



LOBBY CORPS MEETING

October 21, 2021

4:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://csus.zoom.us/j/83405884053?pwd=djJVdTlrT2xOUFEwdXJNTHFJS0kwQT09>

Meeting ID: 834 0588 4053

Passcode: LobbyCorps

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order- 4:30 PM
- II. Roll Call - Lexa, Kathryn, Sidra, Samantha, Melissa, Ellen, Lisa, Carrie, Jose
- III. Approval of Minutes from 10/7/21 Meeting
 - a. Moved by Samantha and seconded by Lexa. Approved.

IV. Guest Speaker - Career in Advocacy

Melissa Bardo, California Community Colleges Government Relations
Studied at Sacramento State, was a part of student government. Has been working in higher education policy, her engagement in student government has helped her in her current role.

Melissa Bardo- got involved with student government along with working multiple jobs in Pell and biology research. Worked in Sequoia hall, which was deteriorating and so she got involved through advocating for a new science building. Started as NSM director and then became ASI president at Sacramento State. Our ASI is heavily involved in student advocacy and lobbying due to the Associated Students, Inc. of Sacramento State is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. Please contact Lisa Dalton at Lisa.Dalton@csus.edu or (916)-278-6784 to request disability accommodations (e.g., ASL interpretation, wheelchair accessible seating) no later than five (5) business days prior to the event. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.



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proximity of the capitol. Got legislators to tour the Sequoia Hall, inspired her to continue with higher education policy. After graduation, master's at UC Davis in public health, which is largely based in policy. While doing master's, had to do 300 hours of experience, and she did her at the CA department of public health, more exposure to public health policy such as health equity and environmental justice. Wanted to pursue this, did the capitol fellows program post grad. Did executive fellowship, which placed with state agency through the executive, which brought her to the California Student Aid Commission. This agency administers grants to CSU students, and is a major player in higher education policy as it deals with financial aid. Financial aid policy can be very complex. Great experience with great mentors.

Higher education policy, want to ensure this education can be a transformative experience. Became an aid for state senator Pan, who is big on health policy and education policy. Leg aide in Sacramento, you don't focus on one specific area

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unless you're on a committee, so you cover multiple advocacy areas. As a leg aide, the process was enlightening as it shows you exactly how the leg process in California works. Returned to student aid commission as a legislative analyst, which means to manage a legislative portfolio. High intensity work that is fast paced. Working for a state agency, become a subject matter expert. Government relations for her has always been a happy medium, as you can advocate and be a part of the process, a sort of lobbyist for your state agency.

Gov relations rep for Cal Comm CO- this oversees all the CC in California, advocating on all different areas of higher education, from financial aid to faculty hiring practices. Different issue areas to monitor and take on each year- monitor bills and discussions that could come up. Just ended a legislative session, January through October is the busy time for their work, as there is legislative process.

1. Legislative portfolio- what you want to work on to monitor

and analyze. So for ex. At CSAC all of the bills will be on

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financial aid. At the CCCO (state agency) the portfolio is much bigger, financial aid to transfer issues, racial equity initiatives, faculty hiring. Leg portfolio are all the issue areas you work on and can be assigned a bill based off this portfolio. These are your assigned issue areas, you are responsible for anything that comes up with these areas.

2. Issue you are most passionate about- Cal Grant Reform. For years there has been a movement to reform Cal Grant. Right now, just a mismatch of different things, and has become complicated for students to understand, many cannot access to due arbitrary barriers. Bill introduced last year, and there was a lot of momentum behind it. AB 1456 did get vetoed, but there will be continued conversations around Cal Grant reform in the next year. CC students receive the least

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amount of financial support, so Cal grant reform is important.

a. How to approach legislators on Cal Grant Reform.

Student segments, especially CSSA have lobbied for financial aid reform to be on the forefront of legislative agendas. Student stories are critical to these advocacy efforts, data can only go so far. Cal Grant itself is very complicated, it is much more than tuition and fees. Now, need to take into consideration cost of living, and financial aid needs to move beyond just tuition and see how aid can cover transportation, living expenses, and book costs. A lot of politicians went to school decades ago, so we should help them see how much students need this financial support.

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Keep them up to date, share student and experience.

Sacramento- AB 1456 was championed by our Asm,

so we may need to help on lobbying other legislators

or the governor. Student stories help them make the

human connection to the data. More you invest in fin

aid, the more you benefit the state overall in the long

run, as a sort of return on investment. There is

strength in numbers, rallies, showing up to committee

hearings or the governor's office/events to help make

them realize this is a priority for their voters and

constituents. We did get enhancement to Cal Grants,

but not the reform we were looking for.

3. What is AB 1456? A full restructuring of the Cal Grant and

middle class scholarship. If you are a low to middle income

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student, then you can get tuition and fees covered. Goal was to restructure this program, to remove barriers to access the financial aid such as age or time out of high school. Wanted to create a Cal grant 2 and a Cal grant 4 depending on if you are in CC or a CSU. Would have streamlined and added many more students to eligibility, which had significant costs attached to it.

V. Discussion on Higher Education Bills from 2021 Legislative Cycle

- a. Ab 367- Menstrual Equity Act passed! ASI Board took a stance of support last year, so now all CSU will have one centralized location and some in bathrooms
- b. AB 245- Student name and gender changes passed
- c. SB 639- Grant disability workers the right to minimum wage. Shelter workshops- legal loophole that people with disabilities can be paid under

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minimum wage. Now, protected right that they can be paid minimum wage

VI. Presentation – 2021 All Higher Education Legislation by Governor Newsom

Sidra Nawaz, Legislative Affairs Coordinator

- a. See attached presentation

VII. Announcements

- a. ASI Scholarships open until October 22nd at 5 PM, make sure you apply!

VIII. Adjournment- 5:30 PM

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