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**MEMORANDUM**

**CODED MEMO ASA-2016-25**

TO: CSU Presidents  
CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs  
CSU Vice Presidents for Student Affairs

FROM: Eric G. Forbes   
Assistant Vice Chancellor

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 412: The California Promise

Senate Bill 412 (Glazer) was signed into law on September 21, 2016 which added sections 67430-67435 of Division 5 of Title 3 to the California Code of Education. These sections establish the California Promise Program which requires the California State University to offer pledge programs that will support entering students interested in completing their baccalaureate degrees in four years and students with Associate Degrees for Transfer in completing their remaining requirements for baccalaureate degrees in two years. These four-year pledge programs are to be in place at 8 CSU campuses for the 2017-18 academic year; the two-year pledge programs are to be in place at 15 CSU campuses for the same period with expansion to 20 campuses for the 2018-19 academic year.

Five CSU campuses offer four-year pledge programs listed under various names. These names will need to be subordinated under the system-wide name of “The California Promise Program”, although the local name may continue to be utilized. These campuses are Bakersfield, Fresno, Fullerton, Pomona, and San Bernardino. CSU Sacramento has just initiated a similar program. While all campuses may develop these programs, we need two campuses in addition to those already identified to be named officially as participants for the 2017-18 academic year. Please let Executive Vice Chancellor Loren J. Blanchard know of your interest as soon as possible.

A more aggressive approach will be necessary to meet requirements related to the Associate Degree for Transfer. Since the California State University is now obligated to have 20 programs in place relatively soon, please communicate with Dr. Blanchard if there is any extending reason why your campus cannot participate. Notwithstanding such exceptions, we will presume that all campuses will have active two-year pledge programs in place for entering ADT students for the 2017-18 academic year.

Information about The California Promise Program will be included in “the mandatory catalog copy” scheduled to be released in January 2017. In addition to inclusion in the catalog, the text should be replicated on your campus websites where the program and campus procedures might be described. The text will be divided between the four-year program for the eight or more campuses, and the two-year

**CSU Campuses**

Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles • Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay  
Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San José • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

program for most campuses. Campuses will also be able to link to a calstate.edu webpage for information on the California Promise Program that is now under development.

There is no benefit stated in the legislation that would obligate campuses to waive tuition-fees for any participating students who fail to graduate in four years or two years respectively even if the hindrance has an institutional or course scheduling source. Several campuses have language in their program literature that asserts this benefit; in order to be uniform with the legislation's provisions, this language should be removed.

The legislation requires us to create uniform criteria and guidelines at the same time that it calls for a local review by your "graduation initiative advisory committee" or by a committee with "similar functions" presumably to identify those elements that will make these programs attractive to students and manageable. The two benefits to students who pledge to participate are: priority registration and academic advisement that includes monitoring the student's academic progress. Campuses are free to determine the best registration priority position for these students within their enrollment procedures. However, a dedicated advisor responsible for supporting these students should be identified on each campus.

Student Academic Support is working with the Common Management System (CMS) team as well as with the new admission application vendor to create a systemwide process based on applicant interest and eligibility for the California Promise Program. A question will be added to the application for admission that will ask students about their interest; campuses will be able to use the collected responses to communicate with students more completely. Interested students who are selected to participate will need to be uniformly coded for ERSA/S reporting and for regular advising purposes. Additional information will be forthcoming about the particular coding requirements within Campus Solutions (PeopleSoft) for review, selection, and tracking once these procedures have been determined.

Campuses are expected to establish criteria/qualifications for students to enter and to continue in these pledge programs. Students may be asked to sign and retain a copy of a pledge form that would include program benefits and campus requirements. Students with any developmental course requirements may not be eligible. Here are examples of student obligations:

- Complete a minimum of 30 academic units in a college year based on term of entry, including summer and winter session.
- Maintain at least a 2.00 grade point average in all academic work completed.
- Submit an educational plan to complete a declared major program within the specified limit to the designated academic advisor.
- Review and modify the academic plan as needed with the designated academic advisor at least once each term.
- Enroll in classes during the established priority registration period and pay fees by the required deadlines.

These programs are expected to be available to the entering first time freshman and upper division transfer classes for the 2017-18 academic year. Ideally, dedicated advisors and program definitions will be in place by the time orientation for the next academic year occurs on your campus. If you have any questions about the program, please contact April Grommo at [agrommo@calstate.edu](mailto:agrommo@calstate.edu) or 562 951-4726.

Enclosure

EF/bjc

- c: Directors of Outreach and Recruitment
- Directors of Admissions and Records
- State University Registrars
- Directors of Institutional Research
- Directors of Academic Advising
- Associate Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Loren J. Blanchard, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs
- Mr. Nathan Evans, Chief of Staff, Academic and Student Affairs