

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1062 (Levine) – As Amended March 28, 2017

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: Trustees of the California State University

SUMMARY: This bill would revise the membership of the Trustees of the California State University (CSU) by requiring the Governor to appoint two additional student members. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Increases student members of the Trustees of the CSU to four members, who must have at least sophomore year standing at the institutions they attend and remain in good standing as students during their respective terms
- 2) Stipulates that the term of appointment shall be for two years, except for one initial appointment in the 2018-2019 academic year, where a student shall be appointed to a voting student trustee position.
- 3) Removes a requirement that the Governor choose from a list of more than two, but less than five candidates.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Existing law establishes the various campuses of the CSU under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU. (Education Code (EC) Section 66010 et seq.)
- 2) Under current law (EDC 66602), the CSU Board of Trustees is comprised of, at any time, 25 members, as follows:
 - a) Five (5) ex-officio members: (a) the Governor, (b) the Lieutenant Governor, (c) Speaker of the Assembly, (d) the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and (e) the Chancellor of the CSU.
 - b) Sixteen (16) Governor appointees confirmed by two-thirds of the Senate, each serving an eight-year term.
 - c) One (1) alumni association representative, who cannot be an employee of the CSU, appointed by the Governor serving a two-year term.
 - d) One (1) tenured CSU faculty representative appointed by the Governor, for a two-year term, from a list of names of at least two persons furnished by the CSU Academic Senate. The faculty member cannot participate on any subcommittees of the board responsible for collective bargaining negotiations.
 - e) Two (2) CSU students appointed by the Governor for staggered two-year terms from a list of nominees furnished by the governing board of any statewide student organization that represents CSU students and the student body organizations of the CSU campuses. Only one student is eligible to vote at any time.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* According to the author, “Students are severely underrepresented on the CSU Board of Trustees compared to the population on CSU campuses. Currently, there is one student voting member to represent 478,638 students. Since the 2011-12 academic year, student enrollment has grown by over 50,000 students, or 12.2 percent. Students have never been granted more than one member with voting power. The student population is directly affected by decisions the Board makes such as the recent vote to increase tuition cost. Tuition was raised by \$270, or 5 percent, for undergraduate students adding to already burdensome school-related costs. The Governor is currently allowed to appoint sixteen members to the Board of Trustees. This bill ensures that students will have more representation.”

Background. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the oversight of the CSU. The Trustees adopt rules, regulations, and policies governing the CSU. The Trustees have authority over curricular development, use of property, development of facilities, and fiscal and human resources management.

The 25-member Board of Trustees meets six times per year. Board meetings allow for communication among the Trustees, Chancellor, campus presidents, executive committee members of the statewide Academic Senate, representatives of the California State Student Association, and officers of the statewide Alumni Council.

Policy considerations. In 1999, the Legislature added one additional student to the Board of Trustees. At that time, the California State Student Association (CSSA) believed additional representation was needed on behalf of students in order to assure their needs were being met. Furthermore, they had contended the student population had grown by incredible amounts since the initial inception of a student trustee. The CSSA argued it was nearly impossible for one student to represent the concerns of hundreds of thousands of students and 23 campuses, especially when there are a number of committees and subcommittees to attend as a representative of the Board of Trustees.

The full-time student population at CSU has grown by approximately 39,000, or 9.5 percent, since the last change in the statutes that govern CSU Trustee appointments. It could reasonably be argued that greater student representation on the Board of Trustees is warranted.

Prior legislation. AB 2386 (Williams, 2016), vetoed, would have revised the membership of the Trustees of the CSU by requiring the Governor to appoint a permanent nonfaculty CSU employee for a two-year term.

SB 325 (Block, Chapter 175, Statutes of 2013), waived the tuition fee for student Trustees of the CSU for the duration of their terms of office and allowed sophomores to be appointed student Trustees.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

None received

Opposition

None received

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