



**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, January 17, 2020

10:00 am

Commission's Boardroom, 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, CA

**COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT:** Catalina Cifuentes
Jamillah Moore
Judith Maxwell Greig
Juanita Doplemore
Hal Geiogue
Maria Manjarrez
Debra Maxie
Guillermo Mayer
Charles Nies
Wm. Gregory Sawyer
Caroline Siegel-Singh
Glen Becerra
David Valladolid

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Catalina Cifuentes called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 provided a brief update on Commission related issues. She announced plans for the 2020 College Affordability Summit in Sacramento in the third week of November 2020. She elaborated on some of the current planning progress.

4. Executive Director's oral report (Information)

Executive Director Garcia provided an update on Commission related issues. She thanked Governor Newsom for the generous budget which supports the work of the Commission. She also announced Commissioner Geioque's new appointment and expressed the Commission's excitement to continue having him.

Executive Director Garcia provided an update on the Cal Grant Reform and briefly explained the process of collaboration with stakeholders.

Executive Director Garcia also announced that the February 20 special Commission meeting will be hosted at the State Capitol. She added that more information will be provided as the date approaches.

Executive Director Garcia briefly explained the space plans to accommodate more staff and the impact it may have on future Commission meetings.

Executive Director Garcia also introduced the Commission's new General Counsel, Julia Blair. She also announced that Media Relations Manager, Bryan Sapp, is moving on to the California Department of Education.

6. Consideration of the Request For Application (RFA) for Cal-SOAP Inland Empire (Action)

Chair Cifuentes asked to address item 6 first and recused herself.

Vice Chair Jamillah Moore asked Catalina Mistler, Deputy Director of Program Administration and Services Division, Steve Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Director of Customer Relations Branch, and Ramona Carlos, Manager of Specialized Programs, to present on this item.

Mr. Caldwell provided a brief background on the Inland Empire Cal-SOAP Request for Application (RFA). He noted that the scoring committee comprised of staff from various units at the Commission.

Ms. Mistler announced that based on the applications received and utilization of scoring rubric, staff recommended that the 2-year grant be awarded to two consortia led by University Enterprises Corporations at California State University (CSU), San Bernardino and the Riverside County Office of Education.

Commissioner Geiogue asked if the 25 percent reduction disproportionately hurt one of the programs.

Mr. Caldwell explained that staff considered funding all three entities, however, it would cut back the funding to 45 percent. He explained that the decision to award the top two applicants would result in a lower cut back. Mr. Caldwell added that applicants were asked to submit a revised budget to meet the total available funds.

Commissioner Greig asked about the outcome measures for both of the entities. Mr. Caldwell indicated that there were different outcome measures related to data gathering, in addition to building partnerships that can assist with improving the data collected.

The Commission **APPROVED** staff recommendation to award the 2019-20 through 2020-21 Cal-SOAP Inland Empire grant to two consortia led by University Enterprises Corporations at the California State University, San Bernardino, and the Riverside County Office of Education.

Moved By Sawyer
Seconded By Maxie
Carried (12 to 0)

In Favor (12): Moore, Greig, Doplemore, Geiogue, Manjarrez, Maxie, Mayer, Nies, Sawyer, Siegel-Singh, Becerra, and Valladolid
Recuse (1): Cifuentes

5. Update on 2020-21 State Budget including items relating to Commission programs and operations (Information/Action)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 5 UPDATE ON 2020-21 STATE BUDGET INCLUDING ITEMS RELATING TO COMMISSION PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

There was no public comment.

David O'Brien, Director of Government Affairs, provided a summary of the Governor's January proposed 2020-21 State Budget and directed the Commissioners to the attachments. He announced that the administration approved 15 new positions for the Commission.

Mr. O'Brien highlighted the following financial aid programs that impacts the Commission:

1. Establishing a working group on student loan debt - \$5 million (one-time) fund
2. Full funding of the Grant Delivery System Modernization - \$5.3 million fund

3. Maintaining the maximum Cal Grant tuition award (\$9,084) for students attending private, nonprofit institutions - \$21.6 million from General Fund
4. Adjusting Entitlement Cal Grant and Cal Grant for Students with Dependent Children funding
5. Adding staff and implementing resources at CSAC

Mr. O'Brien also added that the budget included office space acquisition to move the Commission headquarters to West Sacramento, CA. He noted that the move process may take more than a year.

Commissioner Geiogoue asked to have a future agenda item on the new program for students with dependent children to get an understanding on how the program runs over time. He also asked about what the "drivers" are that was referenced in the letter from legislators, in the Cal Grant Reform. Mr. O'Brien responded that the Commission can suggest drivers, which act as barriers to college affordability, such as access to CalFresh benefits and housing agencies.

Commissioner Siegel-Singh asked if there is a timeline for the working group on the student loan debt program, and an update on numbers of award for students with dependent children. Mr. O'Brien provided an update on total awards offered and noted that the information could easily change and may not reflect real time data. He also added that there has been no update or clarification on the timeline for the student loan debt program.

Chair Cifuentes asked about the paid rate for students with dependent children. Catalina Mistler, Deputy Director of Program Administration and Services Division, explained the self-certification process for students with dependent children and that staff are communicating with institutions and students to assist with the payment process.

Executive Director confirmed that the students with dependent children will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Commissioner Mayer asked why the adjustments for the Cal Grant Program costs has decreased. Mr. O'Brien explained the budget projections with Department of Finance and Legislative Analysis Office, and how the adjustment does not mean a negative impact to the Cal Grant program.

Commissioner Siegel-Singh asked about the University of California Regents cohort proposal and how the Commission plans on implementing the changes if the Regents vote to push it through. Ms. Mistler responded that it would require significant changes to the current legacy system, such as reprogramming awards

to tie to each cohort. She added that the changes would have to be in place right away in order to be implemented for the Fall 2020 award season.

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

Executive Director Garcia noted that the students with dependent children will be on the next agenda, with emphasis on paid rate and awards offered.

8. Adjourn

Chair Cifuentes congratulated Commissioner Geiogue on his reappointment.

The Commission teleconference meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

JUDITH MAXWELL GREIG
SECRETARY