

Consultation Council met last Thursday, April 17 as guests at the statewide Academic Senate Spring Plenary meeting in Burlingame.

Two items that your board has been heavily involved in were discussed at this meeting – a second review of the proposed changes to Title 5, Part 2 sections pertaining to course withdrawal and repetition, and our request for Consultation Council to consider forming a System Advisory Committee on Student Services. More in the recollections below!

#### 1. Budget Update\

The state budget picture continues to worsen with the likelihood that the current revenue shortfall for 2008-09 will rise another \$2-3 billion higher than the current \$16 billion projection. We are still in a wait and see mode for the Governor's May Revise. It is evident that the Department of Finance has not accurately projected revenues causing budget deficits to be realized too late in the year for corrective action to be taken. With 90% of the tax assessments now in, there is an \$80 million revenue shortfall in the current year – three quarters the way into our fiscal year. Lobbying efforts are focusing on the need for the state to provide relief. The impact of the revenue shortfall to K-12 is between \$300-400 million however the Department of Education receives general funding to backfill the shortfall. It is clear that the DOF needs to modify their revenue calculation processes!

The fiscal impact on the Chancellor's Office was discussed at length. Their funding and staffing levels have eroded to such extent that their ability to effectively support our large, complex system is in serious jeopardy. Their budget has declined 26% in the past 7 years since 2001-02, currently at \$10 million for 2007-08 down from \$13.5 million in 2001-02. Their 2008-9 staffing levels are budgeted at 144 FTE, down 68% from the 236 FTE in 2001-02! The support for our System Office falls in stark contrast to that of the University of California, for example, which is preparing for \$30 million in cuts for the 2008-09 year! Chancellor Woodruff pointed out that the System Office's entire budget is smaller than that of the administration at UC Davis! The System Office staff continues their advocacy efforts coordinating packed testimonials at hearings at which legislators hear from faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Data will be presented demonstrating the impact of reduced budgets and fee increases on community college enrollments and therefore the economy. The latest hearings are scheduled for Wednesday April 23 in Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Riverside and Los Angeles.

#### 2. 2009-10 Capital Outlay Plan

The project list was reviewed by Consultation Council and will be presented to the Board of Governors at their May 5-6 meeting.

### 3. State and Federal Relations Update

Community College students are joining with CSU and UC for a student rally today, April 21 and will march from Raley Field to the Capital. The CSSO board hosts its bi-annual meeting of the statewide Student Services Coordinating Council also in Sacramento today and will be joining the students at the rally. We will be receiving a revised update on the various legislative bills still in active status – since we are closing out the end of a 2-year legislative cycle, all bills with fiscal impact must have been passed by Friday, April 18. Attached is the summary of all bills of interest to community colleges. Of particular interest to our Association is Padilla’s transfer bill – SB 1585. The draft digest for that bill is also attached. Current language proposes a five-year pilot project of up to 10 colleges to increase transfer rates to universities by focusing on efforts to increase the number of students moving from basic skills to transfer-level courses. Since no additional funding is requested, discussion ensued about the potential to dedicate some of our new BSI allocations towards these efforts.

### 4. Title 5, Chapter 6 – Part 2 Revisions -

[www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/Executive/Consultation/2008\\_agendas/April\\_2008/Hello.pdf](http://www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/Executive/Consultation/2008_agendas/April_2008/Hello.pdf)

In order to address the continued confusion regarding current language in the proposed revisions on course withdrawal and repetition, our Association proposed language be inserted to the apportionment section of Title 5 so as to establish a limit on the number of times students may repeat the same class and the college still receive apportionment (colleges could choose to authorize additional repetitions without funding). While this change appeared to meet our interests, other concerns were raised regarding the proposal. After discussion with the System Advisory Committee on Curriculum – SACC - that met last Monday (SACC drafted the proposed revisions to Title 5, Chapter 6) it was agreed that our Association would support the revisions as previously written and presented to Consultation Council in March, without the apportionment restriction limitation with the proviso that:

1. A workgroup with CSSO representation led by Linda Michalowski and Carole Bogue-Feinour be charged with drafting implementation guidelines as urgently as possible; and
2. The implementation guidelines be written and distributed statewide prior to the date the new regulations would take effect (30 days after final approval by the Board of Governors).

This approach was supported by Consultation Council and Steve Bruckman has assigned this as top priority for his staff. My heartfelt thanks go to Lynn Neault (San Diego), Audrey Yamagata-Noji (Mount Sac), and Lori Gaskin (South Lake Tahoe) for the hours spent trying to resolve this challenging issue in a manner that meets the interests of all parties.

5. Emergency Planning and Preparedness -  
[www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/Executive/Consultation/2008\\_agendas/April\\_2008/BOG\\_DRC  
CC\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/Executive/Consultation/2008_agendas/April_2008/BOG_DRC_CC_Presentation.pdf)

Consultation Council heard a presentation on the System Office's leadership efforts with regard to colleges' need for planning and preparation for crisis response.

6. Proposal to Establish System Advisory Committee on Student Services -  
[www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/Executive/Consultation/2008\\_agendas/April\\_2008/Consultatio  
n%20Council%20SACSS%20proposal.pdf](http://www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/Executive/Consultation/2008_agendas/April_2008/Consultation%20Council%20SACSS%20proposal.pdf)

The System Advisory Committee on Curriculum (SACC) was established in 2005 to provide a collaborative forum for system level discussions pertaining to curriculum, policies and practices. The recent revisions to Title 5, Chapter 6 proposed by SACC has brought into question how the perspective of CSSO's might be better incorporated early in discussions regarding policy and regulatory changes that impact student support services. Consultation Council was asked to consider forming a System Advisory Committee to focus on Student Services that would provide for a system wide review of related issues, goals, policies and procedures. The Council discussed the concept at length, in particular its potential relationship with SACC. I will be presenting the concept at the April 24 SACC meeting. Given concern that the system not perpetuate a siloed (is this a word?) organizational structure and also given the limited staffing resource at the System Office, Chancellor Woodruff has specifically asked that SACC discuss two options at this meeting:

1. Revise its role, purpose and membership to include student services
2. Agree upon a Committee structure that would ensure collaboration on issues of interest and impact to both instruction and student services.

The CSSO Executive Board will be meeting in early May subsequent to the SACC meeting to present a final report and proposal to Consultation Council.

7. Scholarship Endowment Award

Consultation Council members were SWORN to secrecy on the details, however Diane Woodruff described a day that perhaps was the happiest of her life (hope her husband and children don't somehow read this!) – the receipt of a check for a very, very, very, very large endowment for student scholarships at every community college. I try very hard to keep a secret – so stay tuned for her press release!

8. Textbook Affordability -

[www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/Executive/Consultation/2008\\_agendas/April\\_2008/Textbook%20Recommendations-Consultation.pdf](http://www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/Executive/Consultation/2008_agendas/April_2008/Textbook%20Recommendations-Consultation.pdf)

Linda Michalowski and staff continue to provide a statewide leadership role in ways in which colleges might mitigate the dramatically rising costs of text books. The issues are challenging and extremely complex, and after holding two summits last fall semester it is clear there is no one identifiable silver bullet. The CSSO board has agreed to take an official position to support the recommendations made to improve textbook affordability. Carrying this forward will likely become an important goal for the board for the 2008-9 year. Many thanks to Linda and her staff for their efforts with this initiative. And also to Kerry Compton, CSSO from College of Alameda, who has contributed extensively to making this an important statewide effort.