

## Legislative Committee Report – October 2015

### Lobby Day 2015

The Lobby Day training was modified this year to add more time for role play. The activists appreciated the opportunity to practice their talking points and receive feedback from the audience. The highlight of the training was an inspiring pep talk from Willie Pelote, Political Director (now retired) for AFSCME. All we can add here is WOW.

On Lobby Day we had 113 appointments with Legislators and their staff. We were strong advocates for and partnered with the CSU and others to secure additional funding for the CSU.

Our talking points were well received by the offices we visited. We were specific in the need for accountability and action from the CSU. We/CSUEU supported and made a case for the additional \$97.1 million to accomplish the following:

#### Improve student access and community college transfers with 3% enrollment growth

For 2015 there is a record number of new CSU applicants – 790,000 – which includes first-time freshman and community college transfers.

#### Improve student achievement, graduation and completion rates

Provide more class sections. Currently the CSU is unable to accommodate the academic needs of existing students and new student transfers.

#### Improve the accountability and oversight of the CSU budget

Ensure that CSU monies are spent appropriately. Under the existing budget allocations, we are unable to track how state dollars and student fee revenue is being spent.

### Logistics

In an effort to reduce cost, the Committee recommended to the Board that we use the Holiday Inn. Given that decision we had to adapt this year's activities to accommodate our lodging at the Holiday Inn. This meant providing transportation for our activists to and from the Capitol, arranging a rolling group lunch at CSUEU Headquarters, and providing transportation to the airport. From the evaluations and direct comments, logistics were a success.

### SB 669 (Pan) – Contracting Out

Our contracting out bill SB 669 (Pan) was converted to a two-year bill, which means we will be working on getting the bill passed this upcoming session. To date Michelle Castro, SEIU State Council lobbyist has been shepherding the bill on our behalf. We will be meeting in the coming months to determine options/strategies for getting the bill through the legislative process to final signature by the Governor. We have our work cut out for us.

## **Advocacy Activities**

We continue to be a partner in the Reclaim California Higher Education efforts. Reclaim California... is a coalition of higher education unions and students from the Community Colleges, CSU, and UC lobbying the legislators and Governor to reaffirm the Master Plan for Higher Education by fully funding higher education. Reclaim California lobbying at the Capitol in Spring 2016 is in the planning stages.

## **PAC Updates**

We have been advised we have added 600 PAC members. We thank the Chapters for all of their efforts in support of our Union's legislative engagement/activities.

## **Lobby Day 2016**

Lobby Day 2016 will be held April 2016 at the Citizen's Hotel. Planning in earnest will begin soon.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Legislative Committee (Chuck Constantine, California Maritime; Catherine Hutchinson, Channel Islands; Vicky McLeod, Fullerton; and Pete Rauch, San Marcos; Loretta Seva'aetasi, Vice President for Finance; Pat Gantt, President/Ex Officio; and Dayna Ramos, staff to the Committee) for all of the hard work.

As Committee Chair, I have been graced by your expertise, flexibility, adaptability, creativity and commitment to excellence. In appreciation: to David Balla-Hawkins, our former lobbyist - he served as our guide, mentor, and supporter of our efforts. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kim*

Kim Harrington, Chair  
CSUEU Legislative Committee