
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: AB 2069
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Version: May 27, 2016
Urgency: No
Consultant: Kathleen Chavira
Hearing Date: June 15, 2016
Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012

SUMMARY

This bill expands the metrics to be reported in order to evaluate the effectiveness of matriculation services at the California Community Colleges (CCC) to include the annual ratio of paid part-time faculty hours per part-time faculty full-time equivalent.

BACKGROUND

Existing law establishes the Seymour Campbell Student Success Act of 2012 to, among other things, increase California community college student access and success by providing effective core matriculation services, including orientation, assessment and placement, counseling, and other education planning services, and academic interventions. Colleges and districts receiving funding under the Act agree to abide by its provisions. (Education Code § 78210-78219)

Existing law requires districts that participate in the Act to establish and maintain institutional research to evaluate the effectiveness of the Student Success and Support Program under the Act. Existing law establishes a number of metrics for this research including, prior educational experience, educational goals and courses of study, criteria for exemption from matriculation services, need for financial assistance, academic performance, and data disaggregated by ethnicity, gender, disability, age and socioeconomic status, to the extent that information is available.

Existing law establishes the Community College Part-time Faculty Office Hours Program, contingent upon annual Budget Act funding, for the purpose of providing community college students with access to academic advice and assistance and to encourage districts to provide opportunities to compensate those who work office hours related to their teaching load. The governing board of each district that establishes such a program is required to negotiate with the exclusive bargaining representative (or, if none exists, with the faculty) to establish the program. Participating districts are required to inform the Chancellor's office of the total costs of part-time faculty office hours compensation paid and the Chancellors office is required to apportion up to 50% of these costs, to be distributed proportionally based upon each districts' total cost and the total amount provided in the annual Budget Act. (EC § 87880-87885)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Expands the metrics to be reported in order to evaluate the effectiveness of matriculation services at the California Community Colleges (CCC) to include the annual ratio of paid part-time faculty office hours per part-time faculty full-time equivalent.
- 2) Declares the Legislature's intent that these requirements should not affect the allocation of Student Success and Support Program funding.
- 3) Identifies potentially reimbursable state mandated costs.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** The author states, "Given the importance of office hours on student performance, and the significant proportion of classes taught by part-time faculty, this metric should be included in the Student Success Scorecard. The measure will further support the goals of the Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act by including the collection of metrics essential for student success."
- 2) ***Part-time Faculty Office Hours.*** In 1997, the Legislature created the Community College Part-Time Faculty Office Hours Program to improve student access to instructors by establishing a fund to reimburse districts 50% of their costs if they negotiated some level of office hour compensation for their part-time faculty members. Funding for this program is currently disbursed on a reimbursement basis to participating community college districts pursuant to Section 87885.

The program had been funded at a level of about \$ 2 million per year until 2001-02, when it reached its peak of funding at \$7.1 million. During the recession (2009- 2015) this funding was reduced to about \$3.5 million per year. Both the Senate and the Assembly have proposed restoration of funding for the program in the annual Budget Act for the last two years. Both houses have again included an increase to the part-time faculty office hour's program in their 2016-17 budget bills and it appears likely that total funding for the program will be restored to the 2008-09 pre-recession level of \$7.1 million.

- 3) ***Data Collection Challenges.*** According to the CCC, paid part-time faculty office hours are not a state requirement and vary by district according to their individual local bargaining contracts. Consequently statewide data are inconsistent. The Chancellor's Office is only able to track information from districts which specifically participate in the state's Part-Time Faculty Office Hours Program. The Chancellor's Office reports that, for the current fiscal year, they have received claims from 30 of the 72 districts, and they expect to receive a few more claims before the June deadline for reporting this information.

The Chancellor's office also noted that districts that do not participate in the program are not precluded from paying for office hours with other funds.

However, the current methodology for data collection does not provide a level of detail that would allow the Chancellors office to determine which districts pay for office hours using other sources of funding.

Since the use of paid part-time faculty hours varies by district, making this information consistent and accurate enough to be useful would involve a costly process. According to the Chancellor's, colleges which offer paid office hours would need to determine how to accurately track and collect this data from all their part-time faculty in a standardized way, and then have it reported to their local Management Information System (MIS.) Recent feedback from local Chief Technology Officers indicates an estimated average cost of \$8000-\$12,000 at each of the 72 districts to re-vamp their MIS to include this data collection element.

- 4) ***Linking reporting requirements/objective.*** Notwithstanding the importance of student access to faculty, the matriculation program reporting requirements focus upon an evaluation of the effective use of Student Success and Support Program funds to provide matriculation services by requiring reporting on related student outcomes. This bill would incorporate reporting on an element related to faculty and that is a subject of collective bargaining. In addition, as noted in staff comment #3, collection and reporting of this information through a data reporting system is complex and costly, and arguably would require funding that might be better used to actually provide for part-time faculty office hours.

According to the author, the intent of this bill is to create transparency for students and faculty as to a district's policy around part-time faculty office hours. **Staff recommends** the bill be amended to delete this specific reporting requirement from this section of the Education Code. **Staff further recommends** the bill be amended to require that each community college district prominently post on its Web site whether or not part-time instructors at the campus offer office hours.

SUPPORT

California Federation of Teachers
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

OPPOSITION

None received.

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