

Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee

MINUTES

March 10-11, 2010

Present: Ed Aguado, *Buckley Barrett* (chair), David Hood, Tom Krabacher (Vice Chair), Dick Montanari, Praveen Soni, William Wagner, Darlene Yee-Melichar

Guests: John Travis (CFA), Karen Yelverton-Zamarippa and Robert Turnage (Chancellor's Office/teleconference.), Bernadette Cheyne (Executive Committee)

I. Call to Order: 10:45 a.m.

II. Agenda: Approved.

III. Minutes: Minutes were approved after incorporation of Senator Yee-Melichar's request for one correction under Announcements.

IV. Announcements

- Chair Barrett announced that Senator Nelson, Executive Committee representative, will not be meeting with the Committee;
- FGA will be hosting the May social. Senator Montanari volunteered to assist in purchasing of foodstuffs, and Senator Hood agreed to bring certain grape by-products;
- Chair Barrett commented on the pluses/minuses of holding interim meetings by teleconference.
- No word yet on faculty trustee appointment
- There will be a search committee to identify a new Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; a call for faculty interested in serving will go out shortly.

V. Times Certain

1. John Travis (CFA) 10:55 a.m.

- Reported on the outcome of the March 4th higher education advocacy day; felt it was successful in raising the profile of higher education funding issues with the legislature and the public.
- CFA will focus on the budget over the next few months and will support a CTA initiative that would close corporate tax loopholes.
- *Regarding CFA-backed legislation:* AB 656 (Torrico) is still before the legislature; has been a good vehicle for raising the issue of higher education funding. SB 218, passed last year but vetoed by governor; back again as SB 330 (Public Records/Yee).
- There are currently no joint CSU/CFA lobbying efforts underway (e.g. Alliance for the CSU).
- CFA President Lillian Taiz will be part of a delegation going to Washington to request an additional \$20B in stimulus money.

- Contract negotiation is likely to dominate much of the CFA’s energy this year. There is no expectation of an extension of furloughs for a second year. Neither side has mentioned it. Sunshine proposals from either side have yet to be released. CFA does not expect the CSU to propose salary cuts, but they may be proposed take-backs in other areas.

2. Karen Yelverton-Zamarippa and Robert Turnage

- **Budget:**

- Things are moving slowly; Legislature unwilling to take unpopular votes before the June primary. Only “small-potatoes” things are being approved by simple majorities.
- Hearings on higher education budgets will be starting soon, but little action likely until after May Revise and June primary. Meanwhile CSU is “walking around with a \$305M target on its back” as other interests seek part of it. (Note: LAO recommends only a \$140M restoration, with the rest made up in “increased efficiencies;” this is likely to appeal to members of the legislature.)
- Key CSU argument needs to be made around access; these are issues that resonate most vividly with legislators.

- **Legislation:**

- Expects that transfer is likely to be a key issue coming out of the Master Plan hearing; there seems to be a consensus in the legislature, rightly or wrongly, that “transfer is broken.”
- *AB 2382* – CSU physical therapy doctorate – is not a CSU-sponsored bill, but comes from the physical therapy community. The CSU is not taking a position on it; feels that the timing for it is not right at the moment.
- *AB 2400 (Block)* –pilot program for CCCs to offer baccalaureate degrees. Questions raised about what the costs would be associated with the necessary WASC accreditation. [*KYZ feels most CCCs would not be interested in offering the baccalaureate degree, if only for fiscal reasons.*]
- KYZ also recommends that FGA take a look at the implications of *AB 2401* and *2402* as well.

VI. Reports

Senators Hood and Krabacher on impending legislation, identifying bills we might want to monitor for possible action either during our April legislative visits or at the May plenary.

VII. Legislative Day Planning

The following plans were laid:

- Hold a Monday afternoon teleconference (3:00 PM) for briefing purposes prior to Tuesday visits [note: We later received permission from ExCom to bring all participating senators to Sacramento the day before our legislative visits];
- The ASCSU brochure to be distributed during visits was revised;
- Offices to be visited: Assembly and Senate leaders, members of Senate & Assembly budget and education committees, and those from local districts. Also – authors associated with transfer and master plan bills, and other selected bills.

- Some people will be arriving Monday night; we will have a group dinner Monday night and an organizational meeting Tuesday morning before the office visits.

VIII. Possible Recommendations

The Committee forwarded the following recommendations:

- Support for the Governor's 2010-2011 budget
- Commendation for President Gerth
- Opposition to AB 440 (Beall) CCC Student Transfer – Committee agreed to co-sponsor with Academic Affairs

The Committee decided not to make recommendations on the following:

- AB 1178 (Block): Textbook Sales Tax Exemption – no recommendation
- AB 2400 (Block): Community College B.A. Pilot Program – no recommendation until after advocacy day visits
- AB 440 (Beall) CCC Student Transfer – Committee agreed to co-sponsor a resolution with Academic Affairs