



Legislative Update

February 2023



VPLA Update

Hello all, my name is Zachariah Wooden and I serve as your Vice President of Legislative Affairs for the Student Senate of California Community Colleges (SSCCC). Welcome to the inaugural issue of the 2023 Legislative Newsletter!

This newsletter covers important pending state and federal public policy, advocacy efforts and events, and much more. If there's anything you'd like to see included in these newsletters, please send your feedback to vpla@ssccc.org!

'Advocacy in April' Scheduled for April 12

The SSCCC's largest annual advocacy event, 'Advocacy in April', is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12th, 2023 in Sacramento on the west steps of the State Capitol.

Please share this date with your student body association (SBA) to plan and coordinate your attendance with your community college's students and the region.

Keep an eye on your inbox for more information coming soon.



The SSCCC's 2023 Legislative Priorities:

Consolidating What We Have Creating What We Need

The SSCCC Board of Directors approved state and federal priorities at their November 2022 meeting, which were informed by resolutions passed at the 2022 SSCCC General Assembly. These priorities focus on a common theme: "Consolidating what we have, creating what we need." In a time of economic hardship and uncertainty and with the budget constrained by less revenue than in previous years, it is critical for the SSCCC to protect the investments made by the Newsom Administration and Legislature to the California community college (CCC) system.

SSCCC state priorities:

- Protecting investments made in prior years to CCC's basic needs infrastructure
- Informing policymakers from the perspective of the diverse CCC student body
- Continuing expansion of student enfranchisement in the CCC system

SSCCC federal priorities:

- Eliminate scholarship displacement for Federal financial aid
- Reform GI Bill requirements for veterans in higher education
- Protect undocumented students in higher education

The SSCCC is sponsoring the following bills as part of its 2023 bill package:

- AB 1275 (Arambula) would create an exception to the Brown Act allowing student-run organizations to use teleconferencing for meetings without having a quorum in one location or identifying or opening all teleconference locations to the public.
- AB 1541 (Fong) requires every community college board of trustees to allow students to have an advisory vote.
- AB 1543 (Fong) would split the two student representation fees, providing students with a means to decline paying one or both fees.

Check the SSCCC website for more details about the **SSCCC approved Legislative Priorities**.



Governor Newsom's January 2023-2024 Budget Proposal

Governor Newsom presented the 2023-2024 state budget proposal on January 10. While constrained by revenue declines, the SSCCC is grateful that the governor did not propose significant cuts to community colleges. See the SSCCC's press release in response to the budget proposal here for more information.

It's important to note, that there are still uncertainties in the budget:

- The provisions of the Cal Grant Reform Act included in the 2022-2023 Budget Act have until Spring or Summer 2024 to be implemented.
- Large deferrals in CCC system campus maintenance and housing grants and loans were proposed.

As such, the SSCCC continues to be diligent in monitoring the budget process, and is currently developing a budget advocacy toolkit for students to employ on a local level.

For more information, see the following resources:

- [SSCCC Budget Proposal Press Release](#)
- [2023-24 Proposed Budget Summary for Higher Ed](#)
- [Chancellor's Office's Joint Analysis of the Governor's January Budget](#)



SSCCC Leadership Travels to Washington DC

Earlier this month, the Student Senate joined the Chancellor's Office, Board of Governors, Community College League of California, and faculty in Washington D.C. to attend the Community College National Legislative Summit and advocate on behalf of California's community colleges. Students met with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Bernie Sanders and many others to discuss college affordability, supporting undocumented students, workforce development, basic needs support, and the students' diverse needs.

The SSCCC is returning to D.C. in March to attend the 2023 National Student Advocacy Conference and follow up with Legislators on the issues discussed in February.

