

**Resolution to Increase the Number of Students Prepared to Transfer
from California's Community Colleges
to Public and Independent Non-Profit Baccalaureate-Granting Institutions
through Development of a Common Lower-Division General Education (GE)
Pattern
and Creation of an Associate Degree for Transfer**

Whereas through the Master Plan For Higher Education, California has committed itself to advancing higher education for its citizens, and an efficient student transfer system is a cost-effective way for students to achieve the baccalaureate degree and meet the state's workforce needs; and

Whereas California Community Colleges play an important role in producing baccalaureate degrees through the transfer process, but only a small percentage of community college students transfer to four-year universities in part because the current transfer system can be confusing for students and is without sufficient commonality in academic preparation among segments to allow potential students to prepare for multiple four-year universities; and

Whereas standardizing the transfer process from the community colleges to four-year universities may increase the number of students prepared to transfer, and a common lower-division general education pathway and an Associate's Degree for Transfer will make it easier for students, counselors, advisors, and articulation officers to navigate the transfer process; and,

Whereas increasing the number of students prepared to transfer from California Community Colleges to four-year degree-granting institution in California is a high priority for the higher education segments and there is a strong history of inter-segmental faculty collaboration on academic preparation issues, conditions which are essential for improving the transfer process;

Resolved: The faculty of the three segments of public higher education and faculty representatives from the independent non-profit sector are requested to come together to develop and propose a common, shared lower division general education pattern and Associate Degree for Transfer before December 1, 2010 that will enable California Community College students to successfully transfer to a California four-year college or university.

Be it further resolved that students who complete an Associate Degree for Transfer with 60 transferable units comprised of:

- a common lower division General Education pattern, with
- a specified number of units in a major or area of emphasis, and,
- a minimum clearly stated Grade Point Average (GPA)

will be prepared to enroll at the California State University and University of California systems, as well as participating independent colleges and universities, with junior standing.

While these strategies can be expected to smooth the transfer process for many students seeking the baccalaureate degree, in order for these efforts to make a significant difference for California, it also will be essential for the state to provide the financial support necessary to accommodate current and expected growth in enrollment demand.

SUMMARY NOTES

California Education Round Table

April 8, 2010

Sacramento

Round Table Members Present: President Yudof (Convener), President Jonathan Brown, Executive Director Humphrey, Superintendent O'Connell, and Chancellor Reed

Staff Members Present: Director Blair, Deputy Superintendent Cunningham, Executive Vice Chancellor Echeverria, Executive Director Edgert, Executive Director Gullatt, Administrator Hansen, Director Ortega, Chief Deputy Superintendent Payne, Provost Pitts, Vice Chancellor Russell, Vice President Sakaki, and Coordinator Woolfork

Introduction and Welcome: President Yudof welcomed Round Table members and their staffs to this meeting. He asked Provost Pitts to discuss the process that led to the Action Items that the group would be discussing at this meeting.

Jonathan Brown expressed gratitude to Provost Pitts for his orchestration of a content-rich meeting and the preparation of an action agenda in various content areas.

Action Items

Race to the Top: Superintendent O'Connell briefly discussed the *Race to the Top* competition for state grants that had recently been announced by the federal government. California did not receive a grant in the first round; discussions were underway in the Governor's Office about whether California would prepare a proposal for the second round.

Superintendent O'Connell stated that California's application was supported by over 600 school districts, higher educational institutions, community organizations, the private sector, and other interested organizations. He expressed his appreciation to the higher educational sectors on their willingness to submit letters of support and Memoranda of Understanding that were included in California's application. The Superintendent urged his higher educational colleagues to continue to collaborate with public schools and school districts in improving student achievement, irrespective of the outcome of the *Race to the Top* competition.

Cal Grants: Vice President Sakaki introduced this item. She offered a "sense of the group" recommendation that "(t)he members of the Round Table support the full funding of the Cal Grant Program for 2010-11 and embed this message, as deemed appropriate, in each member's individual communications on the overall 2010-11 state higher education budget". The Round Table members discussed the importance of Cal Grants and indicated that each would advocate for funding for them in their respective budget letters to the Legislature and in their communication with legislative staff. However, the Round Table members chose not to engage in joint advocacy on this matter at this time.

Vice President Sakaki distributed a revision of an one-page "flyer" that the University of California disseminated last year to advocate for full funding for the Cal Grant Program. Unique to each legislator, this "flyer" identifies the number of Cal Grant awardees in his or her district and includes narrative about the importance of the Cal Grant Program. The revised "flyer" included the names of all member organizations that comprise the Round

Table. Vice President Sakaki offered to make copies of these “flyers” available for use by Round Table members at their discretion.

Similarly, President Brown distributed a copy of a Certificate that the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities created based on the “flyer” disseminated by the University of California the previous year. He offered to include the logo of all the Round Table members and provide the Certificates for use in this year’s budget discussions.

Action:

Upon finalization, these materials will be available for distribution in a manner that is most appropriate to each Round Table member’s legislative strategy.

Transfer: Vice President Sakaki introduced this item. She reported on the discussion at the Intersegmental Coordinating Committee (ICC) meeting about this item, including the concerns raised by the faculty representatives from all three public educational systems.

Following the Vice President’s introduction, the Round Table members considered the recommendation for developing a Transfer-Related Associate of Arts Degree that would indicate a student’s readiness to enroll in upper division courses once admitted to a baccalaureate-granting institution. The discussion centered on the frustration with the current transfer process including the accumulation by students of extra units prior to transfer, the lack of consistency in designating courses as transferable among community college campuses, the inconsistency of acceptance of courses among the baccalaureate-granting systems, and the general inefficiency of this process for students.

Actions:

- Chief academic officers from the higher educational sectors, including the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, would solicit an invitation from the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) to discuss this proposal at a forthcoming meeting because garnering faculty support is critical as awarding degrees is under their purview.
- Each Round Table member would appoint a representative to a Committee that would develop a plan to implement this recommendation that would be submitted to the Round Table by December 1, 2010.

Developing a State Plan for Future Higher Education Enrollment and Degree Attainment: Executive Director Gullatt introduced this item by explaining the evolution of thinking about the necessity of developing a State Plan. The original impetus for this item was the possibility of California receiving federal funds through the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) that required a State Plan for expanding access and success in higher education. Subsequently, representatives of the Round Table members concluded that developing a State Plan was important irrespective of the fate of SAFRA in Congress.

The Round Table members discussed the materials developed by Jane Wellman, Founder of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Education Costs, Productivity, and Accountability, that analyzes the California situation and make recommendations for a process to develop and implement a State Plan. The discussion that ensued included comments about the importance of specificity of goals, the possibility that this activity could be positioned to generate public support for higher education, and the criticality of any process in this regard being respectful of related activities underway in various educational sectors.

Round Table members were informed that the philanthropic community may be interested in supporting the development of a State Plan. Julia Lopez, President and Chief Executive Officer of the College Access Foundation of California, has met with Round Table members and their staffs on several occasions. She has offered to orchestrate an effort among her colleagues in the philanthropic community to provide financial support for furthering the analytical and public dialogue aspect of this proposal.

Actions:

- Provost Pitts will communicate to President Lopez that the Round Table is interested in pursuing her offer to solicit philanthropic support for the development of a State Plan for Future Higher Education Enrollment and Degree Attainment.
- Each Round Table member will appoint representatives to serve on a State Plan Task Force whose first task will be to consult with a neutral party responsible for developing the analytical basis for the Plan.
- As the analytical basis for the Plan is being developed, the Round Table will be discussing the optimal means by which to create a public dialogue that ensures sufficient resources are available from various sources -- the federal government, the State, institutions, the private sector, students, and their families -- to implement a Plan to achieve the State goals.

On-Line Education: Provost Pitts introduced this item on behalf of Vice Provost Dan Greenstein. Discussions have occurred and will continue as to aspects of on-line education that could be developed collaboratively among the educational sectors, including the public schools, in order to share costs and increase efficiencies. The traditional academic modes for delivering instruction are being supplemented by new technologies and the for-profit educational sector is a leader in this regard.

The Round Table members acknowledged that on-line education offers a potential mechanism for efficiency and a possible means by which to increase student access; however, further internal discussions in each educational sector need to occur before collaborative actions are considered. As such, Round Table members will encourage their staffs to continue the nascent discussions about development of On-Line Degree Pathways, infrastructure, and support services that occurred as precursors to this meeting.

Action:

The next meeting of the Round Table should include a more comprehensive discussion of On-Line Education, including the current status of this instructional mode within each educational sector and potential for collaboration across sectors.

Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Program: Executive Director Humphrey introduced this item by providing a background of this federal program that has been administered by the California Postsecondary Education Commission for many years. The new Elementary and Secondary Education Act that is being re-authorized currently in Congress proposes to eliminate this 2.5 percent portion of the larger program – a part that is designed to encourage and fund collaborative efforts between schools and higher education.

Executive Director Humphrey provided examples of the results of the collaborative projects that have been funded in California through this program. She asked that Round Table members advocate for continued funding of the portion of this program that is administered by the State Agency for Higher Education in each state.

Actions:

- Executive Director Humphrey will distribute a Fact Sheet and draft letter of support to Round Table members for their consideration.
- Each Round Table member will determine the manner by which it will advocate for the continuation of the State Grant part of this federal program.

Other Items: No other items were discussed.

Adjournment: Round Table members expressed appreciation to the University for convening this meeting.