Legislation and Governmental Relations Committee

September 4, 2014

CCC Confer 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Minutes

Attendees: Angeles Abraham, Julie Adams, Kale Braden, Julie Bruno, Dan Crump, Silvester Henderson, David Morse, Stacey Searle-Chapin

Note-taker: Julie Bruno

1. Approval of the Agenda by consensus
2. Member introductions
3. LGRC Charge and Title
   1. Charge: The Legislative and Governmental Relations Committee is responsible for providing the President with background information on all legislation related to academic and professional matters. Through research and analysis, and representation on appropriate advocacy groups, the Committee will provide the President and the Executive Committee with recommendations on such legislation. The Committee is also responsible for providing legislative alerts to the local senates, identifying liaison persons to contact legislators, and providing support to local senates regarding California's legislative process as it has bearing on academic and professional matters. It is the goal of the Committee to provide the President and the Executive Committee with the resources to ensure that the Senate is recognized as the voice of authority with the Legislature and Governor's Office in the areas of academic and professional matters.
   2. Title Change – Members recommended a title change for the committee. Bruno will bring forward an agenda item to the next Executive Committee to change the committee title to “Legislative and Advocacy Committee”
   3. Charge changes – Members determined that no other changes to the charge should be made at this time.
4. Legislation
   1. Previous years - Morse informed the members that the committee was on hiatus last year. As a result, the focus on legislation and advocacy was limited. As vice president, Morse was responsible for tracking legislation, keeping the president up to date, and acting as liaison with system partners and constituent groups such as the Chancellor’s Office and FACCC. Morse would like committee to expand the role of the committee this year and include activities such as
      1. Support the president with legislation updates and information
      2. Track legislation and keep up with developments.
      3. Engage system partners and constituents.
      4. Prioritize legislation and write letters.
   2. Tracking - Committee members discussed how legislation could be tracked and possible assignments for committee members. This topic will be revisited at the beginning of the next legislation session.
      1. Equity - Members questioned if there was a focus on equity in any of the current or possible legislation for next year. Currently there is nothing specific proposed or enacted legislation concentrating on equity. Morse commented that equity is addressed in the budget. Legislative focus tends to be more on access and student success and achievement gap.
   3. Research – Members discussed the need for researching ASCCC positions in relation to proposed legislation and analyzing the impact on students, faculty and colleges. Additionally, research and analysis will assist the committee in making advocacy recommendations to the president and the Executive Committee as well as writing opposition or support letters and resolutions to bring to the body.
   4. Other activities
      1. The members had an interest in holding an ASCCC legislative day. Seeing the legislators and staff face to face is very helpful and will enable the Senate to advocate more effectively.
      2. Members discussed the need to empower local senates to do advocacy work locally and statewide. Some suggestions included
         1. Packaging the article digest that Crump will send out so that local senate presidents may drop the content into their agendas or communication with college faculty.
         2. Quick briefings on legislation and advocacy activities. Possibly a one-page summary to keep folks informed. Keeping senate presidents informed but overwhelming them with information. Using the president’s update by creating an “Advocacy Corner” might be a good way to inform without inundating. Members noted that having too many places that senate presidents need to check for information could be discouraging.
         3. A legislation and advocacy website would be useful but concerns were expressed with updating the content. The webpage may contain links to other websites such as the legislation tracker and FACCC.
5. Communication
   1. President – Members discussed the desire to ensure that the president has the information he needs to advocate on behalf of the Senate, the faculty and the students. The committee recognized the need for immediate notification to the president when legislation is amended as well as the need to prioritize advocacy efforts.
   2. Executive Committee- Members discussed the desire to keep the Executive Committee informed through the monthly legislative report and an article digest.
   3. Local Senates – Members determined that the following outreach methods would help keep local senate presidents informed.
      1. Advocacy and legislative information in the monthly president’s update.
      2. Legislative alerts sent out on a blue form to visually signal the urgency and advocacy content.
      3. Communicating with local senates by partnering with the Relation with Local Senates Committee. Limit the information to short messages such as “three things you can do for advocacy”.
      4. Establishing a website that has ASCCC documents, links to advocacy and information recourses.
      5. Create a listserv for legislative liaisons. Additionally, members thought it would be good to explore the use of legislative analyst position and determine what works and what doesn’t. The information may be used as the basis for a Rostrum article.
      6. A proposal to partner with FACCC on communicating with local senates was discussed. Members expressed the need to ensure that the Senate purview is the primary consideration when sending out these notification and that the lines between the two organizations do not become blurry. Other considerations discussed include:
         1. Ensuring that there is not too much repetition
         2. Both organization must agree on content
         3. Careful on too close alignment of the organization.
         4. Senate purview must be preserved
         5. Benefits to both organizations: FACCC gains access to a wider audience and ASCCC improves advocacy efforts.
      7. Members considered the use of a blog as a way to reach out to local senates. Members noted the following:
         1. Only effective if it had specific criteria
         2. A moderated blog might be most effective
         3. This would be a good partnership with the Local Senates Committee
6. Plenary Breakout –Possible topics for the fall plenary session breakout were discussed. The following topics were mentioned:
   1. Provide a legislation update and invite the CO, FACCC or CCLC to present
   2. Explain the legislative process including the difference between bills, title 5, and joint resolutions. Demystify the process and include a glossary of terms that may also be posted on the website.
   3. Legislation and Advocacy 101 to discuss how senate presidents may influence state legislation locally. Rostrum article. Legislation and Advocacy 101. Role of the Senate president.
7. Working with partners – members provided their various connections to other organizations including CCCI, FACCC and CTA.
8. Scheduled Meetings:
   1. September 25th from 3:00 to 5:00pm CCC Confer
   2. October 29th from 10:00am to 3:00 pm Sacramento
9. Adjourn