

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2014

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Das Williams, Chair  
AB 2324 (Williams) – As Introduced: February 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Trustees of the California State University: faculty member of the board.

SUMMARY: Provides that the two-year term of office of the faculty member of the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees (BOT) may continue after the term expires for one additional two-year term if the Governor has not appointed a successor.

EXISTING LAW establishes the CSU to be administered by the BOT, which consists of:

- 1) Five ex officio members: the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Chancellor;
- 2) An Alumni Trustee appointed by the CSU Statewide Alumni Council to serve for a two-year term, which expires at the end of the two years;
- 3) A Faculty Trustee appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees proposed by the Statewide Academic Senate to serve a two-year term which commences on July 1 and expires on June 30 two years thereafter;
- 4) Two student trustees appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees proposed by the California State Student Association. These student trustees serve staggered two-year terms. One has full voting powers; the second, non-voting student trustee succeeds to the voting position upon the expiration of the term of the first. The terms commence on July 1, every other year, and expire on June 30 two years thereafter;
- 5) Sixteen remaining trustees are appointed by the Governor, confirmed by 2/3 of the State Senate, and serve eight year terms. Trustees confirmed by the senate remain on the board until a replacement is named or 60 days after their term expires whichever comes first.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Purpose of this bill. According to the author, in recent years there have been lengthy intervals during which no Faculty Trustee has been appointed to the BOT. The longest period was from 2009 to 2011, which resulted in the Faculty Trustee position being vacant for an entire two-year term. This occurred more recently in the summer and fall of 2013, a period of several months during which time the BOT met twice without a Faculty Trustee. The author believes that the absence of faculty representation is detrimental to the major, long-term decisions being made by the Board. This bill will ensure CSU faculty are represented on the BOT by automatically allowing the Faculty Trustee to serve an additional two-year term in the absence of a timely appointment by the Governor.

Student members. As previously outlined, two students serve staggered two-year terms on the CSU BOT. During a student's first year, he or she may participate fully in BOT meetings but may not vote. The student may vote during his or her second year on the BOT. The intent of

this staggered voting provision was to allow the student a year to transition onto the board and learn the issues before exercising their voting responsibilities in the second year. Concerns were raised that the strict staggering unintentionally limited student participation when the voting student was unable to attend the meeting. The law was amended in 2013 (AB 447, Williams) to authorize the non-voting student Trustee to vote at a BOT meeting if the voting student member is absent from the meeting due to illness, a family emergency, or a medical emergency.

Arguments in support. CSU notes that "faculty plays an important role in the success of the 23 CSU campuses and their students. This value is supported by the Education Code, which places a faculty member on the CSU's 26-member Board of Trustees under the model of shared governance. This proposal makes certain the perspective of the faculty is always heard and has a vote on academic matters before the board."

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California State University (Sponsor)  
Academic Senate of the California State University

Opposition

None on file.

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