

Hi Colleagues – There was a brief Consultation Council meeting last week on 1/23. Below are the highlights:

- Student Senate: Working on implementation of AB 1358, which authorized local fees to support their operations. Planning March in March on March 3. Setting legislative priorities.
- Budget: There was general agreement that 3% growth funding for next year (aka “restoring access”) would not benefit many districts that are either not growing or cannot rebuild quickly. The CCCCO plans to have internal conversations about a proposal to re-direct the growth funding or distribute it in a more equitable manner before the state budget is finalized. Both the Academic Senate and yours truly reiterated the need to fund FT faculty and programs as a pre-requisite to increasing enrollment, rather than funding growth after the fact. In addition, the low COLA coupled with increasing match requirements for categorical funds reduces the ability of many districts to pay for staff, faculty, supplies, etc. (It was noted that match requirements can be altered by our own system.) The group also reminded the CCCCO that we need to emphasize quality as well as access in conversations with the Governor. The Chancellor cautioned about “complaining” about the budget details since our system has done very well in the proposed budget compared to other state agencies. While he anticipates the May revise could be even more favorable, we need to be aware that other groups may attempt to infringe on our budget.
- Legislative Update: For dual enrollment, a proposal from 2011 will be reintroduced and the CCCCO has identified a sponsor (AB 1451 Holden). The CCCCO is not sponsoring SB 850, the baccalaureate bill, but is involved. Not much development on other initiatives at this time. Although the CCCCO supports professional development funding and potential legislation related to it, there was no amount

identified in the proposed budget.

- FON Issue: Data on the perceived unfairness of the FON numbers for some districts (e.g., higher FONs even though districts with lower FONs have the same FTES) was presented by the CCCT representative. More information will come from the CCCCCO in March, including percentage of FT faculty in each district. The group agreed the larger issue is commitment to increasing faculty and quality rather than a narrow focus on FON.

The group again requested that more information come out ahead of time so that constituent groups can be consulted prior to the meeting. However, to be fair, the CCCCCO has seen much staff turnover (most recently, the departure of Steve Bruckman) and seems to be doing its best to keep everyone informed. Erik Skinner continues to fill the role of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

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