

CoFO

COUNCIL OF FACULTY ORGANIZATIONS



ASCCC
Academic Senate for
California Community
Colleges
Dolores Davison, President



CCCI
California Community
College Independents
Jeffrey Michels, President



CCA/CTA
Community College
Association/California
Teachers Association
Eric Kaljumagi, President



CCC/CFT
Community College
Council/California
Federation of Teachers
Jim Mahler, President



FACCC
Faculty Association of
California Community
Colleges
Debbie Klein, President

May 21, 2021

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Community College May Revise Proposals

The Council of Faculty Organizations (CoFO), representing more than 58,000 faculty in the California Community College (CCC) system, recognizes the challenges of drafting a responsible state budget during these unusual times and appreciates your ongoing support for our colleges. We are writing with a unified voice to highlight what faculty believe are the system's greatest needs and to recommend adjustments to the Governor's May Revise.

We appreciate and support the Governor's proposals in the revision that fully pay down the deferrals, increase the cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA), and remove the proposed contingencies on the COLA. However, we continue to believe the community college COLA should match the COLA for K-12 schools as well as the base increases for the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC), all of which are at 5 percent. We also support an extension of the hold-harmless provision of the student-centered funding formula to help provide fiscal stability while community colleges recover from the widespread impacts of COVID-19.

We were disappointed with the lack of additional funding to support part-time faculty or full-time faculty hiring. Research shows student access to faculty, whether full-time or part-time, is the most critical factor for ensuring student success. Moreover, increasing the diversity of faculty to better reflect the students we serve is a top priority for all of our organizations and increased funding is required to make the necessary progress.

Funding for more full-time positions and part-time faculty support should be an ongoing annual budget priority to accomplish both goals and promote academic quality, ensuring that all student populations are able to achieve their educational goals. Specifically, we ask the Legislature to increase funding for part-time faculty programs by \$15 million ongoing. One-time funding can also be leveraged to increase investment for part-time faculty, especially if the funds can be used over multiple years. We are grateful that the Senate and Assembly have prioritized investment in faculty in its prior budget proposals and we hope the legislature can fulfill this critical investment in this budget cycle.

To best support our faculty and students, we recommend diverting some of the funding from the Zero Cost Textbook proposal and the COVID block grant. The current proposed allocation for the Zero Cost Text book

proposal is significantly higher than what is needed to achieve its goals. Similarly, funding for COVID relief is necessary, but sufficient funding has already been allocated from the federal government and other state assistance.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued support of our institutions and are encouraged by the state budget's healthy outlook.

Respectfully,



Dolores Davison, President
Academic Senate for California Community Colleges



Jeffrey Michels, President
California Community College Independents



Eric Kaljumägi, President
Community College Association/California Teachers Association



Jim Mahler, President
Community College Council/California Federation of Teachers



Debbie Klein, President
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

CC: Hon. Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
Hon. John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education Finance
Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education Finance
Mark Martin, Assembly Budget Committee Consultant
Anita Lee, Senate Budget Committee Consultant
Lyndsay Mitchell, Republican Consultant
Mónica Henestroza, Office of Speaker Rendon
Megan Baier, Office of Senate Pro Tem Atkins
Lande Ajose, Higher Education Policy Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom
Michelle Nguyen, Department of Finance
Daniel Hanower, Department of Finance
Paul Steenhausen, Legislative Analyst's Office