



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2021

9:00 am

Virtual Meeting

Marlene L. Garcia (Executive Director)

COMMISSIONER
PRESENT:

Catalina Cifuentes (Chair)
Charles Nies (interim Vice Chair)
Debra Maxie Secretary)
Caroline Alvarez – *departed 12:15 p.m.; rejoined 2:03 p.m.*
Patrick Day
Juanita Doplemore
Shannon Gary
Hal Geiogue
Guillermo Mayer
Steve Ngo
David O'Brien
Angel Rodriguez
Leonardo Rodriguez
David Valladolid

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

Chair Catalina Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 9, 2021 (Action)

Commissioner Doplemore **moved to approve** the Subcommittee minutes of September 9, 2021. **Seconded** by Commissioner Valladolid.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (14): Alvarez, Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Gary, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, O'Brien, A. Rodriguez, L. Rodriguez and Valladolid

Carried (14 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the minutes of September 9, 2021.

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

Chair Catalina Cifuentes welcomed everyone and introduced the Commission's two new student Commissioners, Commissioner Caroline Alvarez and Commissioner Leonardo Rodriguez. Both Commissioners shared a few words.

Chair Cifuentes shared current struggles of the K-12 education with teacher shortage and the need to support students to continue pursuing their teaching credentials.

5. Executive Director's oral report (Information)

Executive Director Marlene L. Garcia introduced the Commission's new Executive Fellow, Chuy Cazares. Mr. Cazares shared a few words.

Executive Director Garcia highlighted improvements on current and new Commission programs, as well as upcoming events that the Commission will be hosting.

Executive Director Garcia also announced the 2020-21 Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor award winner, Mr. Yia Le from McClane High School.

6. Election of Commission Officers (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited General Counsel, Julia Blair, to present item 6. Ms. Blair announced the list of nominations for election of Commission officers as follows:

- Commission Chair: Catalina Cifuentes
- Commission Vice Chair: Charles Nies
- Commission Secretary: Debra Maxie

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

Commissioner Ngo **moved to approve** the nominations. **Seconded** by Commissioner A. Rodriguez.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (14): Alvarez, Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Gary, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, O'Brien, A. Rodriguez, L. Rodriguez and Valladolid

Carried (14 to 0)

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

7. **Consideration of the 2022 Commission meeting calendar (Action)**

Chair Cifuentes invited Catalina Mistler, Chief Deputy Director, to present item 7.

Ms. Mistler presented the proposed 2022 Commission meeting calendar and explained the reasoning for the dates selected.

Commissioner Ngo **moved to adopt** the 2022 Commission meeting calendar. **Seconded** by Commissioner Geiogoue.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Doplemore asked for the status of in-person meetings. Executive Director Garcia explained that there is no update on when the Commission will convene in person again. She added that current amendments to the Bagley-Keene act temporarily waive the need to share Commissioner's location for virtual meetings.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (14): Alvarez, Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Gary, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, O'Brien, A. Rodriguez, L. Rodriguez and Valladolid

Carried (14 to 0)

The Commission **ADOPTED** the 2022 Commission meeting calendar.

8. **Update and ratification on contracts over \$100,000 (Action)**

Chair Cifuentes invited Lilly Myers, Deputy Director of the Fiscal and Administrative Services Division, to present item 8.

Ms. Myers presented the contract to the Commission for consideration to ratify.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Valladolid **moved to approve** the staff recommendation for ratification of contracts over \$100,000.00. **Seconded** by Commissioner Maxie.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (12): Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Gary, Geiogue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, O'Brien, A. Rodriguez and Valladolid

Abstain (2): Alvarez and L. Rodriguez

Carried (12 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the staff recommendation for ratification of the proposed contracts over \$100,000.00.

9. Consideration to approve the proposed emergency regulations for Golden State Teacher Grant Program (Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Julia Blair, General Counsel, Tae Kang, Deputy Director of the Program Administration and Services Division, and Ana Marquez, Specialized Programs Manager to present item 9.

Ms. Blair provided a brief background on the proposed emergency regulations for the Golden State Teacher Grant program and explained the process for approval through the Office of Administrative Law.

Commissioner Mayer expressed concerns over the requirement of a social security number (SSN) as it may inhibit other students from applying for the program. Mr. Kang responded that the SSN has been a problem with many other Commission programs and has always been the unique identifier when it comes to matching students' FAFSA application to their Golden State Teacher Grant program application. Mr. Kang also noted that the SSN is also a way to identify and track a student if the issue of repayment of arises when a student does not fulfil the requirements of the grant program.

Commissioner Ngo asked if there were any other unique identifier besides the SSN that the Commission can use or has used for other programs. Mr. Kang explained that there has been the option of exploring the tax ID number to match a student, however, this option can be hard to accurately match a student in comparison to the SSN. Commissioner Ngo would like to know if there was still a possibility that the Commission can continue to explore other options and not resort

to the SSN. Catalina Mistler, Chief Deputy Director, explained that the SSN has been a consistent and ongoing identifier that the Commission has used, but the Commission can explore other forms of data match to look for specific student applications.

Commissioner Ngo suggested to amend the regulations to add language that states the Commission may use the SSN or a similar identifier to match student applications.

Ms. Blair read the following motion language as discussed by the Commission: in section 30521 paragraph one of subdivision A, the applicant shall provide the following information to the Commission: social security number, or other unique identifier, as determined by the Commission.

Commission Ngo **moved to approve** the proposed emergency regulations with the added language. **Seconded** by Commissioner Nies.

There was no public comment.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Gary, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, O'Brien, A. Rodriguez, L. Rodriguez and Valladolid

Abstain (1): Alvarez

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the emergency regulations with the following language changed as discussed by the Commission in section 30521 paragraph one of subdivision A: the applicant shall provide the following information to the Commission: social security number, or other unique identifier, as determined by the Commission; and authorized staff to complete the emergency regulatory process, including initiating a five-day public comment period, preparing and submitting all required documents to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and making any non-substantive changes to the regulations and supporting documentation as requested by the OAL.

10. Update on Cal Fresh Report (Information)

Chair Cifuentes invited Executive Director Marlene L. Garcia and Jason Willis, Director of Strategic Resource Planning and Implementation at WestEd, to present item 10.

Executive Director Garcia provided a brief background on the Cal Fresh workgroup and the report that will be released and presented the

findings from the workgroup. Mr. Willis presented the recommendations of the workgroup.

11. Update on the Golden State Education and Training program (Information/Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Jake Brymner, Director of Government and External Relations, to present item 11.

Mr. Brymner provided a brief overview of the Golden State Education and Training program and the impact COVID-19 has made on different student populations.

BREAK

The Commission **RECESSED** at 12:15 p.m.

The Commission **RECONVENED** at 1:20 p.m.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

12. Report on and consideration of the December 1, 2021, Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Charles Nies provided an update from the Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee meeting on December 1, 2021.

13. Report on and consideration of the December 1, 2021, Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Angel Rodriguez provided an update from the Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee meeting on December 2, 2021.

14. Report on and consideration of the December 1, 2021, Data, Research, and Strategic Planning Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Debra Maxie provided a report from the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee meeting on December 1, 2021.

15. Report on and consideration of the December 1, 2021, Personnel, Evaluation and Nominations Committee meeting (Information/Action)

Committee Chair Guillermo Mayer provided a report from the Personnel, Evaluation and Nominations Committee's meeting on December 1, 2021.

Committee Chair Mayer presented the proposed amendments to the Governance Policy and Procedure to the Commission for a vote. Committee Chair Mayer read the proposed amendment with a

modification to the language on page six that states: In collaboration with the Executive Director, the Commission will annually undertake a process for defining and adopting goals and priorities.

Commissioner Nies **moved to approve** the recommendation suggested by the PEN Committee. **Seconded** by Commissioner Maxie.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Gary, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Ngo, Nies, O'Brien, A. Rodriguez, L. Rodriguez and Valladolid

Abstain (1): Alvarez

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the recommended modification by the PEN Committee to the amendments to the Governance Policy and Procedure.

16. Closed Session of the Commission (Information/Action)

Chair Cifuentes invited Julia Blair, General Counsel, to announce closed session. Ms. Blair announced that the full Commission would meet in Closed Session to discuss and may take action on personnel matters pursuant to California Government Code, Section 11126(a).

The Commission went into Closed Session at 2:10 p.m.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Chair Cifuentes reconvened Open Session at 3:00 p.m. and announced that there is nothing to report.

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

Executive Director Garcia noted the following items as new business to consider at future meetings:

- Revisit Cash for College for formerly incarcerated students
- Invite parents to a possible panel discussion to help parents and guardians navigate the FAFSA/CADAA requirement
- Include regulations for the new FAFSA/CADAA completion requirement as an agenda item at the January meeting
- PEN Committee: present new Commissioner Orientation document

18. Adjournment

Commissioner Valladolid moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nies.

Chair Cifuentes adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

CATALINA CIFUENTES
CHAIR