

Date of Hearing: April 16, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 2834 (Rendon) – As Amended March 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: part-time faculty

SUMMARY: Revises the policy preferences of the Legislature with respect to part-time college faculty to express preferences that the names of part-time faculty be listed in the schedule of classes and the bulletin of classes offered once they are assigned to a course. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Stipulates, that whenever possible, California Community Colleges (CCC) and California State University (CSU) list the names of part-time faculty, once they are assigned to a course, instead of just describing part-time faculty as “staff” or “faculty.”
- 2) Stipulates, that whenever possible, CCC and CSU list the names of part-time faculty, once they are assigned to a course, in the bulletin of classes offered, rather than just describing them as “staff” or “faculty.”
- 3) Stipulates, that whenever possible, part-time faculty at both the CCC and the CSU should be informed of assignments at least six weeks in advance and part-time faculty should be paid for the first week of an assignment when class is cancelled less than two weeks before the beginning of a semester. If a class meets more than once per week, part-time faculty should be paid for all classes that were scheduled for that week.
- 4) Stipulates that CSU part-time faculty should be considered to be an integral part of their departments and given all the rights normally afforded to full-time faculty in the areas of book selection, participation in department activities, and the use of college resources, including by not limited to, telephones, copy machines, supplies, office space, mailboxes, clerical staff, library, and professional development.
- 5) Makes clarifying and technical changes.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the mission and function of the CCC, which, in part is to: 1) offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level for both younger and older students, including those persons returning to school; 2) authorizes the CCC to grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degrees; 3) requires the CCC to offer English as a Second Language instruction, adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level; and, 4) advance California’s economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous work force improvement (Education Code (EC) Section 66010.4).
- 2) Establishes that the CCC, a postsecondary education system in this state, is under the administration of the Board of Governors (BOG); and, specifies that the CCC consist of community college districts (EC Section 70900).

- 3) Requires the CCC BOG to provide leadership and direction in the continuing development of the California Community Colleges as an integral and effective element in the structure of public higher education in the state. The work of the BOG must at all times be directed to maintaining and continuing, to the maximum degree permissible, local authority and control in the administration of the CCC (EC Section 70901).
- 4) Establishes the CSU system, made of 23 campuses, and bestows upon the CSU Trustees, through the Board of Trustees, the power, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, and control of the CSU system (EC Section 66606 and 89030, et seq.).
- 5) Defines any person who is employed to teach at a CCD for not more than 67% of the hours per week considered a full-time assignment to be a part-time, temporary employee (EC Section 87482.5).
- 6) Stipulates that whenever possible, CCC part-time faculty:
 - a) Should be informed of assignments at least six weeks in advance;
 - b) Should be paid for the first week of an assignment when class is cancelled less than two weeks before the beginning of a semester. If a class meets more than once per week, part-time faculty should be paid for all classes that were scheduled for that week;
 - c) The names of part-time faculty should be listed in the schedule of classes rather than just described as “staff;” and,
 - d) Should be considered to be an integral part of their departments and given all the rights normally afforded to full-time faculty in the areas of book selection, participation in department activities, and the use of college resources, including, but not necessarily limited to, telephones, copy machines, supplies, office space, mail boxes, clerical staff, library, and professional development (EC Section 87482.8).
- 7) Defines “faculty” as those employees of community college districts who are employed in academic positions that are not designated as supervisory or management, as specified. Faculty include, but are not limited to, instructors, librarians, counselors, community college health services professionals, handicapped student programs and services professionals, and extended opportunity programs and services professionals (EC Section 87003).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This measure has been keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel Office.

COMMENTS: *Purpose of this measure.* According to the author, “California’s higher education systems are built on the outstanding work of our adjunct faculty. These part-time professors teach the majority of college and university courses, but often aren’t even identified by name on the schedule of classes or other course materials.”

The author states that, “AB 2834 will ensure that the proper names of adjunct faculty will be identified in schedules of classes for the CSU and CCC, in order to help create greater

transparency for students, and provide the dignity and recognition that faculty members deserve.”

Current process. With 116 campuses of the CCC, including the 100% online college, Calbright, and 23 campuses of the CSU, part-time faculty educate millions of students; and yet, due to the nature of these faculty members being part-time, it is not uncommon if a course is cancelled due to low enrollment numbers or budget changes, that the course part-time faculty teach are eliminated first (often without much warning to the part-time faculty or the students).

This measure seeks to pay part-time faculty for the first week of an assignment when class is cancelled less than two weeks before the beginning of a semester. However, there are a few campuses that are the quarter system.

Moving forward, the author may wish to ensure that should part-time faculty teach at a campus that is on the quarter system, part-time faculty will be adequately compensated should a course be cancelled within two weeks of the beginning of the course.

Currently, when students look at the schedule of classes or the bulletin of courses, for most campuses, students are met with “part-time faculty or instructor” and not the actual name of the individual teaching the course; which could be a challenge to students in not knowing who will teach their perspective courses.

This measure, whenever possible, asks the CCC and the CSU to specify the names of the part-time faculty or instructors who will teach courses.

Committee comments. This measure builds upon existing codified language surrounding CCC part-time faculty and aims to bring parity to CSU part-time faculty. Because the measure, consistent with existing codified language states, “whenever possible,” Committee Staff understands that it is not the intent of the author to usurp any collective bargaining agreements at the CCC or the CSU.

Related legislation. AB 2277 (Wallis), which will be heard by this Committee on April 16, 2024, in part, increases the maximum amount of instructional hours that a part-time CCC faculty member may teach at any one community college district.

Prior legislation. AB 654 (Goldberg), Chapter 882, Statutes of 2003, states that, whenever possible, CCC part-time faculty be compensated and extended certain professional privileges, as specified.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jeanice Warden / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960