

Assembly Higher Education Committee

Fall 2021: Informational Hearing Speaker Biographies

1) Panel 1 - Normalizing the Return to Campus, the Segments' Response to Safety, Health, and Economic concerns in the Post-Pandemic Era.

- a) Dr. Michael Brown - Provost and Executive Vice President for academic affairs of the University of California – Dr. Brown was appointed as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs of the University of California on September 5, 2017. As UC provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, he directs the development of academic and research policies; provides administrative oversight of the University's academic planning efforts; serves as liaison with the University-wide Academic Senate, and directs planning, policy development, and strategy in such areas as K-12 academic preparation, international academic activities, library planning, University Press, research, and student affairs. Dr. Brown began his career at UC Santa Barbara in 1993 as an associate professor in the Department of Counseling, Clinical and School Psychology, and was appointed professor in the same discipline in 2000. In 2009, he became acting dean for Extension and Off-Campus Studies before being named as dean of UC Santa Barbara Extension in 2011. He has held numerous leadership positions within the UC system, including chair and vice chair of the UC Academic Senate, chair and vice chair of the Academic Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) and faculty representative to the Board of Regents.
- b) Dr. Sylvia Alva – Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the California State University – Dr. Alva was appointed as the executive vice chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs in August 2021. Prior to joining the CSU Chancellor's executive team, Dr. Alva was the provost and vice president for academic affairs for California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Dr. Alva began her career in higher education as an assistant professor of child and adolescent development at California State University, Fullerton.
- c) Dr. Daisy Gonzalez – Acting Chancellor of the California Community Colleges – Dr. Gonzales is uniquely qualified to serve as acting chancellor,

having overseen operational and strategic policy planning for the Chancellor's Office since 2017. A fearless advocate for students, Dr. Gonzales is a former Aspen Institute presidential fellow who leads the system's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, serves on the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and was selected woman of the year by the California Legislative Women's Caucus and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis in 2021.

- d) Mr. Alex Graves – Vice President for Government Relations for the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities - Alex Graves joined AICCU in January 2019. As vice president for government relations, Mr. Graves is the chief lobbyist and is responsible for legislative advocacy and public policy leadership in support of independent higher education. Mr. Graves serves as the liaison between AICCU and the Governor's Office, the California Legislature, California Student Aid Commission, and other public bodies. Prior to joining AICCU, Mr. Graves worked as the legislative advocate at the California State University Office of Advocacy & State Relations, where he staffed legislation pertaining to admissions, financial aid, K-12 and teacher preparation, student basic needs, and transfer. He has also worked as a legislative assistant at the Alzheimer's Association, and as a graduate research assistant at the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy. In 2016-17 Mr. Graves completed the California Education Policy Fellowship Program, a year-long program designed to help equip education leaders address the state's unique education policy needs.

2) Panel 2 - The Post-Pandemic Future of Higher Education: How can WE recover with Equity?

- a) Dolores M. Davison, President of the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges - Dolores Davison currently serves as the President of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). She previously served as North Representative, Area B Representative, Secretary, and Vice President prior to being elected as president in April 2020. She also served on numerous ASCCC statewide committees before being elected to the Executive Committee in 2010. She is also a professor and former department chair in the Departments of History and Women's

Studies at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California. After teaching part time at the college for six years, she was hired as a tenure track faculty member in 2000, and received tenure in 2004. She served as the Foothill College Academic Senate President for 6.5 years, as well as serving as District Academic Senate President for Foothill-DeAnza and as curriculum chair.

- b) Robert Horwitz - Chair of the University of California Systemwide Academic Senate – Professor Horwitz has been a part of the faculty of the Department of Communication at UC San Diego since 1982. He received his BA in Social Thought & Institutions from Stanford, and PhD in Sociology from Brandeis University. Professor Horwitz has chaired his Department three times. Among many other University commitments, he served on the Committee for Academic Personnel 2013-16, chairing it 2015-16. He was Chair of the San Diego Division of the Academic Senate in 2018-19.
- c) Gerardo Chavez – President of the Student Senate for the California Community College – Gerardo Chavez (He/Him/His) is studying History at Riverside City College (RCC) and served as the RCC student government secretary and Region IX delegate for the 2019-2020 academic year. His time as Region IX delegate inspired him to continue state-level advocacy so he served as the Regional Affairs Director for Region IX in the 2020-2021 term. Now as President, he looks forward to continuing working with student leaders to ensure that the SSSCC is serving and representing all 2.1 million CCC students in all platforms, gauge the voice of students to system partners and California Legislature, and empower student leaders in the regions. Mr. Chavez is passionate about bolstering student participation in participatory governance, college affordability and accessibility to basic needs and resources.
- d) Krishan Malhotra – Vice President of Legislative Affairs for the Cal State Student Association - Krishan Malhotra is the Vice President of Legislative Affairs for the Cal State Student Association, where he serves as the official voice for nearly 500,000 CSU students and all 23 CSU campuses at

a Statewide and Federal level. Krishan is in his third and final year at Stanislaus State in Turlock, where he was born, and is majoring in Business with a concentration in marketing. In Krishan's spare time, he is a Realtor at PMZ Real Estate in Modesto and President of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity."

- e) Lawrence (Steven) Dorsey III – President of the Student Association of La Sierra University – Lawrence Steven Dorsey III is a longtime native of Monrovia California, a psychology major with a minor in religious studies, and a senior at La Sierra University. Steve has been a member of the student senate at La Sierra, worked with residential life in various capacities, and currently serves as student body president. Committed to change on all levels, it is his plan to explore the intersectionality of psychology and religion through pursuing his Ph.D. in clinical psychology after completing his undergraduate studies.

