

Greetings CIOs:

Yesterday's Consultation Council's agenda was limited, but the discussion was not!

Clearly, the budget was the predominant item of rumination, with no clear announcement of outcomes as we are still hoping that the tax package will go on a June ballot.

I will provide my usual brief bullet list below and have attached more extensive notes to this message.

The new Chancellor's Office website launched with the goal of being a better system-wide resource to students. The new link is: <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu> .

BUDGET: Ballot options are looking difficult but the Chancellor is still hoping for the best case scenario of a \$400 million cut. The likelihood of an \$800 million cut is much more probable now. In either case, the entire system will see a workload reduction and must reduce course offerings, serve fewer students, and overall retrench. There is discussion of legal consolidation (not likely), regional collaboration (will depend on local board and CEO leadership) and a call for a year of system-level planning. There is a call for state and system guidance, dissemination of any "new rules" that may need to be implemented for next year, and a desire to be more proactive. The Chancellor's Office feels that we will see legislation in enrollment management areas of repeatability, PE/athletics, and unit caps. We need participate in these negotiations. A general call for participatory governance to serve as the model for all discussions concerning the budgetary decisions we are facing.

Government relations: double the number of bills being tracked by the Chancellor's Office compared to last year. A focus on veterans, pensions, and academic affairs. One academic affairs bill is SB 515 which would allow districts to offer extension courses for credit directly to students, not only to employers as we now practice contract ed. This presents a possible access issue. AB 649 and SB 813 would both seek to extend veterans registration priority status from 2 years to 5 or 4, respectively. Pell grant status continues to be an issue and has become partisan in nature with Democrats seeking to limit the use of financial aid to for-profit institutions and Republicans seeking to expand the same. (Please see the matrix and the updates – all links within the agenda/notes document attached).

I would encourage you to read the attached agenda and notes. There is a real desire on the part of CEOs and CSSOs, and the Senate that we work together on some system-wide tactics to address the budgetary issues we are all facing. Regional collaboration of some sort will continue to be part of the discussion and we may want to include this in our dialog at next week's CIO Conference in Monterey.

Your contributions to the success of our students are recognized and appreciated. I am here to represent you, so please continue to share with me your issues, concerns, and innovative ideas.

Have a great weekend. I hope to see you next Wednesday in Monterey!

Melinda Nish
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"We'll help you get there!"

