June 11, 2013

Corrected: Student Success Act (Matriculation) was left off my list!

Good morning! I'm still in Washington, DC, but our great Team League was up last night following the budget conference committee and asked me to spread some good news to you!

Legislative Democrats and the governor reached agreement yesterday on a spending plan that the budget conference committee—which officially reconciles the versions of the budget from each house—officially ratified last night. It is likely the state budget will be approved by each house on Thursday.

For community colleges, we were able to increase the funding above the governor's May revision proposal by $68.2 million. Below are the main augmentations (wow, it feels good to use that word!) in the community college budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, assuming the governor does not veto any item:

- Enrollment restoration: 1.63%
- Cost-of-living adjustment: 1.57%
- Student Success: $50 million augmentation (total of $99.2m)
- Proposition 39 energy efficiency: $48 million (to be allocated by Chancellor's Office)
- Deferred Maintenance: $30 million
- Online education coordination and access: $16.9 million
- Extended Opportunities Programs and Services: $15 million
- Disabled Students Programs and Services: $15 million
- CalWORKs: $8 million
- Academic Senate: $150,000

The final budget agreement accepted the governor's conservative revenue estimates. While many of us would have preferred faster restoration of public services cut since 2008-09, it does make a lot of sense to see what the next six months hold.

Just yesterday, the state controller reported that May's personal income tax revenue (primarily a barometer of ongoing withholding of salary/wage income) was 20% above projections. California is roaring back, but none of us want to repeat the mistake of overspending only to repeat the heartbreaking cuts of recent years.

We can't thank you enough for your advocacy and passion. Also, we offer a strong hat-tip to our Californians for Community Colleges partners with whom we developed budget priorities and coordinated advocacy efforts.

Have a great day!

Sincerely,

Scott Lay
President and Chief Executive Officer
Orange Coast College '94