



April 27, 2015

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 42 (Liu) Postsecondary Education: California Commission on Higher Education Performance and Accountability.

(A-4/7/2005)

Position: Oppose

Hearing Set: TBD

Dear Senator Lara,

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges urge you to vote “No” on SB 42 (Liu), which would establish a new Commission on Higher Education Performance and Accountability.

Our organizations would welcome a replacement for the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), which performed a significant role in providing data and coordination for higher education in California. CPEC was an asset to the state and has been missed since it was defunded by the governor in 2011.

However, the language of SB 42 proposes to expand the functions of CPEC under the new Commission on Higher Education Performance and Accountability into matters that are cause for significant concern. SB 42 would authorize the Commission on Higher Education Performance and Accountability to take on responsibilities that can best be managed at local levels and indeed cannot be performed effectively at the state level. This bill appears to empower the new commission with a level of oversight that could be intrusive and detrimental to all of California higher education.

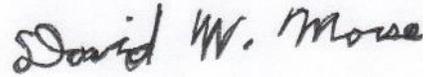
In addition, the proposed composition of the Commission on Higher Education Performance and Accountability is cause for grave concern. This commission would be comprised of no representation from the segments of California higher education and indeed explicitly excludes representation from the higher education segments. Instead, the commission would be comprised of individuals who are not connected to the segments they would oversee and who may lack understanding of the ways in which their decisions might impact our educational systems.

For these reasons, we are deeply concerned with SB 42 in its current form and urge your ‘No’ vote on the measure.

Sincerely,



Andrea Harvey-York
Faculty Association
of California Community Colleges



David Morse, President
Academic Senate for California
Community Colleges

cc: Honorable Carol Liu
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee