

Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Board Meeting Date: 2/6/12

Title of Item: Legislative Principles for 2012

Background and Analysis:

These principles will be used in advocating the District's position to the state legislature, Congress, and the public in 2012. The District affirms its continued commitment to the California Master Plan for Higher Education and its dedication to student access, equity, affordability and success.

The Board reviewed a draft of the principles at its study session on January 23, 2012.

Recommendation: Chancellor Linda Thor recommends approval

Submitted by: Linda Thor x6104
Additional contact names:
Is backup provided? Yes



2012 Legislative Principles

Proposal

Annual legislative principles are adopted by the Board of Trustees to provide policy guidelines for the Chancellor when addressing matters pending before the California Legislature or the United States Congress. For 2012, the Foothill-De Anza Board of Trustees endorses advocacy for the following:

A. State Legislative Principles

1. Oppose further cuts to community colleges and support measures that ensure financial stability, such as automatic property-tax backfill.
2. Support closing the state's structural budget deficit with revenue enhancements.
3. Support constitutional amendments that advantage community colleges such as lowering the vote threshold for the approval for school and community college district parcel taxes from two-thirds (66%) to a super majority of 55%.
4. If student enrollment fee increases are proposed, support incremental, timely and predictable increases.
5. Advocate for adequate funding for Student Success Task Force recommendations that have been adopted by the Board of Governors.
6. Support use of open textbooks, open educational resources and other appropriate approaches to reduce textbook costs for students.
7. Advocate for increasing the authority of local districts, including flexibility in setting fees (e.g. health, technology).
8. Continue support of the California DREAM Act that was enacted in 2011 and oppose efforts to deny in-state tuition rates and access to financial aid at public college and universities to undocumented students.
9. Support removing barriers to transfer of qualified community college students to the University of California and California State Universities.

10. Support a statewide capital construction bond measure.
11. Support the preservation and enhancement of state financial aid for community college students.
12. Support efforts to strengthen college preparation and align K-12 and community college curriculum.
13. Support measures that enhance the ability of community colleges to quickly respond to the changing needs of local labor markets.
14. Support creation of a statewide P-20 data system that enables better tracking and management of students and their performance.
15. Support programs that enable community colleges to serve disadvantaged population and students who are veterans.
16. Support the advancement of instructional technology to increase access and student success.
17. Support solutions to the escalating costs of health benefits.

B. Federal Legislative Principles

1. Support increased federal investment in community colleges and enable those institutions to better serve their communities.
2. Support federal student aid programs that ease economic barriers for students.
3. Support programs that enable community colleges to serve disadvantaged populations.
4. Support the DREAM Act and a path to legal residency.
5. Support funding to help institutions serve the particular needs of students who are veterans.
6. Support improving opportunities for education and training for a maturing workforce.
7. Support inclusion of community colleges as key partners/training providers in Workforce Investment Act reauthorization.
8. Support legislation to make the American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent.