

# STUDENT SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



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## Board of Directors | Final Meeting Minutes | August 17, 2024

### I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### A. Call to Order

President Hernandez called the meeting to order 10:14am.

#### B. Roll Call | 5 Minutes

President Hernandez

Vice President Joshua Simon

Vice President of Regional Affairs Robert Alexander

Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Annie Koruga

Vice President of Finance Alicia Gan Zeng (arrived 10:17am)

Vice President of Communications Alexis Bravo

Regional Affairs Director Region I Lawrence Ortiz

Regional Affairs Director Region II Alisha Nagpal

Legislative Affairs Director Region III Brandon Maskey

Regional Affairs Director Region IV Harini Nagappan

Legislative Affairs Director Region IV Brooke Schwartz

Regional Affairs Director Region V Gerardo "Jerry" Reyes

Legislative Affairs Director Region V, Dejalía White

Regional Affairs Director Region VI Sanjana Sudhir

Legislative Affairs Director Region VI Tara Pai

Regional Affairs Director Region VII David Duncan (arrived 10:17am)

Legislative Affairs Director Region VII Esmeralda Hernandez (arrived 10:17am)

Regional Affairs Director Region VIII César Tlatoāni Alvarado

Legislative Affairs Director Region VIII Sophie Ngoc Quy G

Regional Affairs Director Region IX Joia Miller

Regional Affairs Director Region X Christopher Chandler

Legislative Affairs Director Region X Brandon Quandt

**Quorum: 22 present. 1 Absent. Quorum was established.**

#### Absent:

Legislative Affairs Director Region IX Brandon Cooley

*The mission of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) is to enrich the collegiate experience for all California community college students by pursuing policies that will improve student access and success while engaging and empowering local student leaders, as well as honoring equity and diversity.*

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**C. [Brown Act AB 2449 Teleconference Exemption Requests](#) | 2 mins**

*The Board of Directors will consider for approval members to participate remotely without giving up their location.*

**No action was taken.**

**D. Adoption of the Agenda | 5 mins.**

*The SSCCC Board of Directors will consider any amendments to the agenda.*

**The agenda was adopted without objections.**

**E. Consent Agenda | 5 mins.**

1. **[Meeting Minutes](#)**. *The Board of Directors will approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 12, 2024.*

**Motioned, seconded (RAD II Nagpal) to adopt the minutes.**

**Objection. LAD VII Hernandez clarified that she was present at the meeting and provided her address in time for the agenda posting. She was in the same location as RAD VII Duncan.**

**Motioned, seconded (VPLA Koruga) to adopt the minutes as amended. No objections. Motion passed.**

**F. Public Comment**

Public comment was made.

**II. SPECIAL ORDERS**

**A. [Oath of Office](#)**

President Hernandez performed the swearing-in ceremony for two Board members.

**B. [Community Agreements](#)**

President Hernandez reminded members of the Board approved Community Agreements.

**C. Chancellor's Office Report**

Assistant Vice Chancellor Gina Browne provided a brief Chancellor's Office report.

**D. Executive Committee Report**

President Hernandez informed members of the Executive Committee's actions at its last August 12, 2024 meeting.

**E. [Executive Director Report](#)**

Executive Director Dr. Adams updated members on staff activities since the last Board of Directors meeting. She highlighted areas including community relations, regional engagement, legislative activities, communications and social media posting, student intern activities, and day-to-day activities.

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She highlighted training, presentations, and outreach as we gear up for the fall semester. Her presentation can be found at [this link](#).

**F. [California Community College Board of Governors Report](#)**

Student Board of Directors member Casey Chang provided members with a brief background about the role of the Board of Governors and highlighted their actions and activities this month.

**G. [Academic Senate for California Community College \(ASCCC\) Report](#)**

ASCCC Treasurer Robert L. Stewart Jr., reported on ASCCC activities and highlighted his written report.

**H. Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) Liaison Report**

Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, FACCC President, presented the FACCC Report.

**I. California Community College Student Affairs Association (CCCSAA) Liaison Report**

CCCSAA Liaison Doris Hankins provided a brief report about CCCSAA activities and highlighted the CCCSAA conference in October at the LA Biltmore Hotel.

### III. BUSINESS

**A. One Minute Share**

The Board of Directors shared a one-minute thought about their engagement activities in July.

**B. [Equitable Placement \(AB 705/1705\) Presentation](#)**

Dr. Linda Vazquez and Priya V., Government Relations, Chancellor's Office presented information about AB705/AB1705 Equitable Placement. The presentation shared the principles and implementation of equitable placement policies in California community colleges. It covered various topics, including background, student rights, the implementation status, and the importance of providing academic support to ensure student progress. Their presentation concluded with a discussion on future work in equitable placement. The Chancellor's Office volunteered to hold a webinar to continue to answer members' questions regarding equitable placement.

**C. [RP Group Introduction](#)**

Dr. Darla Cooper, RP Group Executive Director, provided an overview of The RP Group's mission, programs, services, and strategies. The RP Group is an organization that focuses on institutional research, planning, and effectiveness (IRPE), with a strong emphasis on involving students in their work. They are committed to validating and uplifting student voices in various contexts of planning and policy development. The group has a history of presenting research at SSCCC Board meetings and events, and their signature events include professional development opportunities,

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research and evaluation, presentations, awards, and resources. Through inclusive and race-conscious approaches, they aim to empower stakeholders and clients to make evidence-based decisions that support educational success, particularly for minoritized and marginalized students. The presentation concluded with a discussion about the future relationship between the RP Group and the SSCCC and how to get their research into students' hands to help them make informed decisions about their education.

### D. Former SSCCC Member Communication

Members engaged in a discussion regarding correspondence from a previous SSCCC Board member. This communication was shared with Board of Directors members, disseminated through various social media platforms, and distributed to system partners and other entities via email and social media channels. The SSCCC Legal Counsel, Mark Alcorn, was notified and offered guidance.

**Motioned, seconded (RAD X Chandler) to table Item D until after the time-sensitive Item E. Common Course Numbering. Objection. Yes - 16, No - 5 (VP Simon, VPRA Alexander, RAD I Ortiz, LAD VII Hernandez, and RAD Tlatoani Alvarado). Motion passed - the Board moved to Item III. E. Common Course Numbering.**

SSCCC Legal Counsel Mark Alcorn recommended that the Board address the concerns raised in the communication by either forming a committee to explore the issues or hiring an external investigator. Members emphasized the importance of accountability, highlighting the need to address these concerns to maintain trust and uphold the SSCCC's reputation. Developing and reinforcing the students' trust is paramount, and taking decisive action is seen as a necessary step to achieve this.

**Motioned, seconded (RAD X Chandler) to hire an external investigator with an initial amount of \$25,000 and any additional funds to return to the Board for approval. Objection. Motion withdrawn.**

**Motioned, seconded (LAD V White) to amend the motion to reduce to \$10,000. No objection.**

**Motioned, seconded (RAD II Nagpal) to allocate \$10,000 to hire an external investigator to investigate all the items brought forward to the Board with a deadline to report back to the October meeting. If additional funds are needed, a request will be returned to the Board. Yes - 19, No - 1 (RAD I Ortiz). Motion passed.**

SSCCC Legal Counsel shared his recommendation about what concerns should be investigated. Members amended the list.

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**Motioned, seconded (VPRA Alexander) to approve the list of investigation items presented by the attorney as amended and that the investigation updates come back to the Board of Directors in October.**

**Motioned, seconded (RAD X Chandler) to approve that the investigation report be provided to the attorney, president, and executive director to review for confidential information and prepare a summary report to be provided to the Board. Motion to reconsider the motion.**

**Motioned, seconded, (LAD V White) to amend the motion to strike the executive director and president. No objections, the motion passed. The attorney will review the investigative report and summarize for the Board of Directors at their October meeting.**

**The main motion as amended, was approved without objection.**

**E. [Common Course Numbering](#)**

Michelle Grimes-Hillman, Visiting Administrator Consultant, Office of Equitable Student Learning, Experience and Impact, updated members about the Common Course Numbering Implementation and its impact on the student experience. She concluded the presentation by sharing information about future webinars and asking about opportunities to engage students.

**F. [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)**

Executive Director Dr. Adams informed members that several partner organizations have begun recruiting student leaders as interns or employees, sometimes identifying them at our events. To manage potential conflicts between these roles and their duties in the SSCCC, we have revised our conflict of interest policies with guidance from our legal counsel.

**Motioned, seconded (LAD IV Schwartz) to approve the revisions to the Conflict Policy. Motion passed.**

**G. [Employee Retirement Benefits](#)**

Executive Director Dr. Adams notified members that the SSCCC must comply with state legislation to establish a retirement program for its workforce by the end of 2024 to prevent financial penalties. Retirement incentives can also lead to better employee retention, long-term financial savings, and improved recruitment, all of which contribute to the organization's stability and growth. She proposed that the SSCCC consider a 50% matching contribution for employees with a minimum of one year of tenure. The staff investigated various retirement options and identified a 403(b) plan as a viable solution, with an initial setup cost of approximately \$2,250 and potential annual expenses up to \$80,000, contingent upon employee enrollment.

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**Motioned, seconded (LAD IV Schwartz) to approve a 403(b) retirement plan with a 50% contribution employer match for employees. Yes - 21, No - 0. The motion passed unanimously.**

### H. [Legislative Update](#)

Associate Director Goldman and VPLA Koruga presented updated legislative activity, including bill statuses.

**Motioned, seconded (RAD VII Duncan) to take a stance of support on Proposition 2. No objections, the motion passed.**

### I. [Caucus Guideline Cleanup Language](#)

Executive Director Dr. Adams presented clean-up language for the Caucus Committee guidelines. The original intent of the language was that Board of Directors members would not serve in leadership roles of the caucus, particularly since Board members already have a platform to effect change and develop policies.

**Motioned, seconded (IV Schwartz) to approve the Caucus Guideline Cleanup Language. No further objections. The motion passes.**

### J. [Draft Advocacy Academy Agenda](#)

Executive Director Dr. Adams presented the draft preliminary program for the Advocacy Academy and reminded members that they requested the program to identify times to hold Region meetings. Dr. Adams noted that there may not be enough meeting room space to hold the regional meetings and workshops. It was suggested that ½ Region meetings be held on Friday and the other Region meetings the next day. Dr. Adams will consider this, as well as negotiate with the hotel for more meeting space.

### K. [Board of Governors Application](#)

President Hernandez informed members that the SSCCC will need to open the recruitment process for a Board of Governors student member for 2024 - 26. The Governor's office contacted us to request more students, particularly students new to the community college system. Recruitment has already begun to identify more student nominations, and now the Board needs to form an ad hoc group to screen the applications and interview the candidates. He asked for volunteers.

RAD V Reyes, RAD Miller, RAD Nagpal volunteered to serve on the ad hoc task force.

**Motioned, seconded (VPRA Alexander) to approve RAD V Reyes as the Chair and members VPRA Alexander, RAD X Chandler, LAD III Maskey, RAD VIII Tlatoāni Alvarado.**

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VPLA Koruga highlighted that all members are male, and the task force would benefit from more diversity.

Members took a roll call vote for possible membership. First round:

- VPRA Alexander - 3
- VPF Gan - 3
- RAD II Nagpal - 2
- LAD III Maskey - 3
- LAD V White - 4
- RAD VIII Tlatoāni Alvarado - 6

Top two: RAD VIII Tlatoāni Alvarado and LAD V White

Second round:

- VPRA Alexander - 3
- VPF Gan - 4
- RAD II Nagpal - 7
- LAD III Maskey - 6

Top three: RAD II Nagpal and LAD III Maskey

**Motioned, seconded, (RAD IX Miller) to approve the list of ad hoc task force members as RAD V Reyes Chair and members RAD VIII Tlatoāni Alvarado, LAD V White, RAD II Nagpal, and LAD III Maskey. No objections, motion passes.**

### L. [Regional Accountability & Stipend Policy and Procedure](#)

Executive Director Dr. Adams presented revised Region Accountability and Stipend Policy and Procedures. She noted that over the past two years, regional officers have struggled with the timely processing of stipends. Delays in report submissions have been a persistent problem, often stemming from the Delegate Assembly or Executive Boards not convening or the Vice Chair/RAD failing to submit the reports, leading to late submissions, typically in May or June, or no submissions. In response, staff recommends amendments to the Stipend policy to simplify the process. She highlighted the changes.

**Motioned, seconded (LAD IV Schwartz) to approve the revised accountability and stipend policy. No objections, motion passed.**

## IV. REPORTS

### A. Executive Officer Reports | Additional Oral Reports

- [President](#)
- [Vice President](#)
- [Vice President of Regional Affairs](#)
- [Vice President of Legislative Affairs](#)
- [Vice President of Finance](#)
- [Vice President of Communications](#)

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### B. RAD Region Reports | Additional Oral Reports

[Submitted Reports: Y] [Not Submitted: N] [Vacant: V]

R I	R II	R III	R IV	R V	R VI	R VII	R VIII	R IX	R X
<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	V	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>

### C. LAD Region Reports | Additional Oral Reports

[Submitted Reports: Y] [Not Submitted: N] [Vacant: V]

R I	R II	R III	R IV	R V	R VI	R VII	R VIII	R IX	R X
<u>Y</u>	V	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>

### D. Internal Operating Committee Reports | Additional Oral Reports

- I. Audit Committee
- II. Caucus Committee
- III. Communications Committee
- IV. Conference Committee
- V. [DEIAA Subcommittee](#)
- VI. [Executive Committee](#)
- VII. Finance Committee
- VIII. [Internal Affairs Committee](#)
- IX. [Legislative Affairs Committee](#)
- X. Region Finance and Fundraising Committee
- XI. Regional Affairs Committee
- XII. Resolutions Committee

### E. External Reports

### F. [Action Tracking](#)

A simple tracking of tasks assigned by the Board of Directors to members or staff.

### V. INFORMATION (Written information only)

- A. External Committees
- B. Internal Committees

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm.