



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 21, 2021  
8:00 am  
Virtual Meeting

COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENT:

Catalina Cifuentes (Chair)  
Jamillah Moore (Vice Chair)  
Debra Maxie (Secretary)  
Isaac Alferos  
Juanita Doplemore  
Hal Geiogue  
Guillermo Mayer  
Steve Ngo  
Charles Nies  
Caroline Siegel-Singh  
David Valladolid

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

Chair Catalina Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 8:00 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. **Chair's oral report on Commission related issues (Information)**

Chair Cifuentes welcomed and thanked everyone for meeting an hour earlier than the typical January Commission meeting. She expressed gratitude for staff, the Governor, and former Chair, who are working so

hard to put students first and make financial aid accessible to all California students.

**4. Executive Director's oral report (Information)**

Executive Director Marlene L. Garcia provided an update on FAFSA/CADAA completion rates and ongoing efforts to provide more outreach to students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**5. Update on Governor's proposed 2021-22 State Budget and recently enacted federal legislation (Information/Action)**

Chair Cifuentes welcomed Jake Brymner, Director of Government and External Relations and Melissa Bardo, Legislative Analyst, to present on item 5.

Mr. Brymner presented on financial aid proposals at the federal and state level and how it would impact Commission programs. He also noted that Commission staff are still waiting for final trailer bill language and for guidance from the U.S. Department of Education on provisions included in federal legislation.

Ms. Bardo presented an update on federal and state legislation that impacts Commission programs.

There was no public comment.

**6. Consideration of the Cal Grant Modernization proposal (Action)**

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

Public comment provided by the following:

Katrina Linden, Campaign for College Opportunity.

Josh Lewis, Chair of Government Relations with the California State University Student Association.

Zahraa Khuraibet, President of the California State University Student Association.

Katherine Squire, Vice President of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.

Laura Szabo-Kubitz, The Institute of College Access and Success.

David O'Brien, the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

Zima Creason, Executive Director of the EDGE Coalition.

Roberto Viramontes, Director of College and Career Access at United-LA.

Dean Kulju, the California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office.

Samantha Seng, Policy Advisor from NextGen California.

Alex Graves, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

Denise Castro, Policy Analyst at Education Trust-West.

Mahmoud Zahriya, Young Invincibles.

Tyler Wu, California Policy Director for uAspire.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to approve** the modernization proposal. **Seconded by** Commissioner Nies.

Roll call vote:

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

**Carried (11 to 0)**

The Commission **APPROVED** the Cal Grant Modernization proposal.

**7. Consideration of the Child Savings Account (CSA) Request For Application (RFA) (Action)**

Chair Cifuentes invited Tae Kang, Deputy Director of Program Administration and Services Division, and Steve Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Director of the Customer Relations Branch, to present on item 7.

Mr. Caldwell explained that there were 16 applicants for the program and highlighted the requested amount and geographical data of the applicants. He shared that five of the applicants were rejected due to incomplete applications or late submissions.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Geiogue **moved to approve** the recommendation for the RFA allocations. **Seconded by** Commissioner Ngo.

Roll call vote:

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

**Carried (11 to 0)**

The Commission **APPROVED** the proposed allocation of funds as listed in the attached Funding Recommendations for the Child Savings Account Grant Program.

**8. Proposed regulations for institutional appeals relating to participation in the Cal Grant Program (Action)**

Julia Blair, General Counsel, presented the item and noted that the Commission did not receive any public comment during the 45-day opening for comments from the public. Ms. Blair briefly highlighted the proposed guidelines for institutional appeals.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Mayer **moved to approve** the proposed regulations for institutional appeals related to participating in the Cal Grant program. **Seconded by** Commissioner Valladolid.

Ms. Blair asked if the motion included the recommendation to authorize staff to amend the current Institutional Participation Agreement to include the substantive requirements of the adopted regulations. Chair Cifuentes and Commissioner Mayer concurred.

Roll call vote:

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

**Carried (11 to 0)**

The Commission **APPROVED** the proposed regulations and authorize staff to complete the regulatory process, including making any necessary changes and authorize staff to amend the 2017-23 Institutional Participation Agreement to include the substantive requirements of the adopted regulations.

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

Commissioner Doplemore asked for future presentation from awardees of the Child Savings Account program who had impactful outcomes.

**11. Adjournment**

The Commission teleconference meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

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DEBRA MAXIE  
SECRETARY