



**CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE, AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: December 5, 2019
Location: Commission's Boardroom, 11040 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova, CA

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Glen Becerra, Vice Chair
Hal Geiogoue
Judith Maxwell Greig
Guillermo Mayer
Jamillah Moore
Catalina Cifuentes, Ex. Officio

Charles Nies, Chair
Maria Manjarrez

3. Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2019 (Action)

Moved By Greig
Seconded By Moore
Carried

The Committee unanimously **APPROVED** the minutes of September 12, 2019 Legislative, Audit and Budget meeting as presented.

4. (Item 9) Update on state and federal legislation and issues affecting Commission programs (Information/Action)

Committee Vice Chair Becerra invited David O'Brien to present on the first item. Mr. O'Brien introduced Melissa Bardo, Legislative Analyst, to the Commission.

Ms. Bardo provided an update on the state legislation and referred the Commissioners to attachment 9.1 and 9.2. She also provided an overview on current legislation affecting Commission programs.

Mr. O'Brien provided an update on federal legislation affecting Commission programs.

Commissioner Greig asked for information on the FAFSA Simplification Act from Senator Alexander. Mr. O'Brien explained that there is a bi-partisan funding for the legislation

and that the simplification is specifically geared towards HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

Commissioner Mayer about the changes of the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and how does this impact students and financial aid. He also asked if the Commission would need to provide other legislation to address this issue. Mr. O'Brien explained the current requirements for SNAP such as working a minimum of 20 hours a week, which exceeds the recommended maximum work hours for full-time students. Mr. O'Brien also indicated there are ongoing conversations with the legislature to work on ensuring that the funds in the budget can help prevent a negative impact on a student's financial need.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 9 UPDATE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND ISSUES AFFECTING COMMISSION PROGRAMS

There was none.

5. (Item 10) Operations budget update (Information)

Committee Vice Chair Becerra invited Rhonda Pascual, Interim Chief of Fiscal and Administrative Services Division, to present on the item.

Ms. Pascual introduced Vivian Su, Interim Fiscal Manager of Fiscal and Administrative Services Division, and announced that Ms. Su will be leaving the Commission.

Ms. Su presented on the budget breakdown for last fiscal year of 2018-19.

Committee Vice Chair Becerra asked about how the discretionary operation budget compares to prior years. Ms. Su responded that the discretionary spending has been consistent throughout the years and, with a lean budget for travel and office supplies, the Commission relies heavily on salary savings in order to cover these costs.

Executive Director Garcia added that one of the goals is to move out of the tradition of using salary savings to cover discretionary costs, and to establish a operation budget that reflects the actual practices that the Commission needs year over year. She explained that she hopes to seek an alignment of operational needs through the budget change proposal (BCP) for next year, specifically through a workforce audit.

Commissioner Geiogue asked if salary savings are a natural savings that normally occur every year. Executive Director Garcia clarified that the current vacancies is lower than prior years and the current vacancies are technology positions, which have been difficult to fill.

Commissioner Mayer asked if the core operating budget also relied on the salary savings. Ms. Su confirmed that the core operating budget, which includes Cash for College workshops and communications, relies heavily on the salary savings.

Commissioner Greig asked if there are any state guidelines to create a core operating budget. Ms. Su responded that the workforce analysis in the BCP would help explain

the true core expenditure and staffing to maintain new and existing programs for the Commission.

Commissioner Greig added that staff training should continue to be funded in order to get promote growth, increase morale, and improve work performance.

Committee Vice Chair Becerra also suggested that travel should be considered as part of the core operating budget, specifically in regards to Commission meetings and executive staff attending public events on behalf of the agency.

Commissioner Mayer asked for a more detailed breakdown of the core operating budget.

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

Commissioner Moore asked if Executive Director Garcia wants the discussion of Cal Grant reform with other segments to be an item for the LAB Committee or the full Commission. Committee Vice Chair Becerra responded that he can bring this up to the full Commission to decide.

7. Adjourn

The Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

CHARLES NIES
COMMITTEE CHAIR