.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Moore, Ngo, Nies, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the nominations for the election of Commission Officers as follow: Chair (Catalina Cifuentes), Vice Chair (Jamillah Moore), and Secretary (Debra Maxie).

8. Consideration of the 2021 Commission meeting calendar (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Catalina Mistler, Chief Deputy Director, to present item 8.

Ms. Mistler presented the proposed 2021 Commission meeting calendar and explained the reasoning for the meeting dates selected.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to adopt** the 2021 Commission meeting calendar. **Seconded by** Commissioner Moore.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Moore, Ngo, Nies, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

The Commission **ADOPTED** the 2021 Commission meeting calendar.

Carried (13 to 0)

Commissioner Geiogoue asked if there will be a possibility to meet in person in 2021. Chair Cifuentes invited Executive Director Garcia to respond. Executive Director noted that if the possibility of meeting in-person is doable, meetings may occur in downtown Sacramento or Rancho Cordova.

9. Ratification of Contracts over \$100,000 (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Lilly Myers, Deputy Director of the Fiscal and Administrative Services Division, Patrick Perry, Deputy Director of the Data, Analysis, and Research Team, and Gurinder Bains, Chief Information Officer, to present item 9.

Ms. Myers presented the seven contracts to the Commission for consideration to ratify, and noted that six of the contracts are for the Grant Delivery System Modernization.

Commissioner Mayer asked why some vendors are not listed. Ms. Myers explained that due to the timing of the Commission meeting, some contracts need prior approval from the Commission in order to prevent delays in executing the contracts.

Commissioner Siegel-Singh asked for update identifying the vendors once they are awarded. Ms. Myers confirmed that information would be provided to Commissioners.

Commissioner Mayer **moved to approve** the staff recommendation on contracts over \$100,000. **Seconded by** Commissioner Maxie.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Moore, Ngo, Nies, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the staff recommendation on the ratification of the specified contracts over \$100,000.

10. Consideration of extension of the 2017-21 Cal Grant Institutional Participation Agreement (IPA) (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Alessandra Morrison, Assistant Deputy Director of the Program Support Services Branch, to present item 10.

Ms. Morrison provided a brief overview of the Cal Grant Institutional Participation Agreement and the collaborative review process between the institutions and the Commission.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to approve** staff recommendation to extend the 2017-21 Cal Grant Institutional Participation Agreement for two years, through the 2022-23 academic year. **Seconded by** Commissioner Nies.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Moore, Ngo, Nies, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** staff recommendation for institutional appeals related to the Cal Grant program participation.

11. Consideration of the Commission's vision, mission statements (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Executive Director Garcia to present item 11.

Executive Director Garcia provided some background and shared revisions to the Commission's Vision, Mission and Values statement.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to approve** the staff recommendation. **Seconded by** Commissioner Bartholow. Commissioners provided additional comments.

Commissioner Nies noted a typo in the presented vision. Commissioner Geiogque pointed out the concern with the word college in the Commission's mission statement. Commissioner Nies suggested to replace college with postsecondary education.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to approve** the staff recommendation of the updated Commission's Vision, Mission and Values statement with amendment of college to postsecondary education in the mission statement. **Seconded by** Commissioner Geiogque.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (12): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogque, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Absent (1): Moore

Carried (12 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the staff recommendation of the updated Commission's Vision, Mission and Values statement with amendments.

12. **Update on Cal Grant Modernization Proposal (Information)**

Chair Cifuentes invited Executive Director Garcia, Patrick Perry, Deputy Director of the Data, Analysis, and Research Team, and Jake Brymner, Director of Government and External Relations, to present item 12.

Executive Director Garcia invited Mr. Brymner to share some brief background on the Cal Grant Modernization. Mr. Perry presented the proposed modeling of the Cal Grant Modernization.

Commissioners engaged in a discussion around the presented update, data, and modeling on Cal Grant Modernization.

Public comment provided by the following:

Alex Graves, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

Commissioner Ngo asked what the next procedures would be for Commissioners. Executive Director Garcia responded that an action item for the proposal can be added to the January Commission meeting so Commissioners can vote to endorse. She added that Commissioners may also have an opportunity to participate in advocacy activities for the proposal.

13. Update on FAFSA and CADAA completion rates (Information)

Chair Cifuentes invited Patrick Perry, Deputy Director of the Data, Analysis, and Research Team, and Jessica Moldoff, Research Data Specialist, to present item 13.

Mr. Perry provided an update on the FAFSA and CADAA completion rates. Commissioners engaged in a discussion around the completion rates and ways to increase it by the March 2 deadline.

There was no public comment.

BREAK

The Commission **RECESSED** at 12:23 p.m.

The Commission **RECONVENED** at 1:32 p.m.

14. Report on and consideration of the December 2, 2020 Legislative, Audit and Budget (LAB) Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Charles Nies provided an update on the Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee meeting on December 2, 2020. Committee Chair Nies invited Jake Brymner, Director of Government and External Relations, to brief the Commission on the revision for policy priorities.

Commissioners discussed the revisions.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to adopt** the policy priorities as presented. **Seconded by** Commissioner Mayer.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (11): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Absent (2): Moore and Sawyer

Carried (11 to 0)

The Commission **ADOPTED** the Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee's policy priorities as presented.

Next, Committee Chair Nies explained the revision to the Committee charter.

Commissioner Geiogue **moved to approve** the proposed charter as presented. **Seconded by** Commissioner Maxie.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (11): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Absent (2): Moore and Sawyer

Carried (11 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee's proposed charter.

15. Report on and consideration of the December 2, 2020 Student Impact (SI) Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Caroline Siegel-Singh provided an update on the Student Impact Committee meeting on December 2, 2020. Committee Chair Siegel-Singh invited Michael Lemus, Communications Manager, to provide an update on communication strategies and the Commission's website.

Committee Chair Siegel-Singh presented the proposed charter for the Student Impact Committee.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to approve** the policy priorities with the amendment. **Seconded by** Commissioner Nies.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (11): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Absent (2): Moore and Sawyer

Carried (11 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the Student Impact Committee's proposed charter with amendments.

16. Report on and consideration of the December 2, 2020 Strategic Policy and Planning (SPP) Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Debra Maxie provided a report on the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee meeting on December 2, 2020. Committee Chair Maxie invited Patrick Perry, Deputy Director of the Data, Analysis, and Research Team, and Jessica Moldoff, Research Data Specialist, to provide a summary of the Competitive Cal Grant paid rate.

Commissioner Geiogoue suggested to send a letter to legislature to explain why the Competitive paid rate is below 100%. Ms. Moldoff explained the process of over-awarding as a common method to reach the 100% paid rate. Executive Director Garcia noted that the Commission has statutory rights to over-award due to a commonly low take rate. She also agreed that the Commission should send a letter to legislature for a short-term fix to increase the maximum number of awards.

Committee Chair Maxie presented the proposed charter for the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee which includes changing the name of the Committee to the Data, Research and Strategic Planning Committee.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to approve** the proposed charter and change to the Committee name. **Seconded by** Commissioner Valladolid.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (11): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Absent (2): Moore and Sawyer

Carried (11 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the revisions to the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee name and charter.

17. Report on and consideration of the December 2, 2020 Personnel, Evaluation and Nominations (PEN) Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Former Vice Committee Chair Hal Geiogoue provided a report on the PEN Committee's meeting on December 2, 2020. Commissioner Geiogoue invited Julia Blair, General Counsel, to present the revisions to the Committee's charter.

Commissioner Valladolid **moved to approve** the revised charter. **Seconded by** Commissioner Maxie.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (11): Alferos, Bartholow, Cifuentes, Doplemore, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, Siegel-Singh, and Valladolid

Absent (2): Moore and Sawyer

Carried (11 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the Personnel, Evaluation and Nominations Committee's revisions to the standing Committee charter.

18. Commission Closed Session (Information/Action)

The Commission did not meet in Closed Session.

19. New business to be considered at future meetings (Information/Action)

Chair Cifuentes noted the following new business items brought up during the meeting:

- Credit card data
- Push undocumented students workgroup to earlier start date

- Social media changes and updates to move forward with potential Cal Grant alumni campaign
- Paid rates updates for Competitive Cal Grant program

Executive Director Garcia added that staff will look into the new business items and add them to the future meetings.

20. Adjournment

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

DEBRA MAXIE
SECRETARY