

Date of Hearing: March 24, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 337 (Medina) – As Introduced January 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

SUMMARY: Eliminates the prohibition against a student member voting during the student member's first year on the Board of the Governors (BOG) of the California Community Colleges (CCC), and makes technical conforming changes.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the membership of the CCC BOG to include two student members appointed from a list of names of at least three persons submitted to the Governor by the student organization recognized by the BOG, and specifies:
 - a) The term of office of one student member of the board shall commence on July 1 of an even-numbered year, and expire on June 30 two years thereafter. The term of office of the other student member of the board shall commence on July 1 of an odd-numbered year, and expire on June 30 two years thereafter. A student member who graduates from his or her college on or after January 1 of the second year of his or her term of office may serve the remainder of the term;
 - b) During the first year of a student member's term, a student member shall be a member of the board and may attend all meetings of the board and its committees. At these meetings, a student member may fully participate in discussion and debate, but shall not vote. During the second year of a student member's term, a student member may exercise the same right to attend meetings of the board, and its committees, and shall have the same right to vote as the members appointed as specified; and,
 - c) Notwithstanding b) above, if a student member resigns from office or a vacancy is otherwise created in that office during the second year of a student member's term, the remaining student member shall immediately assume the office created by the vacancy and all of the participation privileges of the second-year student member, including the right to vote, for the remainder of that term of office. (Education Code (EDC) Section 71000)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* According to the author, "This bill seeks to increase student representation on the BOG by allowing both student representatives on the board to vote. Currently, only one of the two student representatives has the ability to vote on behalf of the institution's 2.1 million students. Community college students have historically lacked adequate student representation. This bill is a reasonable step towards establishing equitable representation on the BOG and helps elevate the voice and needs of California's 2.1 million community college students."

Background. Under current law, the CCC BOG consists of 17 voting members. These include:

- 1) Twelve (12) members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of 2/3 of the membership of the Senate. These members serve in staggered six-year terms. Two of the thirteen (13) members must be current or former elected members of a local CCC district governing board;
- 2) One voting student member and one nonvoting student member, as specified, to be appointed by the Governor from a list of names of at least three persons submitted to the Governor by the student organization recognized by the BOG;
- 3) Two tenured faculty members, for two-year terms, appointed by the Governor from a list of names of at least three persons furnished by the Academic Senate of the CCCs;
- 4) One classified employee, for a two-year term, appointed by the Governor from a list of at least three persons furnished by the exclusive representatives of classified employees of the CCCs; and,
- 5) The Lieutenant Governor.

Who currently represents the students? Following the cancellation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Student Association of Community Colleges (CalSACC) in May 2005 due to a reduction in membership, BOG formally recognized the Student Senate for the California Community Colleges (SSCCC) in July of 2006 as the representative voice of CCC students.

The SSSCC wrote to the Committee, noting that, “Our system educates over 2.3 million students who come from all walks of life and constitute the most diverse system of higher education in the country. Each of these students has unique lived experiences and different viewpoints or problems as a result of their background. To ensure adequate representation and equity, it is essential to provide full vote to the second student member...providing the second student trustee with a full vote would allow for more recognition of the diverse range of student’s views, create equity with the CSU system, and send a strong message to the rest of the higher education system about the importance of including the student perspective to inform higher education about student needs.”

Prior legislation. AB 2190 (Medina, 2020) was identical to the provisions of this bill, and was not set for a hearing in the Senate Education Committee.

AB 514 (Medina), Chapter 61, Statutes of 2019, increases the voting rights of the student members of the CSU Board of Trustees by removing the non-voting status of one of the two student members, thereby giving both students voting rights.

SB 283 (Maldonado), Chapter 35, Statutes of 2007, established "a student organization recognized by the BOG", rather than CalSACC, as the entity responsible for submitting a list of at least three names of students to the Governor from which he or she will appoint the student member representative to the CCC BOG.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Teachers Association
Community College League of California
Generation Up
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

Opposition

None on file

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