



**January 27, 2021**

Greetings Legislative Liaisons!

I hope this email finds you well, although busy, I'm sure.

Legislation last year was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, bills on health and economy may be prioritized and less controversial topics may be captured omnibus or trailer bill language. We do expect a busy legislative year.

In this letter, you will find information on:

- Your role as a Legislative Liaison
- The ASCCC Legislative and Advocacy Committee,
- The ASCCC Legislative Priorities for the 2021 calendar year,
- The state budget, and
- Legislative information for 2021.

If you have additional questions, please email [info@asccc.org](mailto:info@asccc.org).

### **Your Role as a Legislative Liaison**

Each local academic senate may establish a legislative liaison as single faculty member or a faculty member serving as a contact representing a group of faculty dependent upon what works best for the local academic senate and faculty. Some of the responsibilities for consideration are listed below. It should be noted that these are just suggestions and should be determined by the local academic senate.

- Attend local academic senate meetings and report regularly or as requested about legislation and legislative issues
- Facilitate or act as a resource for local discussions of legislation and contemplated legislation
- Identify legislation issues of particular local concern and convey those to the Legislative and Advocacy Committee
- Communicate opportunities and, at times, the urgent need for faculty participation in legislative activities
- Collaborate with local senate officers to create and or improve a mechanism for the most effective communication with faculty on campus about legislative issues of common concern
- Serve as a conduit between the local faculty and the Legislative and Advocacy Committee representatives in the area
- As funding permits, attend state-level events and meetings (ASCCC, FACCC), participate in panels or make presentations as appropriate
- Monitor the legislative listserv ([legliaison@listserv.cccnext.net](mailto:legliaison@listserv.cccnext.net)) and the [Legislative Updates webpage](#) and report to the local Academic Senate and, as determined to be appropriate in collaboration with local senate officers, faculty at large on campus

- Work with local student organizations and advocacy groups to help them with their efforts as well as encourage them to join in efforts led by others.

### **ASCCC Legislative and Advocacy Committee**

The Legislative and Advocacy Committee is responsible for providing the ASCCC President with background information on all legislation related to academic and professional matters. Through research and analysis, and representation on appropriate advocacy groups, the Committee will provide the ASCCC President and the Executive Committee with recommendations on such legislation. The Committee is also responsible for providing legislative alerts to the local academic senates, identifying liaison persons to contact legislators, and providing support to local academic senates regarding California's legislative process as it has bearing on academic and professional matters. It is the goal of the Committee to provide the ASCCC President and the Executive Committee with the resources to ensure that the ASCCC is recognized as the voice of authority with the Legislature and Governor's Office in the areas of academic and professional matters.

Members for 2020-21:

- Ginni May, Chair and ASCCC Vice President
- Christopher Howerton, Woodland Community College
- Eric Wada, Folsom Lake College
- Alexis Litsky, City College of San Francisco
- Stephanie Curry, ASCCC North Representative
- Geoffrey Dyer, Taft College
- Adrienne C. Brown, Los Angeles Harbor College

Meeting minutes may be found [here](#).

### **ASCCC Legislative Priorities**

**Aligning transfer pathways** remains a significant priority for the ASCCC. We recognize the many challenges students face when attempting to transfer from the community colleges system to a four-year university, and believe that there are several areas where transfer can be improved. Funding an intersegmental, discipline-specific dialogue and professional development that brings together faculty from the CCCs, CSUs, and UCs to discuss emerging discipline trends that will ensure consistent transfer expectations and pedagogical alignment among the public higher education systems of California. These efforts, coupled with resources for counseling and advising at all three systems, will improve articulation processes and allow greater access for students seeking assistance in transfer. Additionally, clean up language around the Associate Degrees for Transfer that would allow a few majors to exceed the 60-unit restriction currently in Education Code would provide additional options for transfer to the CSU, AICCU, and HBCU systems.

**Increasing the diversity of faculty** in the California Community College system remains a priority in our work this year. These efforts have been supported by one-time funding in the governor's budget in the past, but will require a significant investment in the hiring of full-time faculty to continue to move the needle in terms of diversity. Funding to help implement changes to the Equal Employment Opportunity requirements and other actions towards increasing the hiring of more diverse full-time faculty can only help to strengthen our colleges.

A third priority is the **expansion of the baccalaureate offerings** in the California Community College system. At our fall 2019 plenary session, the delegates representing the 114 degree granting colleges in our system (at that time) voted to support the removal of the pilot designation from the 15 programs currently offering baccalaureates, and recommended an expansion of the program, particularly in allied health. We recognize this would require a duplication of programs with other state systems of higher education, but the capacity and equity issues compel us to make this recommendation on behalf of our students.

Perhaps most significantly, the ASCCC has also prioritized **strengthening the ethnic studies requirement** for the California community colleges through the California Code of Regulations, Title 5. At our fall 2020 Plenary Session, our delegates approved a resolution calling for the ASCCC to work with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to create language making the completion of at least one ethnic studies course a graduation requirement for the California community colleges. Working with our intersegmental partners through the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates along with discipline faculty and the Chancellor's Office, we anticipate proposed language being introduced to the Board of Governors in the next few months. This requirement, while only a small step towards addressing the systemic racism that exists in all structures of power, is the beginning of the efforts of the ASCCC and our stakeholder partners in decolonizing our curriculum and promoting the voices of all instead of just a few.

Finally, in order to support students and increase their abilities to be successful, student basic needs must be met. To that end, the ASCCC fully supports **financial aid reform and basic needs funding**.

### **California Governor's January Budget Proposal – January 8, 2021**

The Governor's January Budget Proposal came out on January 8, 2021. The budget outlook is much better than initial projections but is still uncertain moving past the 2021-22 Fiscal Year. From now until the Governor's May revise comes out there could be quite a few changes. You can access budget information at the following links:

- 2021-22 Joint Analysis of the Governor's Budget Proposal: [PowerPoint](#)
- 2021-22 Joint Analysis of the Governor's Budget Proposal: [PDF](#)
- 2021-22 Budget Legislative Analyst's Office webpage: [Overview of the Governor's Budget](#)
- Department of Finance California Budget 2021-22: [webpage](#)
- Assembly Budget Committee: [webpage](#)

### **Legislative Information**

ASCCC Legislative Reports can be found on each ASCCC Executive Committee Agenda found [here](#). The reports include up-to date information available at the time of the writing of the report. Additional information may be found [here](#).

Timeline:

- Legislative Deadlines can be found [here – assembly](#) or [here – senate](#).
- Last day for bills to be introduced (for 2021) is February 19, 2021

Links:

- California Legislative Information Home page: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>
- ASCCC Legislative and Advocacy Committee page: <https://asccc.org/directory/legislative-and-advocacy-committee>

The 2021-22 (two-year) Regular Session convened for Organizational Session at 12 noon on December 7, 2020.

Useful Websites:

CA Assemblymembers: <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers>

CA Senators: <https://www.senate.ca.gov/senators>

California Legislative Information: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml>

Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO): <https://lao.ca.gov>

California Department of Finance: <http://www.dof.ca.gov>

Glossary of Terms: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/glossaryTemplate.xhtml>

New Laws Report: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/newLawTemplate.xhtml>