

2009 DRAFT STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
Pending Board Approval at the January 12, 2009 Meeting

STANDING ISSUES: RECOMMENDED TO GO FORWARD FOR SPONSORSHIP

- **Property Tax Backfill**
- **Reduce/ Eliminate Reporting Requirements**
- **Foster Youth - Residency**
- **Captioning for Students with Disabilities**

ISSUES FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT: PROACTIVE PROPOSALS

- **Nursing/transfer**
- **Green Jobs/Tax credit**
- **Veterans issues**
- **Textbooks**

Community Colleges Property Tax Backfill

The Legislative Program Task Force approved a proposal to support the system's fiscal integrity by pursuing a legislative proposal for property tax backfill. This proposal concept would seek to remove funding uncertainty and to avoid mid-year cuts to base program as a result of errors in estimating property tax revenue. The details of this proposal would be guided through the Consultation Council's Budget Task Force and the Chancellor's Fiscal Services Division.

Reduce/Eliminate Reporting Requirements

The Legislative Program Task Force approved a proposal to support reducing and/or eliminating outdated and unnecessary reporting requirements. This proposal would follow up on the work prepared for prior legislation that identified requirements in budget and statute. A list of reports and modifications recommended for legislation will be provided to the Consultation Council.

Foster Youth - Residency

The Legislative Program Task Force approved a proposal to amend statute to simplify the residency determination for foster youth. If a student is a minor, his/her residency is generally determined by the residency of his/her parents, or an adult with whom the minor had lived continuously for two years. However, foster youth often do not have access to their parents' information, nor is the residency of the parent(s) necessarily relevant to the student's circumstances. This concept proposes a legislative solution that would state that for purposes of California residency, foster youth who were in the child welfare system until age 18 and who have not yet established their own residency (are not yet 19) would retain their residency from that established as a minor (which would be California residency based on a court jurisdiction) until the age of 19 or they otherwise establish residency on their own behalf. The statutory changes for this proposal will be provided by the Student Services Division.

Captioning Copyright Issue for Students with Disabilities

The Legislative Program Task Force approved a proposal to amend statute to provide captioning for students with disabilities. In some cases where captioning or other accessible information is not already available on audiovisual or other type of media, it is necessary for the college to add the captioning to make it accessible for students. Some publishers want written requests from colleges to alter their work, which can take weeks and delay the provision of the material for students. Some publishers only want to give permission to alter the work if they are paid or

provide the now-captioned version by the college. Other publishers never respond to such requests. However, the colleges must still provide access to the material. The California Association on Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED) wishes to pursue legislation or some other remedy that would allow what they believe “to be the intent of the ‘fair use’ provisions of copyright law to be put in statute in California.” The statutory changes for this proposal will be provided by the Student Services Division.

ISSUES FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT: PROACTIVE PROPOSALS

- **Nursing/transfer**
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- **Veterans issues**
- **Textbooks**

The Legislative Task Force did not approve the above proposals to move forward at this time. However, staff and Task Force members will continue to follow up on concepts and issues that may be developed into legislation in the future. The Task Force believes that these issues are of great concern to legislators, and therefore it is likely we will see legislation that may be introduced without our prior involvement. We need to be prepared with solutions and amendments that will improve these measures.

- **Nursing/transfer**
Providing a transfer path for nursing students with an ADN to obtain their BSN. Improving the transfer path may not require legislation. Concerns were raised by faculty that would need to be addressed.
- **Green Jobs/Tax credit**
Determining resources and viable proposals needs to continue. Follow up on prior legislation may be preferable to sponsoring legislation.
- **Veterans issues**
Concerns were raised regarding resources. The Chancellor’s Office is pursuing funding at the federal level for counseling and assistance and will need to work with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.
- **Textbooks**
Concerns were raised regarding resources. The Chancellor’s Office may pursue federal funding while at the same time reviewing best practices and innovative approaches such as textbook leasing and progress for developing online education resources.