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Minutes
Legislative Affairs Committee
Friday, April 17, 2020 1:00 – 2:00 PM
See Zoom Meeting Details

This meeting is being facilitated through an online zoom format, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N25-20, suspending certain open meeting law restrictions.

- I. Called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Carolyn Tinoco, Chairperson.
- II. Roll Call
Voting Members Present: Carolyn Tinoco, Katherine Molina, Christian Jackson, and Makonnen Nixon
Voting Members Absent: Cindy Romero, Russel Owens, Lloyd Marchan, and Ty Tianna Townsend
Advisors Present: Rasheedah Shakoor, Katelin Stewart, Djeneba Ahouansou, and David Gamboa
Visitors: Khaleah Bradshaw and Yoara Cruz
- III. Approval of The Agenda – Action Item
The agenda was approved with the amendments to add Credit/No Credit CSUDH Policy - Discussion Item.
*M/Jackson, S/Molina to approve the agenda as amended
VOTE: UNANIMOUS
- IV. Approval of the Minutes (February 21, 2020) – Action Item
*M/Jackson, S/Molina to table the minutes of February 21, 2020
VOTE: UNANIMOUS
- V. Open Forum – Agenda Items Only
Time for members of the audience to address the Committee on specific agenda items only. None
- VI. Unfinished Business – None
 - A. COVID-19 Legislation Update – Discussion Item
The committee will discuss statewide and CSU system wide legislation due to COVID-19 pandemic.
Tinoco shared information regarding CARES Act and how it will affect students and systemwide. She showed a CARES Act letter from the Secretary of Education and mentioned how the letter is referring to funding

in higher education and how it was possible to obtain it. Higher Education will be funded 14 billion with 12.55 billion distributed by the student enrollment model. The letter also talks about how each institution must reserve 50% to provide students with their emergency financial aid grants. Tinoco shared a document that displayed all the universities and how much funding they are receiving and emphasized that the purpose of sharing these documents was to give the Board an understanding of the CARES Act and its affection towards everyone, including CSUDH. Jackson directed a question towards Gamboa which is if there will be a process or committee to decide what happens to the funding that is not predesignated to students, to which Gamboa mentioned that there is a process being structured to figure out where to allocate it. He also noted that a part of the CARE Act was distributed based upon a formula that focused on Pell Grant eligibility of enrollment of students. Gamboa also mentioned that there are three segments of funding and each campus has to complete additional information in order for the first half of the funding to be fully dispersed to them. Shakoor asked if the other \$9,000 is the amount that the President and his team are working on to three different funds. Gamboa elaborated that the money is being allocated to different grants and how the University can be best served with the funding. In addition, Gamboa clarified that the funds are being distributed slowly because the Department of Education are still trying to figure out the best procedures for the policies. There is discussion about another stimulus bill but since Congress is in recess, the CSUDH campus has submitted 2- 3 letters to their delegation to include higher education into the next stimulus bill. Tinoco thanked Gamboa for the update and mentioned that the system will have an impact in funding due to the possibility in drop of enrollment for Fall 2020. She also said that the CSU suspended the standardized testing for upcoming admissions which could help the campus with enrollment. Tinoco then shared a document that displays the income benefits for college students and different websites that could help them as well. Shakoor suggested that Tinoco should share the document to Janes so it could be uploaded to the ASI website for students to use as a resource guide.

B. CSSA Report – Information Item

The committee will receive a report about the CSSA March Special Meeting and sponsored bills.

Tinoco shared information about the bills in Sacramento and made it clear that Covid-19 related bills are being prioritized at the moment while the other bills are being postponed. She also noted that the Governor will not be sign new working budget for higher education in June since all the funding will be allocated to Covid-19 and its resources. Tinoco shared the bill for *Educational Equity Student Records Name and Gender Changes*, which supports students in allowing them to have their chosen name on

their diploma even if it's not their court name that has been legally changed. CSSA is recommending a support on this bill, but Tinoco would like feedback from the Board on this bill. Jackson raised one potential downside of the name changing and problems it could create, but fully supports the bill regardless. Tinoco agreed with Jackson but is disappointed that this bill and many others will not pass during these times because of the current pandemic. On the other hand, Tinoco brought to attention the second bill, which is an information item that supports students in response of the Corona Virus Act. This bill states that the Legislation would provide 3 billion through mandatory grant programs and flexibilities to keep early care and educational programs in schools operational, which would work with Basic Needs. Tinoco noted bill will pass due to Covid-19 bills being prioritized than other bills given the situation. Shakoor questioned Tinoco on whether CSSA is having a discussion about the \$2 fee and Tinoco noted that she did not know but probably that will be discussion at tomorrow CSSA disciplinarians' meeting. Shakoor asked Gamboa if he has any knowledge regarding this category and Gamboa said those fees would be based on a decision made by CSSA and not CSU systemwide. He noted that tuition/fees that go towards supporting the institutional skill set is still being implemented because there is a difference between the fees. Shakoor mentioned that students at other campuses are requesting refunds and that the Chancellor's Office announced that category two fees might be refundable. Tinoco shared a letter from the CSSA meeting that asked if students can have accessibility to services, to maintain housing open, and to fund student fees. However, Gamboa and Tinoco raise some complications to refunding category 2 fees because the Health Care facility is still open on campus, the campus wants to financially compensate impacted workers, and much more.

C. Credit/No Credit CSUDH policy – Discussion Item

Jackson received a mere finalized draft policy for Credit/No Credit and some of the supporting documents that are included, like the application to apply for it. Jackson sent it to the Board so they could review the documents as students and notify him with any issues it could have that would potentially hurt them or any other students. If the Board finds no issues with the documents, then the documents will be finalized and distributed to students and faculty to notify them of the Credit/No Credit policies. Tinoco questioned Molina and Nixon if they had any problems with the documents shared to them, to which they both said no. However, Jackson voice his concerns about the policy because the student may witness a delay in their transcript being updated from a bad grade and Jackson is uncertain on what the extreme delay might entail on the student, potentially hurting them. He is also concerned about when advising will take place for students so they can be well informed in what the best option

is for them, since choosing Credit/ No Credit could hurt them if they fall under a specific category. Jackson continued with the idea of making advising known to the students and having enough advisors to be available to them since some students will not know what they're getting themselves into and will need guidance. Jackson also drew attention to the fact that in one of the documents, the students also have the option to receive a W under certain circumstances. Jackson noted that having a W (withdraw) is the same as having No Credit but a W is better in a student's transcript when it comes to Graduate schools, Law schools, and specialized Graduate courses. Jackson elaborated that a student's No Credit will automatically be translated into a fail at Graduate schools, Law schools, and specialized Graduate courses while a W does not hold that same mindset, thus not harming the student. This knowledge made Jackson wonder if having a W is better than a No Credit on a transcript. Tinoco thanks Jackson for his input and suggested possible solutions for the Concerns and questions Jackson instilled.

VII. Reports

Assistant Vice President for External Relations Gamboa shared an update in regards to the Legislator and how it will go back into session in the middle of May. There will be a tier budget process going into 2020 so the typical May revise might be an August revise with a budget outlook potentially in October. They will also be conducting E-Advocacy in order to ensure members are aware of the different things taking place. Gamboa was excited to share that stories will be highlighted on social media to let the members know the efforts the campus community are taking during Covid-19, like creating protective equipment in order to provide within our region.

Legislative Affairs Tinoco shared how the last Legislative Affairs meeting will take place on May 1. Tinoco also mentioned how she wrote a letter on behalf of all the CSU students who are staying in housing if they could extend their stay until June 30, which is the last day of the academic and fiscal year. Tinoco hopes that the letter will be well received and actually considered for the benefit of the students who cannot go home due to certain circumstances.

VIII. Open Forum – Discussion Item

Time of members of the audience to address the Committee. None

IX. Adjourned at 2:02 PM by Carolyn Tinoco, Chairperson.

Chair's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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