

Date of Hearing: June 11, 2013

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Das Williams, Chair  
SB 325 (Block) – As Amended: April 1, 2013

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: Trustees of the California State University: student members

SUMMARY: Changes the requirements for service as a student trustee on the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees (BOT). Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Changes the grade level requirement for serving on the CSU BOT from students who have at least junior standing to students with at least sophomore year standing.
- 2) Requires that the tuition fee be waived for student members of the CSU BOT for the duration of their terms of office.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides that the CSU BOT be composed of the following ex officio members: the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and CSU Chancellor.
- 2) Provides that the CSU BOT be composed of the following members:
  - a) 16 members appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by two-thirds of the membership of the Senate;
  - b) A representative of the CSU alumni associations, selected for a two-year term by the CSU alumni council (this person cannot be a CSU employee during the two-year term);
  - c) Two student members with at least junior standing, appointed by the Governor, serving staggered two-year terms. One student trustee has full voting powers; the second, non-voting student trustee succeeds to the voting position upon the expiration of the term of the first; and,
  - d) A tenured CSU faculty member, appointed by the Governor for a two-year term (Education Code § 66602).

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, costs are minor and under \$50,000 annually.

COMMENTS: Need for the bill. According to the author, the goal of this measure is to establish parity with the requirements and benefits of service as a student Regent at the University of California (UC) and the CSU Student BOT.

According to the UC, a candidate for student Regent must be an undergraduate, graduate or professional student in good standing at a UC campus, but there are no grade level standing requirements. Additionally, the student Regent is reimbursed for expenses incurred for attendance at meetings of the Board and its Committees, and all mandatory University fees and tuition are waived during the academic years in which he or she serves as Regent-designate and as a member of the Board.

According to the CSU Office of the Chancellor, SB 325 is consistent with the Chancellor's interest in making sure that the CSU student Trustees are successful in their role. The CSU Office of the Chancellor states, "We believe that changing the law as proposed in SB 325, allowing sophomores and beyond to compete for this role, will expand opportunities for more of our students. This change is also more consistent with the UC student Regents who do not have any requirement for grade level standing."

Conflicting legislation. This measure appears to be in conflict with AB 46 (Pan), which was passed by this committee in March and is pending action in the Senate Education Committee. Staff recommend, in order to avoid chaptering-out issues, that the measures add double-jointing amendments.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California State Student Association  
California State University

Opposition

None on file.

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