

January 9, 2012

Chancellor Scott and the Board of Governors,

The Community College Association and the California Teachers Association are concerned that the task force went outside the areas that had nothing to do with student success but rather, took turns that may have detrimental consequences if the BOG's decide to implement various recommendations.

First it should be noted that the proposed changes will forever modify the scope and nature of the Master Plan for Higher Education which have been the bulwark of how the Community Colleges and have served the students of California. It will eliminate hundreds of thousands of students from attending college.

Second among the concerns is an attempt to remove local control from the local Boards of Trustees of the 72 community college districts and empower the Board of Governors and by extension the Chancellor's office with unfettered power to dictate the structure of Community College Education.

A third concern, and a chief element of this power grab, is the control of significant amounts of Proposition 98 funding which has traditionally been dedicated to represent directly the needs of the local colleges and the students they serve. Again, the general public does not think that 50% of the budget being spent on faculty and students is enough. They would like to see more spent directly on educational needs. A "one size fits all" betrays the concept that each college community determine what best serves their constituency.

A fourth major concern of the recommendations of the SSTF will establish in the community colleges a higher education form of "No child Left Behind" similar to that which has created massive turmoil in K-12 and a concept totally anathema to the principles of higher education. If the goal that student success is to look at additional students who simply transfer to the CSU system or other Higher Education systems, the proposed regulations will allow individuals and institutes a statistic that can be used in that manner. However, we must ask ourselves at what cost? If we eliminate the most vulnerable, students of color, and those who are our most poor citizens of our society from attending college, our numbers may look better, but our society will forever suffer losses of mass economic destruction. My student Anthony E Zuiker did not complete his AA degree. He was taking some writing classes and speech classes because he wanted to write and possibly star in a television pilot. His failure to graduate with an AA, or to complete a BA would call him a failure by the SSTF. However, his hit television shows, "CSI, CSI Miami, and CSI New York tells a completely different story. His lucrative legacy for not only himself, but all associated with this franchise would indicate he was indeed successful.

Ron Norton Reel, CCA President