



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

9:00 am

In Person/Virtual Meeting

Marlene L. Garcia (Executive Director)

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

Catalina Cifuentes (Chair)
Charles Nies (Vice Chair)
Debra Maxie (Secretary)
Patrick Day
Juanita Doplemore
Audrey Dow, *departed 3:05 p.m.*
Shannon Gary, *departed 2:59 p.m.*
Hal Geiogue
Guillermo Mayer
David O'Brien, *departed 1:30 p.m.*
Angel Rodriguez
Alexis Takagi
David Valladolid

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

Chair Catalina Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 9:04 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 January 20, 2023, March 9, 2023, and Subcommittee minutes of March 21, 2023 (Action)**

For Commission meetings minutes of January 20, 2023 and March 9, 2023:

Commissioner O'Brien **moved to approve** the minutes of January 20, 2023, and March 9, 2023. **Seconded** by Commissioner Maxie.

Roll call vote:

In Favor (13): Cifuentes, Day, Doplemore, Dow, Gary, Geiogoue, Maxie, Mayer, Nies, O'Brien, Rodriguez, Takagi, and Valladolid

Carried (13 to 0)

The Commission **APPROVED** the Commission minutes of January 20, 2023, and March 9, 2023.

For Subcommittee minutes of March 21, 2023:

Commissioner Maxie **moved to approve** the minutes. **Seconded** by Commissioner Nies.

In Favor (3): Cifuentes, Maxie, and Nies

Carried (3 to 0)

The Subcommittee **APPROVED** the Subcommittee minutes of March 21, 2023.

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

Chair Catalina Cifuentes welcomed everyone and shared a few remarks about the work of educators and students.

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

Executive Director Marlene Garcia welcomed everyone and noted that this meeting is the Commission's annual retreat meeting. She highlighted some of the discussion and updates provided during the Committee meetings on June 21, 2023.

She explained the significance of the items on the agenda today and their impact on college affordability and access.

She also shared staff achievements.

There was no public comment.

6. **Commission Retreat Panel Discussion: Student perceptions about the value of a college degree and whether it is still worth the cost.**

Chair Cifuentes invited Executive Director Garcia and Jake Brymner, Deputy Director of the Policy and Public Affairs Division, to present item 6.

Executive Director provided a brief background for the panel discussion.

Executive Director Garcia welcomed and introduced the four panelists: Gabriela Gomez, Ria Sengupta Bhatt, Michael Lynch, and Chris Farias. All the panelists shared their background, work, and experiences as a college student.

Commissioners engaged in a discussion with the panelists.

Commission **RECESSED** at 11:19 a.m.

Commission **RECONVENED** at 11:26 a.m.

Executive Director Garcia invited Kristin Hulquist, from HCM Strategists, to moderate the panel discussion.

Commission **RECESSED** for lunch at 12:21 p.m.

Commission **RECONVENED** at 1:04 p.m.

8. Presentation of CSAC's Financial Aid Chatbot (Information)

Chair Cifuentes noted that item 8 will be taken first in order to accommodate guest presenters' time. Chair Cifuentes invited Executive Director Garcia to present item 8.

Executive Director Garcia provided a brief background on the chatbot. She introduced each of the guest speakers: Corey Edwards, with Mainstay and Mike McCormick, Superintendent of Val Verde Unified School District.

Mr. Edwards presented the history and background of Mainstay. Mr. McCormick presented the assistance that Val Verde USD would provide and how crucial the chatbot would be in helping students with financial aid application.

There was no public comment.

9. All In Campaign update (Information)

Chair Cifuentes welcomed Executive Director Garcia, Mike McCormick, Superintendent of Val Verde USD, Dr. Paul Gothold, San Diego County Superintendent of schools, and Jake Brymner, Deputy Director of the Policy and Public Affairs Division, to present item 9.

Executive Director provided an overview of the agenda item. She invited Dr. Gothold and Superintendent McCormick to share their experience, best practices, and thoughts on how their schools have achieved their financial aid completion rates.

Public comments were received from Linda Doughty, Cal-Soap Project Director.

7. Update on 2023-24 State Budget (Information) – TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

Chair Cifuentes invited Jake Brymner, Deputy Director of the Policy and Public Affairs Division, to present item 7.

Mr. Brymner presented an update on the 2023-24 state budget.

There was no public comment.

10. Commission Closed Session

Chair Cifuentes invited Interim General Counsel, Mark Paxson, to speak on item 10.

Mr. Paxson noted that items can be pulled and rescheduled for the next meeting. He noted that there can be a special meeting to cover this item. He also noted that any virtual meeting will have to notice location of where Commissioners are and the public can always attend.

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

There was no new business.

12. Adjournment

Chair Cifuentes adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

DEBRA MAXIE
SECRETARY