

2007-08 PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES **1.3**

RECOGNITION

Presentation: *Lance T. Izumi, President, Board of Governors*
Diane Woodruff, Chancellor
Linda Michalowski, Vice Chancellor, Student Services and Special Programs

Issue

This item recognizes the 2007-08 President of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.

Background

In 2004-05, the System Office and representatives of the Consultation Council issued a call to action to all student body government presidents to create an independent Student Senate organization that could speak for California's 2.6 million community college students in state-level shared governance processes. For the next year, students from all regions of the state worked tirelessly to create a truly representative, accountable and sustainable structure for the Student Senate. In May 2006, the Constitution of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) was ratified. Since that time, the SSCCC has successfully convened five General Assemblies that have provided student delegates from every community college the opportunity to bring policy issues forward through formal resolutions for discussion, debate, and action. Through this process, the voice of 2.6 million students has been carried to advisory committees, ad hoc committees, Consultation Council and the Board of Governors.

Frank Fernandez was the Associated Student Body Government President at Imperial Valley College when he was first elected to the Student Senate Council as an At-Large Senator in 2006-07. The Council elected him Communications Officer and he quickly earned their respect with his calm and thoughtful approach to issues and problems. Returning to the Council as a Regional Representative for 2007-08, Mr. Fernandez was elected as the first Student Senate President to serve a full year.

During his term, Mr. Fernandez presided over the SSCCC Fall and Spring General Assemblies, presented regularly to the Board of Governors, testified before Legislative committees on budget

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and program issues, collaborated with the University of California and California State University student associations on budget advocacy, and served on the Chancellor Search Committee. He also presided over completion of the SSCCC By-laws and invoked cost efficiency processes for the Student Senate Council that will produce savings of well over 10 percent from prior year expenditures in anticipation of this year's budgetary constraints.

Many students have dedicated their time and commitment to building and sustaining the SSCCC but without the hard work, dedication and strong leadership of its president the success of the Student Senate could not be assured. Mr. Fernandez consistently demonstrated these qualities in the face of every challenge and his dedicated service has benefitted community college students and the system as whole.

Conclusion

As he prepares to transfer to the University of California, San Diego this fall, the Board of Governors and System Office are honored to recognize Frank Fernandez for his leadership on behalf of the 2.6 million students of the California Community Colleges and for his service to the system. Mr. Fernandez is a shining example of student success in the community college system and we wish him well in all his future endeavors.

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