

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD, June 2024

COMMISSION FOR FINANCE, LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY [CFLA]

Willy Duncan, Commission Chair

Sharlene Coleal, Vice Chair

The 2023-24 Year in Review and Primary Objectives for 2024-25:

Committee Composition and Meetings:

According to the Charter of the Commission for Finance, Legislation and Advocacy, *“The Commission for Finance, Legislation and Advocacy (CFLA) shall be composed of not less than 8, and no more than 16 members appointed by the President of ACCCA upon recommendation of the Chair.”*

The Commission is now at 12 members with room to grow by 4 more individuals. A new member is being considered by the commission who expressed interest following his unsuccessful run for the Board in the last election. He met with the Chair and will be proposed for membership to the commission at its next meeting on June 25th. If accepted, that will bring the total membership to 13 with room for 3 more members. The current roster is attached for your information and includes the meeting schedule for the year. The Commission currently meets the last Tuesday of each month from 1:30 – 2:30pm. Going forward the minutes of each meeting will be posted on the website in the Advocacy section.

A great strength of the CFLA is our diversity of opinion. Commission members are chosen for their ability to contribute to the deliberations, and an effort is made to ensure the Commission represents ACCCA's membership and that the broad spectrum of affiliate group voices are also heard.

Currently the commission has the perspectives of the CEOs; CBOs; CHROS; Instruction and Career Education, as well as Student Services and Technology. With three remaining seats, we will strategically allocate those to add representation in the areas of facilities, enrollment management and DEIA and we are working with our affiliates to name individuals from those constituencies.

The Commission relies heavily on the expertise of the Association's Advocate, Michelle Underwood, Vice President at School Services of California, and her colleague at School Services of California, Inc., Kyle Hyland, for information and counsel in the best interests of members and it has an ex-officio seat dedicated to legal expertise. At each meeting the commission hears a report from our Advocate regarding budget and legislative activity. The Commission discusses those items and provides input and official positions are taken and widely communicated.

The Commission's charter contains a provision approved by the Board allowing the CFLA the authority to take action in the form of stating official positions on legislation as needs arise and subsequently keeping the board informed on a regular basis. The requirement is that the Chair keep the Executive Committee and Board aware of these actions as they happen and make a full report at each board meeting.

Statewide Representation:

ACCCA maintains representation on the *Chancellor's Consultation Council* and the administrative caucus known as the "*Administrative Leadership Council* " which is staffed and managed by the League and meets just prior to each Consultation meeting.

The ACCCA Consultation rep is traditionally the role of the immediate past President, and Eric Ramones has filled that role this year. If Eric was unable to attend, Michelle Underwood represented ACCCA in those meetings. The past practice of asking the immediate past President to represent ACCCA at Consultation Council was based upon a premise that they would be the most knowledgeable regarding the system and ACCCA's priorities. However, once a member reaches the point of being the immediate past President, they have already dedicated significant time to the organization, and it may be difficult to continue the kind of involvement needed to actively participate in the consultation council. We recommend that the Executive Committee be given the latitude to appoint someone to represent ACCCA on the Consultation Council and also serve as an Ex Officio member of CFLA.

The CFLA Chair stays in close communication with the Community College League to build a coalition and ensure consistency of messaging when possible. Additionally, the Chair works closely with the Chancellor's Office to gather information and to ensure that ACCCA's positions are communicated effectively.

ACCCA and our members have long advocated for changes in the Fifty Percent Law and its deleterious impact on our students, and where possible we will continue to do so. At the writing of this report last year, it had just been announced that there would be a new round of Fifty Percent Law audits. Those audits still have not begun and only two colleges have been notified that they will be audited. We are monitoring this situation closely and will weigh in as more information is known.

This year ACCCA engaged with other community college constituents on a number of bills both in support and opposition, depending upon the bill. Most notably we worked with our partners to support funding for nursing programs and the ability for community colleges to offer a Baccalaureate in Nursing. We also worked with partners to oppose SB 1388 which would have capped reserves, significantly limiting the ability of colleges to plan for a financial downturn. The Commission also engaged in conversation with PERS/STRS this year and are exploring the need for clean up legislation regarding the ability to work in retirement.

Successes/Challenges:

As legislation and policy issues are reviewed by the Commission, they are sanctioned by the Board to take official positions on behalf of the Association which are communicated to the field. The Commission may also collaborate and consult with the Board and with other ACCCA groups and affiliated organizations and agencies to accomplish its purposes.

- *Legislation and Policy Review.* In 2023-24 our Advocates and the Commission reviewed all legislation and policies having some impact on members and our colleges. The Commission took official positions and issued appropriate [support or oppose](#) letters which can be viewed on the Association's Advocacy web page.

- *Legislative Platform.* At the start of each year, the Commission reviews the Association’s existing legislative platform to ensure that its provisions are still in step with the Association’s positions and interests. The platform was given a thorough review in 2022 and the core concepts are still relevant, however the CFLA added an addendum in 2024 [\[attached\]](#) which provides clarity on ACCCA’s positions on several issues; Prioritizing the protection of students from Budget cuts given the states historic budget deficit, joining other stakeholders in educating legislators regarding the challenges of the 50% Law, urging lawmakers to provide details of how they will fulfill their promise made in funding the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, support for a school facilities bond on the November 2024 ballot and support for state investments into the expansion of nursing programs and the ability for community colleges to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. A copy of the addendum is posted on the website along with the established platform.

The original platform begins by stating ACCCA’s core values and goes on to assert those values in the areas of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; local autonomy; Current Expense of Education; Developing and Sustaining Leaders; Retirement Security; Fees and Education Costs; Finance and Funding Priorities; Campus health, Wellness, and Safety; Ensuring a State-of-the-Art Learning Environment

- *Position Paper on the State Budget.* In the past few years, ACCCA has participated in the development of a joint position on the Governor’s proposed budget, the May Revise and the Annual State Budget. In addition, the Commission has taken on the task of putting forth an official ACCCA position on the annual State Budget from the perspective of our members--a broad base of administrators. The current position paper on the State Budget is on our website in the Advocacy area, and we will be again issuing an analysis and the ACCCA perspective on the 2024-25 state spending plan as it relates to community colleges.