

Subject: Observations on CCBog Approval of Student Success Task Force

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Greetings Colleagues,

At approximately 5:00 pm today, following four hours of public testimony, the Community College Board of Governors (CCBoG) approved the Student Success Task Force report. How this all plays out is anyone's guess. At its December meeting, some members of the CCBoG clearly wanted to fast track implementation of the report while others favored a slower, more deliberate process. We received no real indication today from the Chancellor how fast this would all roll out, but we do know that the vice chancellors have already been reviewing regulations to see which ones can be amended.

Today's meeting demonstrated that one year's effort was insufficient to gain any real buy-in of faculty and students in this documents (administrators were divided in their approach). Dennis Frisch and I testified as a "team," which allowed us an extra minute or so of testimony. Dennis emphasized the deep concern felt by faculty, student and student support service organizations that the Task Force report will result in diminished access and student equity. I focused on the issues of full time faculty and professionalization of part-time faculty, noting their absence from the document.

The real story of today was in the considerable participation of students, mostly from San Francisco City College. They were animated and a bit irreverent. Nonetheless, they were also clear and logical in their presentations, and they exposed the considerable lack of support for the basic premise of the report.

While the outcome of the vote was never in doubt, the story line was not about a System embracing these sweeping changes, but rather a Board approving something over the considerable objection of the very parties needed to implement it. At the end of the meeting, over the political hollers of an "Occupy"-style, CCBoG member Henry Ramos indicated that the Chancellor's Office needed to consider the idea of piloting recommendations, and stacking them, one over the next (as compared to implementing them all at once). This would be a big victory for us as it would allow for greater faculty input in the implementation phase.

As I mentioned above, how it ultimately plays out is anyone's guess. Needless to say, today was great political theater. Here is an article from today's L.A. Times quoting FACCC:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/01/california-community-colleges-endorse-sweeping-reforms.html>.

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