

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

California State University Federal Agenda for 2009

Presentation By

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Summary

This item contains a presentation of recommendations for the 2009 CSU Federal Agenda.

Background

In January 2008, the Board of Trustees adopted the 2008 CSU Federal Agenda, a legislative program for the system that included both policy and project priorities for the second session of the 110th Congress. Over the past year, the CSU's Office of Federal Relations (OFR) and system leaders worked in Washington to advance those priorities. With regard to the system's policy priorities, the CSU had a significant, positive impact on their primary focus, the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. After five years of fits and starts, this past summer saw the enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HR 4137), which reauthorizes all major federal higher education programs for up to six years. HR 4137 covers a vast range of programs and issues, and while many are familiar, an important new focus centered on attempts to monitor and control college costs. In a letter to House Education and Labor Committee Chair George Miller (D-Martinez) and Ranking Republican Member Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-Santa Clarita), California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed expressed the system's strong support for the legislation, noting its emphasis on top CSU priorities, including: increasing need-based aid by upping the maximum Pell Grant and making it available for year-round study; expanding eligibility for need-based programs focused on science and math (ACG and SMART grants), to include part-time students; maintaining the GEAR UP and TRIO outreach programs, which enable the CSU to help prepare underserved K-12 students for college success; strengthening graduate programs at Hispanic Serving Institutions; and creating grant programs to enhance university outreach to veterans and to improve campus sustainability efforts. The CSU helped devise the newly authorized veteran's centers program, which is modeled on CSU Troops to College efforts. Ultimately, the measure received strong bi-partisan support in both congressional chambers.

The CSU also helped advocate successfully for key provisions in other major federal legislation, such as the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (HR 2419), or "the Farm Bill." HR

2419 contains new CSU-supported programs that would competitively fund non-land-grant colleges of agriculture and provide resources to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities (HSACUs). In addition, the CSU strongly supported enactment of the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, which will help Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans attend college.

With regard to project priorities, the CSU was able to garner strong support from members of the California Congressional delegation for a number of system and campus initiatives. For example, CSU's Strategic Language Initiative (SLI), a systemwide priority, received \$1.6 million in the final FY 2009 Defense appropriations bill. These resources will provide a fourth year of funding for the collaborative program among CSU campuses that delivers intensive training in Chinese, Korean, Arabic and Farsi; this year's increase in funding will help the program expand from southern California to include Bay area campuses as well. Campus earmarks were also included in the Defense appropriations bill for a variety of programs. However, at this writing, the Congress has left the vast majority of its FY 2009 (October 2008-September 2009) appropriations work unfinished. Nine of the twelve annual appropriations measures (all but those related to national security and veterans) remain incomplete. Before adjourning, the 110th Congress passed a temporary funding measure to keep federal programs running at prior year levels through March 6, 2009. Thus the fate of many CSU project requests remains uncertain for the current fiscal year. The incoming 111th Congress will likely pass an omnibus measure to finalize FY 2009 appropriations in early 2009.

Recommendations for the 2009 Federal Agenda

This past fall the OFR, in coordination with the Chancellor's Office, set in motion the annual process designed to produce a well-honed federal agenda. In September, Chancellor Reed sent a memo to all 23 CSU presidents and senior system leaders, soliciting recommendations and outlining criteria for the system's 2009 Federal Agenda. As in the past, the Chancellor's memo sought proposals in two distinct areas: (1) federal legislative and regulatory policy; and (2) CSU projects for which direct federal funding will be sought. With respect to both project and policy recommendations, the solicitation emphasized that the federal agenda must be consistent with the CSU system's core objectives, and they must contribute to system goals of preserving access, providing quality instruction, and preparing students for the workforce. While these principles have their own relevance in the federal arena, it was stressed that the federal agenda should also complement and be consistent with our state program in Sacramento.

The items proposed below for inclusion in the 2009 Federal Agenda are based upon submissions received in response to the Chancellor's solicitation, and have advanced through several levels of review, including the Executive Council, and the Chancellor and his executive leadership staff.

Proposed Federal Policy Priorities for 2009

The 111th Congress and the Obama administration will be working to implement several recently enacted pieces of legislation of great interest to the CSU, including the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), the 2008 Farm Bill, and the post 9/11 GI bill. Implementation will include a range of activities: agency rulemaking, technical corrections legislation, and decisions about whether and at what levels to fund various programs included in these laws. The CSU should work across all of these areas to ensure that these programs effectively meet the needs and priorities of California students and CSU institutions. In addition, the 111th Congress is due to take up the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or “No Child Left Behind.” Teacher preparation programs and pipeline issues will be of particular interest to the CSU. Other pending legislative areas likely to have a significant impact on the CSU are economic recovery proposals, major transportation legislation, and bills related to energy and the environment. While the CSU will frequently be called upon to respond to proposals made by others, including members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Education, the following priorities should be the subject of proactive pursuit:

Pell Grants: Support overall funding increases for the Pell Grant program, an increase to the maximum award.

Campus-Based Aid Programs: Seek increased funding for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) program, and reinstatement of a federal capital contribution for schools that participate in the Perkins Loan program, thereby enhancing available resources for needy students.

Community Service Provisions: Advocate increasing incentives for student and campus participation in community service activities, including through the Work-Study program.

Early Intervention Programs: Advocate maximum funding for GEAR UP and TRIO programs, which are vital to preparing underrepresented students for college and decreasing the need for remediation.

Developing Institutions and Hispanic Serving Institutions: Seek increased funding and effective implementation of programs designed to strengthen “developing” and “Hispanic Serving” institutions, including a new provision supporting HSI graduate programs.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields: Advocate programs promoting the participation and success of diverse California students in STEM fields, including funding for Professional Science Master’s program grants contained in the America COMPETES Act.

Teacher Preparation: Support efforts to strengthen teacher preparation, especially in STEM fields, and through programs to provide greater opportunities and training for disadvantaged students to become classroom teachers and faculty.

Veterans Education: Support programs that enhance higher education opportunities for veterans, including improvements to the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act and funding for the new Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success program in HEOA.

International Education Programs: Advocate international education programs that promote global awareness and understanding, and create opportunities for domestic and international students and faculty to study abroad, such as the proposed Paul Simon Study Abroad Act.

Federally supported applied research: Advocate broadening the federally supported applied research base to include more support for comprehensive universities and authorization of programs to fund the vital workforce preparation conducted by the CSU system.

Farm Bill Implementation: Seek effective implementation and maximum funding for new competitive grant program supporting non-land-grant colleges of agriculture and for a range of new programs supporting Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities (HSACUs).

Energy and Sustainability: Support federal initiatives consistent with the CSU commitment to sustainability and promoting the continued economic and ecological viability of the state – not only through best institutional practices, but through applied research, education, and service.

Transportation and Infrastructure: Advocate inclusion of support for applied research and university infrastructure needs in economic stimulus and transportation legislation.

Federal Project Proposals for 2009 (FY 2010)

More than 60 projects, including both campus and multi-campus proposals, were submitted in response to this year's solicitation. It is recommended that, as in recent years, the system's project priorities for 2009 be broken in two categories. The first category would encompass four broad-based, multi-campus initiatives consistent with ongoing system collaborative efforts in core areas of CSU strength:

- **Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI):** the CSU will seek continued federal support for its ARI initiative, which leverages state, federal and industry resources to support high impact applied agricultural and related environmental research, development, and technology transfer, as well as public and industry education and outreach.

- **CSU-Industry Partnerships for Biotechnology Research and Workforce Training:** the CSU Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) will seek funding to develop a hybrid university-industry educational model to substantially accelerate production of a well-prepared “home grown” workforce and applied research activities for California’s vital biotechnology industry.
- **Strategic Language Initiative (SLI):** the CSU will seek continued federal support for SLI, its collaborative effort to create programs that integrate language learning with professional majors and career opportunities and serve as a national model for training programs in critical world languages, helping our nation meet defense, diplomatic and business needs.
- **CSU Marine Research Equipment:** The California State University’s Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST) proposes to establish multiple Technology Hubs that will address critical coastal and marine issues faced by California and the nation; the Hubs will provide state-of-the-art equipment that will allow CSU faculty across the system to use cutting-edge technology to help find solutions to environmental issues while training CSU students with the skills necessary to join the workforce, and guide coastal and marine policy and resource issues.

The OFR will work to achieve the broadest and most strategic support possible for these proposals from members of the California Congressional delegation.

The second category would include campus-oriented projects, provided they have been endorsed and prioritized by the campus president, and meet the following criteria:

- The project significantly impacts a major need or priority of the campus or the system, including:
 - The extent to which the project will benefit a university’s students, its programs, the local community, the State of California and/or the nation
 - The extent to which the project is well-tailored to the particular competencies and strengths of the university or universities
- The project is well developed including:
 - How clearly articulated and detailed it is
 - Whether the project has additional supporters and advocates among business, alumni, non-profit or political entities

- Whether the project has partners that are able to assist with the project's success and/or are willing to invest in the project (cash or in-kind) so as to provide a "match" for federal funds being sought
- The project is well suited to the federal appropriations process, including:
 - The past history of federal funding for the project, if relevant
 - The manner in which federal funds will be used
 - The likely availability of the federal dollars from the account/source proposed
 - The extent of known Congressional sponsorship and support
- The project fits within a balanced program of requests for the CSU for reasonable amounts across different areas of funding

Because of the inherently shifting nature of campus, state and national priorities, the CSU federal agenda process recognizes that project requests may evolve over time. While campuses are primarily responsible for garnering support for their local initiatives, the OFR will continue to work with the campuses to refine and develop project proposals, and to assist them in working productively with their representatives in Congress as they seek support in the relevant appropriations venues for federal funding in FY 2010.

Adoption of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the federal legislative program described in the January 27-28, 2009 Agenda, Item 3 at the Committee on Governmental Relations is adopted as the 2009 CSU Federal Agenda.