

Assembly Higher Education Committee

Fall 2020: COVID-19 Update

1) **Fall Re-Opening**

a) Statewide Guidance for the Fall -

- i) On August 7, 2020, Governor Newsom released industry guidelines for [Institutions of Higher Education](#) (IHE). The guidelines and consideration were intended to help IHE and their community plan and prepare to resume in-person instruction. The guidelines were completed in consultation with Cal/OSHA and the California Department of Public Health to provide equitable and safety precautions to ensure the safety of students and workers on campus.
 - (1) The guidelines include requiring campuses to have a COVID-19 prevention plan, facial coverings and social distancing requirements for both faculty and students and cleaning and disinfecting guides for frequently used spaces.
 - (2) While every campus must follow the issued guidelines, they have the authority to put plans into place that best work for their specific campus. Campuses have a variety of ways they are ensuring the safety of their faculty, staff, and students on campus.
- ii) Are there additional guidelines for IHE's to follow? The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) issued guidelines for IHE](#) earlier in the year, which many IHE consulted when creating their own campus plans. The CDC's guidelines include risk ratings for settings and plans for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 including plans for classroom activities, housing settings, and athletic engagements.

b) Will IHEs be offering virtual or in-person instruction in the fall?

- i) As of August 25, 2020, the vast majority of California Community Colleges (CCC), the entire California State University system (CSU), and the entire University of California (UC) system will be offering distance/online learning models for the fall term. To date, the only exemption the Assembly Higher Education Committee was able to find was one CCC, College of the Siskiyous which is open for face-to-face instruction per county guidelines.

- (1) While the majority of courses offered will be online, a select few that require in-person labs will be conducted on campus. Students are expected to wear masks and the labs have been re-arranged to accommodate 6-foot social distancing for all participants. Some of the courses which require on-campus labs include studio art, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses, and some technical education courses offered at the CCC.
- ii) As of August 25, 2020, the majority of independent universities are offering the same model as the public sector colleges. Stanford, University of Southern California, Scripps College, Azusa Pacific University, and Pepperdine University have all announced they will be offering online/distance education to students in the fall. At this time, the only college the Assembly Higher Education Committee (AHED) has been made aware of offering in-person instruction is Simpson University in Redding, CA.
- c) Are the individual campus prevention and preparation COVID-19 plans available to the public?
- i) CCC System – In addition to each campus having a designated COVID-19 response page, the [Chancellor of the CCC has issued an array of guidelines and executive order to help ease the transition into online learning](#). Additionally, the Chancellor of the CCC issues a newsletter every three to four days which includes an assortment of COVID-19 resources for students and faculty.
- ii) CSU – Each of the CSU campuses have their own emergency preparedness plans which have been approved by the Chancellor’s Office and include policies to address any challenges or disruptions to academic learning that may occur due to the pandemic. [The campus plans are available to the public through the CalState website](#).
- iii) UC – Each of the UC campuses have their own emergency preparedness plan and policies. Each plan can be found under the [Coronavirus resource page](#) on the UC website along with issues of the UC weekly COVID-19 updates. UC also issues weekly COVID-19 updates

iv) Independent Universities – The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) has a [COVID-19 resources page](#) which provides links to resources for independent colleges to consider when creating their fall preparedness plan. Additionally, the [AICCU provided colleges](#) with their recommendations on how to best protect staff, faculty, and students upon reopening.

(1) Additionally, each independent university examined by AHED had a designated COVID-19 page on their campus website, most of which include a campus preparedness plan.

2) Students

a) Are any IHEs permitting students to live on campus? (Please note the below information is as of September 3, and due to the fluid nature of infection rates plans are subject to change).

- i) CCC –Of the 11 community colleges that offer housing to their students, only Sierra College has elected to close their dormitories. The other 10 community colleges are offering housing to students but have significantly limited the capacity of the dorms in order to maintain social distancing as recommended by the Governor’s guidelines.
- ii) CSU –As part of the campus plan, each University was asked to address whether student housing would reopen in the fall. With the exception of Cal State LA, all CSU campuses will be offering student housing in a reduced capacity this fall. Cal State LA’s housing will remain closed and their website confirms the University will not be offering emergency housing for students. On September 6, 2020, Chico State University closed their University Housing due to an increase in COVID – 19 cases. Students were provided refunds for their on-campus housing and were encouraged to move off-campus.
- iii) UC – Each campus has a different plan for re-opening their facilities to students. UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, UCLA, and UC San Diego are all offering housing in limited capacity. As of September 3, UC Davis

- has yet to confirm if students will have housing on campus due to pending approval from the city and county.
- iv) Independent Colleges and Universities – At this time, each campus has different plans for students to return to campus. The following campuses have closed their dorms to all students except for those with a demonstrated financial need (i.e. homeless students or foster youth): Stanford, Pepperdine, USC, Scripps College, and Santa Clara University. However other campuses such as Harvey Mudd College and Simpson College will be welcoming students into the dormitories in a restricted manner to comply with social distancing and health guidelines.
- b) Are Student Services still available to students even if the campus is closed?
- i) Health Centers and Mental Health Services –
- (1) CCC – Depending on the district, some colleges have kept their health service centers and mental health centers open for in-person visitations. Otherwise all services have been transitioned to an online platform to ensure students continue to have the services they need during the pandemic.
- (2) CSU - Campus health centers remain open to students and staff for medical assistance. Depending on the campus, mental health services are offered either virtually or in-person by appointment only.
- (3) UC – Campus health centers remain open and mental health services are available for in-person visits or virtually through telehealth options.
- ii) CalFresh and Food Pantries –
- (1) Food Pantries - The CCC, CSU, and UC have engaged in creative food pantry alternatives to ensure students are able to access food in a safe manner. Some conduct “drive-by” food pantries where students place their orders online and drive by the campus to pick up their order. Others supply students with grocery gift cards. Others have visitation by appointment to limit the number of students and to enable time to clean between visits.
- (2) CalFresh Benefits – Students are able to apply for CalFresh benefits online through either their campus website or directly on the CalFresh webpage. The

executive order which enabled recipients of CalFresh to receive benefits without interruption or need for re-certification expired in June. Furthermore, the Governor has not waived the work requirement that exists for college students who apply and are provided CalFresh.

iii) Technology Resources Available to Students:

- (1) CCC – Community College students are encouraged to reach out to their local institution to see if any laptops through the loaner programs are available. The [CCC have partnered with an array of technology providers](#) to supply students with free or reduced cost reliable internet access. Specifically, CCC students are eligible for mobile hotspot services from Sprint for \$19.99 a month. Furthermore, some colleges have begun to loan out computers from their computer labs to students in need of support.
- (2) CSU – At the beginning of the pandemic, CSU campuses mobilized and provided technology to students. Humboldt State University mailed students computers, Fresno State provided i-Pads, and Sacramento State delivered laptops to students in their cars. The CSU continues to seek local partnerships and gifts to enhance online and distance learning including the most recent gift of 2,300 Logitech headsets which will be distributed to the 23 CSU campuses for distribution to students in need.
- (3) UC – With virtually every campus offering virtual learning in the fall, the UC has established programs to provide hotspots, laptops, and technology to students who otherwise would not have access to their courses. For example, UC Berkeley has provided 3,300 laptops and 800 Wi-Fi hotspots for students since June.

c) Since the majority of IHE have elected to offer online learning in the fall, are students requesting a reduction in tuition or have any IHE offered to reduce tuition for students?

- i) The CSU and the UC have refunded or provided a pro-rated refund for housing and food costs for any expenses incurred during the spring to students who chose or were asked to leave campus due to COVID-19.

- ii) On April 27, 2020, the CSU and the UC were sued by students demanding refunds of campus fees since the pandemic closed schools and forced learning online. These students asserted that campus fees are relegated to services that are no longer being provided to them since the campuses are closed. The CSU and UC have contended that campuses have transitioned to offering services online that are provided by portions of the student services fees.
 - iii) [Various Independent Universities](#) throughout the nation have received similar class action lawsuits asking for repayment of tuition and other costs due to COVID-19 related campus closures. In response to the wave of students requesting a reduction in tuition costs, Georgetown, Princeton, Spelman College and Clark Atlanta University have all provided students a 10% cut in tuition.
- d) Were students issued a refund for campus services (housing, food, and parking) that they were unable to use in the spring?
- i) CSU – Starting in April, refunds were issued for students who purchased Spring Term parking, dining, and on – campus housing during the Spring Term. However, spring term campus fees for Health Centers were not refunded as they were open and operational during the pandemic.
 - ii) UC – Each campus has issued statements that they have/will refund students, who cancel their housing contracts, for the Spring and Fall Semester/Quarter.
- e) Since the spring term was offered online, is there evidence that students are engaging in virtual learning?
- i) The AHED has engaged with various student-led forums where students have discussed their engagement with the various online platforms. While students have progressed with their education, it was expressed on various occasions that students wished for consistency from their professors in terms of contact and level of engagement with students.
- f) Have students expressed the need to remove themselves from courses due to the stress caused by the pandemic?

- i) According to a [recent student survey conducted by the California Student Aid Commission](#) (CSAC), a quarter of students surveyed dropped one or more courses in the spring and 80% of students surveyed changed some aspect of their college plans for the fall term. Of the students surveyed, 15% conveyed they were unsure about whether they will attend college at all in the fall.
- g) Since campuses closed so abruptly in the spring, were students who were directed to leave campus, provided any financial assistance for the move home?
 - i) During the initial weeks of the pandemic, several IHEs assisted students with the cost of moving home, including refunding the spring housing costs and providing emergency grants to mitigate the cost of moving.
- h) Are students who moved home concerned about the financial cost of returning to campus?
 - i) According to the CSAC student survey, over 70% of current students lost some of their sources of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey found that for many students, their fall college plans have changed due to their need to work more or their need to attend a less expensive college due to a reduction in funds.
- i) Have students who were abroad returned home? And if so, were they refunded the additional cost of the program?
 - i) CSU and UC students who were scheduled to participate in academic programs abroad have returned home and have been refunded the additional costs.
- j) Are students who worked on campus continuing to receive compensation despite the shut-down?
 - i) CSU- According to the Coronavirus Paid Administrative Leave Program, student employees are eligible to receive a one-time allotment of up to 32 days (256 hours) of paid administrative leave from March 23, 2020 till December 23, 2020. The administrative leave can only be used for COVID-19 related absences. However, students who were employed by a private franchise like dining or the bookstore, may or may not be paid. Since they are auxiliary staff the Cal State itself cannot

- legally pay them; however, campuses are looking at ways to pay students using money distributed by the federal stimulus program, The CARES Act.
- ii) Independent Colleges – Recently, Stanford University just announced they would be closing their student housing for the fall and subsequently furloughed their residential assistants in charge of the dorms. The University issued a statement the RA’s will be re-instated once the dorms reopen.
 - k) Graduate Programs – To prevent interruptions to their education, IHE transitioned many courses online for distance learning; however according to [Inside Higher Education](#), graduate students struggle with degree timelines, lack of access to research, and lack of funding. At this time, nothing has been done nationally, statewide, or system wide to provide graduate students with necessary extensions to obtain their degree due to the extenuating circumstances of the pandemic.

3) Classified Employees

- a) Outcome of Contract Negotiations at the CSU/UC
 - i) CSU - On May 18, the CSU announced they had reached an agreement to extend the existing collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with its largest classified employee union, the California State University Employees Union (CSUEU), through June 30, 2022. The CBA does not include salary raises for the roughly 16,000 CSU employees represented by the CSUEU.
 - ii) UC – On April 2, President Napolitano and all ten chancellors committed to not propose pandemic related layoffs until June 30, despite campus closures. [For the fall 2020 term, UC campuses announced temporary layoffs for some of their operational staff](#). These layoffs were designated as temporary and unemployed staff are entitled to health benefits and unemployment insurance.
 - (1) Additionally, the UC has implemented system wide salary freezes for staff and faculty and a 10% cut in pay for President Napolitano and current campus chancellors.

4) Faculty

- a) Are faculty participating in virtual learning? Yes, although some campuses have offered to allow faculty to select whether they wish to teach on campus or remotely.
- b) What will occur to assistant professors who are seeking tenure, but whose research is delayed due to COVID-19?
 - i) CSU - As of April 7– Chancellor White said that the CSU will not allow the pandemic to hurt the professional lives of faculty. Each CSU campus is capable of pausing tenure clocks in order to render harmless those who are seeking tenure. Chancellor White said they are aware of the problem but have yet to work out the details.
 - ii) UC - As of August 27 – UC faculty have two options in addressing the impact of COVID-19 in their pursuit of tenure. Either they can elect to have the tenure clock stopped temporarily or they can elect to continue with a merit review and should it be found COVID-19 had an impact on their productivity/research, they will be eligible for a one-time equivalent step towards tenure.

5) United States Department of Education (USDE) Updates

- a) Accrediting Agency Virtual Evaluation Visits – Virtual evaluation visits were extended through December 31, 2020. Any accrediting agency that completes a virtual visit must conduct an on-site visit in a timeframe that is reasonably practical and can be performed by staff or a trained site visitor and does not repeat the full review.
- b) Distance Education – The executive order that enabled institutions to transition to distance education without receiving specific accreditation has been extended to December 21, 2020.
- c) Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) – Secretary DeVos has waived the MCAT requirement for foreign students entering a graduate medical school during an admission year in which the MCAT was unavailable to students.
- d) Verification of High School Competition Status – The USDE has enabled universities to accept various methods of confirming a student has graduated high school beyond an official transcript; including a statement signed by the applicant testifying to the

completion of high school. The students will eventually be required to provide official transcripts when their high school resumes on-campus operations.

6) Financial Aid

- a) Federal Student Loans – On August 8, President Trump issued an [executive order](#) providing an extension of the Student Loan Payment Relief, which provides deferments to borrowers as necessary to continue the temporary cessation of payments and waiver of all interest on student loans held by the USDE until December 21, 2020.
- b) Pell Grant – Students who received Pell Grants for the spring semester or quarter will not have the Pell Grant counted towards their lifetime limit; there has been no talk whether this will extend for the fall semester.
- c) GI Bill for Vets – Students will be able to receive benefits until the end of the year.
- d) Federal Work-Study Programs – If a student was enrolled in a federal work-study program, the campus is to continue paying the student’s salary until the end of the spring term per federal regulations. This does not apply for the fall term.
- e) Private Loans – as of April 23- Executive Order N 57 -20 – The 1.1 million Californians who have private student loans have received a reprieve from their private loans in the following manners: 90 days forbearance, waiving late payment fees, helping eligible borrowers enroll in other assistance programs, and no borrowers will be subject to negative credit reporting.

7) Budgetary Concerns

- a) Loss of Attendance-
 - i) CCC – The Legislature, in partnership with Governor, passed the 2020 Budget which includes an extension of the hold harmless of the Student – Centered Funding Formula for an additional two years. Furthermore, the 2020 Budget authorizes the use of past-year enrollment data sources that have not been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic for the calculation of the Student-Centered Funding Formula for

2020-2021; which will provide CCC an avenue to preserve pre –pandemic funding even if the pandemic reduces their student population.

- (1) According to a recent CSAC student survey, high school seniors indicated they are more likely to enroll in the CCC than other segments due to the pandemic.
- ii) CSU, UC, and Independent Colleges/Universities –
 - (1) [The UC reported](#) a record number of California freshmen and transfer students admission offers to at least one of its nine undergraduate campuses for the Fall term. While the admission offers have increased by 12% from last year, there is no guarantee these students will attend the campus in the Fall. Furthermore, the [UC has seen a decline](#) in the number of applications to the system; however transfer applications continue to rise.
 - (2) However according to the CSAC student survey, both current college students and high school seniors respondents indicated their college plans changed due to the pandemic with could result in a reduction in attendance at the CSU, UC, and Independent Colleges/Universities.

8) Accreditation

- a) *Laboratory and studio requirements* – To address accreditation concerns, campuses have offered students the option to take courses on campus and protective measures have been put in place to minimize exposure. Protective measures include providing students with their own set of laboratory items, reduced class sizes, and continual cleaning.

9) California Community Colleges

- a) *How much CARES aid did the California Community Colleges receive for their students?*
 - i) The CCC received \$580 million in CARES funds from the Federal Government.
- b) *Are apprenticeships continuing to be offered through the CCC?*

- i) According to the [Apprenticeship Initiative in California](#), various apprenticeship programs have shifted their programs online to allow students to finish their program.
- c) Are refunds being issued to students who are/were enrolled in Career Technical Education courses?
 - i) Some CCC have elected to offer refunds to students who dis-enroll due to courses not being offered online (i.e. Some Career Technical Education courses).
 - ii) Steps have been taken in the fall term to provide Career Technical Education Courses on campus with safety measures such as 6-foot distance and enhanced cleaning of facilities.
- d) If students choose to drop out of courses that may or may not have online platform will this impact their eligibility for the College Promise Program?
 - i) When the CCC first announced they were closing campuses, there was an initial concern that certain courses would not be offered online. However, CCC have successfully transitioned to online and distance learning and therefore there was no notable impact to the College Promise Program. Additionally, AB 3137 by Assemblymember Voepel will provide an extension to the College Promise Program for students who were placed on active duty during the pandemic and had to place their academic studies on hold.

10) **California State University (CSU)**

- a) [Tuition Increase](#) – As of August 20, the Chancellor of the CSU confirmed tuition will not change in the 2020-2021 school year. It will neither increase nor decrease for students who elect to continue their education during the pandemic.
 - i) While the base tuition has not increased, campus fees have increased throughout the system in lieu of tuition increases.
- b) How have courses transitioned to online learning? The [CSU community](#) has embraced virtual learning and instructors have begun implementing creative ways to ensure students receive instruction. For example:

- i) California State University, Northridge Art Professor, Samantha Fields started a Self-Isolation Pandemic Artist Residency Program. The program was to enable students to begin a residency at home to continue their art and provided an online platform for students to showcase/display their art.
- ii) When COVID-19 put a temporary stop to in-person research Dr. Braiser at Chico State University, started a journal club for graduate students to help them develop skills and tools to read academic language that would help students when they published their own work.
- c) How much CARES aid did the CSU receive? The CSU received \$525 million in CARES Funds from the Federal Government and used these funds to offer emergency grants to CSU students experiencing financial hardship directly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students apply for these funds through the [CSU CARES Program](#).
- d) What about students who did not qualify for the CARES Aid? [California College Student Support Fund](#) – The CSU launched a one-time \$500 hardship grant to students to address the emergency needs of the state’s low-income college students, including undocumented immigrants, foster youth, and those who are housing insecure.
- e) Campus Study – In the 2019-2020 budget process, the Legislature asked the CSU to review and report on whether a CSU campus should be located in San Joaquin County, Chula, Vista, Concord, Palm Desert, and/or San Mateo County. On July 3, 2020, the [CSU released their campus study](#), which examines various data points and provides an analysis of the pros and cons of each site and whether the population of California can support an additional campus. The Assembly Higher Education Committee completed a summary and analysis of the Study which is available upon request.

11) **University of California**

- a) [Flu Vaccine Requirement](#) – On August 7, 2020, the UC announced it will require all members of the UC community to receive an influenza immunization before November 1, 2020. The executive order was issued in consultation with the UC Health Leadership

and was issued as an important proactive measure to help protect members of the UC community and the public at large.

- b) [Tuition Increase](#) – In March, the UC Regents confirmed they would not put forward a previously considered proposal to increase tuition for the next five years. The UC Regents decided it would be “inappropriate to move forward with this item given all the challenges the coronavirus poses to students, faculty, and staff and their families”.
 - i) Prior to this decision the Regents were considering a cohort tuition increase model which would have provided UC students with a specific tuition rate for six years after an initial increase in their freshmen year. This increase would occur for the next four years for the next four freshmen cohorts.
- c) [Emergency Funds for Students](#) - Each UC campus established a student emergency fund dedicated to helping students which includes providing \$260 million in CARES funds to students. The student emergency fund provides direct, immediate support to students who are experiencing unforeseen difficulties. These funds can be used to help student relocate, manage food and housing expenses, or provide technology solutions for remote learning.
- d) [Guidance for Re-Opening](#) – In addition to State and County guidelines, the Regents of the UC adopted principles for responsible operation of University locations in light of COVID-19. The guidelines include six recommendations each University administration should follow when creating re-opening plans for their campus.
- e) [UC Student Loan Relief and COVID-19](#) – The University has \$140 million in UC-held loans which are currently being repaid. The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused former UC students to encounter economic insecurity due to disruptions in employment; therefore, the UC has enacted the following actions beginning on April 15, 2020 until September 30, 2020:
 - i) UC suspended interest accrual mirroring the federal action in the CARES Act.
 - ii) UC ceased turning loans over to collection until further notice. The State Franchise Tax Board ceased tax refund garnishment on all UC loans through July 15, 2020.

- iii) UC ceased charging late fees on the same set loans and the UC ceased charging late fees on Health Service and Resource Association Loans.
- iv) UC will cease collection on Dream Loans, Institutional Loans, and Perkins Loans for students who request forbearance.
- v) Borrowers will be notified via email of these actions by the UC's loan servicer.

12) Institutions reactions to Campus Climate and Policing

- a) UC System –President Napolitano expressed that the police department would not defund the police department on UC campuses, but the system would work to ensure that campus police officers are well-trained, using best practices in terms of de-escalation, and are managing complaints against the department in an appropriate manner.
- b) UC Academic Senate – The Academic Senate of the UC in solidarity with students has sent a letter to President Napolitano with an array of requests including substantially defunding campus police, banning firearm use by campus police, the termination of any partnerships with non-UC law enforcement agencies, and the investment of resources into programs that provide mental health services for Black students.
- c) UC Student Groups – A letter has been circulated to student organizations at the UC demanding the end to all university contracts with police on campuses, the abolishment of their departments and the redistribution of resources to provide for community members in need. The letter further demands the divestment from companies that profit from Israel's colonial occupation of Palestine and the return of indigenous land and materials to their indigenous communities. The document is a live document with over 170 pages worth of signatures from various student groups, associations, departments and faculty. Every UC campus is represented on the letter.
- d) UC Student Association – The UC Student Association released a statement on June 2, calling for the disbarment and dismantling of the UC Police Department.
- e) CSU Police Chiefs – On June 12, 2020, Police Chiefs from all 23 campuses issued a statement that every CSU President and Campus Police Chief have pledged to

implement the recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Furthermore, police on CSU campuses will no longer use carotid control holds nor will any CSU police officers receive or participate in training that teach carotid control holds.

- f) [California State University Student Association \(CSSA\)](#) - On June 1, CSSA issued a statement regarding the killing of George Floyd. In the statement there was a call to demand justice and the removal of systemic racism however, they did not explicitly express for a defunding of police on campus.
- g) [California Faculty Association](#) (CFA) - In July, the CFA issued a statement which included anti-racism and social justice demands. The statement includes demands such as: defunding and removing armed police forces from campuses, providing additional resources to Black and African Studies Department and Student Centers and an increase in mental health counseling teams on campus.
- h) [CSU Academic Senate](#) - While the system wide Academic Senate has not voted on a resolution condemning police brutality nor have they issued a response to the national protests, Academic Senates on various campuses have adopted resolutions, issued responses and/or have made demand.
- i) [California Community College Leadership](#) – On June 5th, Chancellor Eloy Oakley issued a letter to the California Community College Family (students, faculty, staff, and community). In the letter the Chancellor provided a call to action that asked the system to mobilize around improving the training of police officers on campus and providing equitable and safe learning environments for all students.
- j) [Academic Senate for CCC](#) – The President of the Academic Senate issued a statement of solidarity with the Black Lives Matters movement and issued equity guidance for academic senate presidents at the campuses.
- k) [Community College League of California](#) – The Community College League, along with the Chief Executive Officers of the CCC, adopted a resolution on June 19, 2020 affirming their commitment to removing systemic barriers for Black and African American Students.

13) California Wildfire Impact

- a) UC – As of August 31, UC Santa Cruz has successfully evacuated their campus due to the CZU Fire Complex. Furthermore, the campus has reported the fire remained about a mile from campus with no current damages to building on campus. The LNU Lightning Complex fire may not have directly impacted UC Davis but a UC Davis Field Research sight was destroyed. UC Davis has offered emergency housing to faculty, staff, and students who were affected by fires in Northern California including those in Santa Cruz and Sonoma County.
- b) The UC Natural Reserve System (NRS) consists of 41 reserves across the state. It is a library of ecosystems representing most of the state’s major habitats. The NRS serves as outdoor laboratories to field scientists and as classrooms without walls for students. Currently, six of the reserves are on fire.
- c) CSU – As of August 31, several campuses suspended on campus activities due to poor air quality. The only CSU impacted by the fire was a satellite campus operated by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The CZU Lightning Complex fire swept through the Swanton Pacific Ranch causing massive damage to the ranch in Santa Cruz. Despite damages to various structures on the satellite campus, all staff, students, and livestock were safely evacuated. The satellite campus was an educational and research facility owned by the Cal Poly Corporation and managed by the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences.

14) Federal Updates

- a) DACA Update – In 2017 the Trump Administration announced it would end the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a United States immigration policy that provided a type of administrative relief from deportation to 800,000 undocumented people who came to the U.S. when they were children. On June 18, 2020, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling that struck down the Trump Administration attempt to end the DACA program and instead ruled the program to be constitutional providing students a reprieve from the fear of deportation.

- b) [International Students](#) – Earlier in the year during the height of the pandemic, the USDE issued a statement that in order for international students to remain in the United States on their student visa they must attend on-campus courses. This was reversed by the USDE several days after the statement was issued.
- c) [Distance Learning Guidelines](#) – On August 24, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos issued a final ruling on the governance of distance learning in higher education and the promotion of educational innovation to better serve the needs of an increasingly diverse population of students. The new ruling provided an array of policy changes that would enable institutions to offer distance learning and competency learning to students with ease while protecting students and taxpayers from waste, fraud, and abuse. These regulations will take effect July 1, 2021.
- d) [Title IX](#) – In [May 2020, Secretary Betsy DeVos published the final ruling](#) which was a culmination of a three year process that began when the Trump Administration withdrew the Obama’s administration’s guidance document. The final ruling is the first rulemaking on Title IX since 1975 and was condemned by a number of groups including the State of California as the rule returns to the legal framework established by the Supreme Court over two decades ago. Title IX is a federal civil rights law that ensures that all students regardless of sex should receive equal benefits, access, and protection to access education at institutions who receive funding from the federal government. The May 2020 ruling issued by the Federal Government removed many advances made by previous administrations to ensure that victims of sexual assault and harassment receive protection from the campus they attend. In order to prevent California Institutions from removing existing protections for students, [Senator Jackson prepared a bill SB 493](#) to ensure that the guidelines issued by the Obama Administration which are understood as best practices would still be adhered to by institutions in California.

15) [California State Auditor](#)

- a) [July 7, 2020 – The California State Auditor](#) published an audit on the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and their oversight of nursing schools in the State of California. A key

finding from the audit shows that the BRN was lacking in key data points when ruling on enrollment increases for nursing school. The AHED has completed a summary of the audit which is available upon request.

- b) [June 11, 2020 – The California State Auditor](#) published an audit of the UC’s oversight of the return of Native American remains and artifacts to state and federal recognized tribes. Key findings from the audit include that the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) failed to provide adequate oversight and guidance to campuses for implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act resulting in inconsistent practices and decisions. The AHED has completed a summary of the audit which is available upon request.
- c) [May 14, 2020– The California State Auditor](#) published an audit of the California State University campus-based mandatory fees. The audit examined the campus-based fees at four campuses and made various findings including that mandatory fees have increased by 56% since 2011 – 2012. The AHED has completed a summary of the audit which is available upon request.

16) Athletics

- a) *Overview.* The dangers of COVID-19 have had a major impact on collegiate athletics, halting competition and forcing athletic departments, colleges, conferences, and the NCAA to reassess how and if a return to play is possible. In August, the NCAA Board of Governors directed schools and conferences to meet specific requirements if they are to conduct NCAA fall sports during the preseason, regular season and postseason. Significant requirements [include](#):
 - i) All fall sports activity (preseason, regular season and postseason) must follow the return-to-sport guidelines from the NCAA Sport Science Institute for all athletic activity.

- ii) All student-athletes must be allowed to opt out of participation due to concerns about contracting COVID-19. If a college athlete chooses to opt out, that individual's athletics scholarship commitment must be honored by the college or university.
 - iii) If 50% or more of eligible teams in a particular sport in a division cancel their fall season, there will be no fall NCAA championship in that sport in that division.
 - iv) If fall sports championships are postponed in any division, a decision to conduct that championship at a later date will be based upon the scientific data available at that time regarding COVID-19, along with other considerations.
- b) To date, the NCAA has cancelled Division II and Division III fall championships, while Division I fall championships are being discussed by the Division I council.
 - c) Individual athletic conferences have also taken action. Significantly for California, the Pac-12 CEO Group [voted](#) unanimously to postpone all sport competitions through the end of the 2020 calendar year. Student-athletes impacted by the postponement will continue to have their scholarships guaranteed, and the Pac-12 Conference strongly encouraged the NCAA to grant an additional year of eligibility to students opting out of competition this academic year.
 - d) On September 3, 2020 Pac-12 [announced](#) an agreement with Quidel Corporation, a medical testing manufacturer, which would allow student-athletes to receive daily coronavirus testing. Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott believes that daily testing may facilitate a path to competitive athletics before January 1, 2021.
 - e) On September 24, 2020 [Pac-12 changed](#) its mind regarding the football season, and announced a unanimous decision to begin the 2020 season on Nov. 6. In a statement, officials expressed their previous concerns over players' health and safety was assuaged by the arrival of a deal to provide regular testing to players.
 - f) *University of California*. In addition to the Pac-12, University of California campuses are affiliated with the [Big West](#), [Big Sky](#), and [Capitol Athletic](#) conferences of the NCAA, and the California Pacific Conference of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ([NAIA](#)). Like Pac-12, each of these conferences have cancelled all fall athletics through January 1, 2021.

- g) *California State University*. The CSU participates in several Division I athletic conferences, including: the [Mountain West](#), Big West, and Big Sky conferences. Each of these conferences have cancelled their fall athletics through January 1, 2021.
- i) The CSU also participates in the Division II [California Collegiate Athletic Association](#) (CCAA), and the NAIA California Pacific Conference. Both conferences announced that fall athletics are cancelled through January 1, 2021 and will attempt to play in the spring.
- h) *California Community Colleges*. The California Community College (CCC) Athletic Association ([CCCCAA](#)) serves the 24,000 student athletes of the CCC. Like the conferences that UC and CSU participate in, the CCAA has elected to postpone their athletics until the spring.
- i) *Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU)*. AICCU-affiliated non-profit private institutions have schools that participate in numerous athletic conferences across sanctioning bodies, including the NCAA, NAIA, and the National Christian College Athletic Association ([NCCAA](#)). While most other conferences have suspended sports, the NCCAA does have some athletic programs that are participating in fall play. For example, [Providence Christian College](#) does have men and women's golf events scheduled for September and October.

17) **NCAA Official Documents**

- Main Page: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/covid-19-coronavirus>
- Letter to Athletes: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/open-letter-ncaa-student-athletes>
- Exercise Recs: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/covid-19-advisory-panel-exercise-recommendations>
- Resocialization Doc: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/resocialization-collegiate-sport-developing-standards-practice-and-competition>
- Resocialization FAQ: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/core-principles-resocialization-collegiate-sport-developing-standards-practice-and-competition>

Return to Play: <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/board-directs-each-division-safeguard-student-athlete-well-being-scholarships-and-eligibility>

18) Pac-12 Documents

Rapid Testing: https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/29804035/pac-12-partnership-allow-daily-covid-19-testing-athletes

Postponement: <https://pac-12.com/article/2020/08/11/pac-12-conference-postpones-all-sport-competitions-through-end-calendar-year>

Return to Play: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/09/24/916745266/pac-12-reversal-football-to-start-in-november>

19) Final Budget Allocations - Due to an unrepresented economic downturn as a result of

the pandemic the California Final Budget included deferrals and budget cuts that are contingent upon the lack of federal funds. Highlights from the Budget include:

- a) UC - The Budget reflects a net General Fund decrease of \$258.4 million, which is the result of investments totaling \$44 million, a base increase of approximately \$169.2 million, and contingent reductions totaling \$471.6 million.
- b) CSU - The Budget reflects a net General Fund decrease of approximately \$299.1 million, which is the result of a base increase of approximately \$199 million, and contingent reductions totaling approximately \$498.1 million.
- c) CCC – A total of \$ 992.1 million in deferrals over the next two budget years (2019-2020 and 2020-21) and a one-time increase of \$120.1 million for a COVID-19 Response Block Grant to support student learning and to mitigate learning loss related to the pandemic.
- d) CSAC – The Cal Grant Program received a reduction of \$149 million in 2019-2020 and a decrease of \$63.3 million in 2020-2021 to reflect the revised estimates of the number of new and continuing Cal Grant awardees. A re-appropriation of \$7.5 million one-time General Fund from the 2019 Budget Act for the Cal Grant B Incentive Grant and a redirection of the Program's \$7.5 million funding in 2020-21 to support the Disaster Relief Emergency Student Financial Aid Program, which will provide emergency financial

aid to students at the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges.

