

To: LWVSD Board

From: Higher Education Study Committee

Subject: Outcome of Consensus meeting

The following responses were gathered at the consensus meeting held on March 19 at the Mission Valley Library. There were 21 members present from LWVSD and 11 members from North County. We are asking you to approve the findings so that they may be submitted to the state committee on or before May 15. (The LWV of San Diego approved the findings at the April Board meeting and the report was sent to LWVC shortly thereafter.)

1. Among the purposes of public higher education listed below, indicate your rating of each item's Importance:
 - a) To provide educational opportunities that serve the personal, professional, and /or occupational goals of students.
Very important
 - b) To provide and maintain a steady stream of leadership from all sectors of society.
Very important
 - c) To promote upward economic mobility across all population groups.
Very important
 - d) To advance the economic and civic goals of local communities and the state.
Important
 - e) To continue to emphasize the dual values of access and excellence that were embedded in the Master plan and are still relevant and important today.
Important
2. Equitable access in public higher education is evidenced by:
 - a) An increase in the diversity of enrollment and completion rates in the CCCs, CSUs, and UCs that reflects the diversity of the state's population.
Agree
 - b) An increase in the initial freshmen enrollment in both CSU and UC of qualified high school graduates from low income and under-represented minority groups.
Strongly agree
 - c) The provision of specialized services for at –risk students in higher education to facilitate their successful certificate or degree completion.
Agree
 - d) A transparent and seamless transfer path from the CCCs to four-year colleges.
Strongly agree
3. In funding California's system of public higher education:
 - a) The state should pay for all higher education tuition and fees.
Disagree
 - b) Government and students or their facilities should share the full cost of attendance to public higher education based on their ability to pay.
Agree
 - c) The state should provide additional funding for services for students with special needs, such as students with disabilities, aged out foster care students and veterans.

Agree

- d) The state should provide stable and predictable funding that is sustainable, adequate, and timely to support public higher education

Strongly agree

- e) The state should develop additional funding streams to support public higher education

Strongly agree

- f) A broad based tax should be levied to specifically increase state funding for public higher education

No consensus

COMMENTS: The state should be more to fund higher education. CSUs should do more to find and develop private partnerships to help fund higher education. Legislation is needed to offer a tax incentive to parents (families) when their child or children actually graduate from college.

4. California's financial aid policies should:

- a. Ensure that higher education attendance, including tuition, fees, housing transportation, books or other educational materials, is affordable for all students regardless of their family's financial circumstances

Strongly agree

- b. Provide that student and family share of the full costs of attendance be reasonably proportional to their discretionary income.

Strongly agree

- c. Include effective counseling to enable students to plan and access financing for their college education

Strongly agree

5. To increase student success:

- a) When students graduate from high school, they should be prepared for college-level coursework or career/occupational employment.

Strongly agree

- b) The state should support programs that foster coordination between and among school districts and colleges, with a focus on better utilization of the senior year of high school, to ensure that more students graduate from high school prepared for college-level work without needing remediation

Strongly agree

- c) California should expend opportunities for more high school students, especially students from under-represented groups, to begin earning college credits in high school, for example by taking Advanced Placement (A), International Baccalaureate (IP), and/or dual or concurrent enrollment classes.

Strongly agree

- d) Services should be available to ensure that at-risk, low income, and under-represented minority students are advised about the wide range of appropriate career and college opportunities

Strongly agree

- e) Outreach to disadvantaged, low income, minority, and first generation students is needed to encourage college applications for admission and financial aid.

Strongly agree

COMMENTS: Hire more counselors. Inform all students and parents about how to apply for financial aid and provide assistance in completing the application.

6. California should utilize multiple strategies and models to increase baccalaureate degree attainment and coordination of the three sectors, such as:

a) Increase CSU and UC enrollment capacity to serve more transfers and entering freshmen.

Strongly agree

b) Allow more CCCs to offer four-year programs with B.A. /B.S. attainment.

Agree

c) Promote the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based improvements in curriculum, instruction and placement to enhance student success and degree.

Strongly agree

d) Promote greater flexibility among the three sectors' eligibility requirements to increase

Agree

e) Develop university centers and/or university branches to increase access to baccalaureate degree attainment.

Strongly agree

f) Increase articulation among the three higher education sectors to construct curriculum pathways helping students to transfer smoothly to four-year colleges, for degree attainment of baccalaureate degree.

Strongly agree

g) develop a longitudinal student database to track enrollment, transfer, and completion rates across all three sectors and provide feedback to high schools.

Strongly agree

h) expand the use of new technologies, including online education, to the extent that they expand access and success for students.

Agree

i) provide credit and non-credit adult education courses that support life-long learning and provide opportunities for training/retraining that can lead to better jobs and/or postsecondary education

Strongly agree

j) Provide programs leading to Certification in Career Technical Education to fulfill labor needs and enable people to be trained/retrained for meaningful jobs that do not require a bachelor's degree.

Strongly agree

k) create a mechanism, such as an oversight body, to provide coordination and articulation among the three sectors, to continuously evaluate the functioning and efficacy of higher education as a system, and to provide non-partisan analysis and recommendations for improvement.

Strongly agree

l) maintain a comprehensive system of post-secondary education/higher education that will have viable access points for all adult Californians, including such populations as disabled students, incarcerated students, veterans, Dreamers, those seeking the retrain or change careers, and older adults.

Strongly agree