

# Legislative Activities: How the Senate Represents You in Sacramento

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ACADEMIC SENATE  
for CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

# Agenda

- Legislative update
- Where can you get information on legislation?
- Lobbying vs. advocacy
- Allowable lobbying activities
- ASCCC vs. local senates
- What we do now
- What more could we do



# Legislative Update

## Recently Passed Legislation

- AB 955 (Two-Tiered Funding)
- SB 440 (Transfer Degrees)
- AB 86 (Adult Education)



# Legislative Update

## Recently Delayed Legislation

- SB 520 (Online Education)
- SB 173 (Noncredit)



# Legislative Update

## Proposed Legislation Sponsored by the Chancellor's Office

- Stabilization Funding
- Concurrent Enrollment
- Professional Development Funding
- Continuous Appropriation



# Legislative Update

## Proposed Legislation Sponsored by CCLC

- Student Fees—Cap at 10 units
- Reforming Cal Grants
- Auditing Fees (suggested by ASCCC)



# Where Can You Get Info?

- [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov), click on “Bill Information”
- “Bill Text” ---search for Assembly or Senate bills by:
  - Bill number
  - Author
  - Keyword

“Analyses” ---analysis of a bill by Assembly and Senate committees, usually just prior to a hearing in front of that committee.



- FACCC ([www.faccc.org](http://www.faccc.org))
  - Click on Advocacy/bills
- California Federation of Teachers ([www.cft.org](http://www.cft.org))
  - Click on Get Involved/Take Legislative Action
- California Teachers Association ([www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org))
  - Click on Issues and Actions/Legislation
- Chancellor's Office ([www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu))
  - Click on System Operations/Divisions/Governmental Relations
- Community College League of California ([www.ccleague.org](http://www.ccleague.org))
  - Click on Governmental Relations





# Lobbying vs. Advocacy

- Lobbying generally consists of communications that are intended to influence specific legislation
- Advocacy is defined as active support for a cause, idea, or policy.

Lobbying	Advocacy
Normally Defined by Statute	Public Education
State and Local Laws May Vary From IRS Provisions	Media and Messaging Campaigns
Usual Key Elements: Communication, Subject Matter & Money	Litigation
	Organizing Activities
	Protests & March



# Allowable Lobbying Activities for ASCCC

## 501 (c) 6 under Tax Code

- May engage in lobbying activity germane to the common business interests of members
- Political campaign activity permitted so long as it does not constitute the organization's primary activity
- General advocacy unlimited in furtherance of organization's purpose
- Advocating for or against ballot measures permitted
- Encouraging people to participate in the process in a non-biased, neutral manner permitted



# Is Lobbying Permitted?

- Allowable lobbying activity for nonprofits
  - Defined by federal, state, and local rules
  - Must remain nonpartisan
  - Accurate reporting on state disclosure reports and Form 990



# So... Can We?

- Write and encourage people to write letters?
- Meet with/speak to public officials about legislation?
- Testify at a public hearing?
- Provide research, analysis and commentary?
- Publicly endorse or oppose specific legislation?
- Invite an official to visit?
- Raise funds for candidates?
- Publicly support or oppose a candidate?



# What we currently do....

- Lobbying
  - Letters to legislators
  - Attend hearings
  - Take positions - resolutions
  - Work with local senates to take positions



# What we currently do....

- Advocacy
  - Attend lobby days (ICAS, CO, FACCC, etc. )
  - Talk with legislators and legislative staff
  - Communicate with partners (CoFO, CO, CCLC, etc.)
  - Presentations at events
- Chancellor's Office Legislative Task Force
  - Plan for system proposals of legislation



# What more could we do?

- Dedicated webpage
- Legislate update – similar to president's update
- Strengthen relationships between the Senate and legislators
- Create a legislative agenda of our own?
- Hire a professional lobbyist?



# What more could we do?

- Suggestions from audience: What more could ASCCC do to represent your voice or to keep you informed?





# References and Resources

- Center for Lobbying for Public Interest,  
<http://www.clpi.org/>
- Standards for Excellence,  
<http://www.standardsforexcellenceinstitute.org/dnn/>
- FACCC Legislative Tracker  
<http://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?&id=88fe9ac9-0a3b-4726-91a3-2a18d3d894f2>
- CCLC Government Relations Page  
<http://www.ccleague.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3284>

