Amendment to California Education Code

Student Representation Fee

The code section is as follows (amendment is in bold-italics):

Education Code 76060.5 [Enacted in 1987]

76060.5. If a student body association has been established at a community college as authorized by Section 76060, the governing body of the association may order that an election be held for the purpose of establishing a student representation fee of one dollar ($1) per semester. The election shall be held in compliance with regulations of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and shall be open to all regularly enrolled students of the community college. The affirmative vote of two-thirds of the students voting in the election shall be sufficient to establish the fee. However, the election shall not be sufficient to establish the fee unless the number of students who vote in the election equals or exceeds the average of the number of students who voted in the previous three student body association elections.

The student representation fee authorized by this section shall be collected by the officials of the community college, together with all other fees, at the time of registration or before registration and shall be deposited in a separate fiduciary fund established per the California Community Colleges Budget and Accounting Manual for student representation fees. The money collected pursuant to this section shall be expended to provide for the support of governmental affairs representatives who may be stating their positions and viewpoints before city, county, and district governments, and before offices and agencies of the state government. Fifty cents ($0.50) of each one dollar collected shall be earmarked to establish and support the operations of the statewide student organization recognized by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors with governmental affairs representatives to advocate before the state legislature and other state and local governmental entities. The chief fiscal officer of the community college shall have custody of the money collected pursuant to this section and the money shall be disbursed for the purposes described above upon the order of the governing body of the student body association. The district may retain a portion of the fees collected and deposited pursuant to this section that is

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equal to the actual cost of administering these fees up to, but not more than, 7 percent.

The student representation fee authorized by this section may be terminated by a majority vote of the students voting in an election held for that purpose. The election shall be called and held in compliance with regulations of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and shall be open to all regularly enrolled students of the community college.

A student may, for religious, political, financial, or moral reasons, refuse to pay the student representation fee established under this section. The refusal shall be submitted in writing to the college officials at the time the student pays other fees collected by the college officials. The refusal shall be submitted on the same form that is used for collection of fees as provided by the college, which, as determined by the college, shall be as nearly as practical in the same form as a model form prescribed by regulations of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=edc&group=76001-77000&file=76060-76067

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Student Senate for California Community Colleges

Funding Sources

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges has a number of different funding sources it uses to function each fiscal year. Since the inception of the SSCCC in 2006, each council has struggled to maintain a viable and stable source of revenue; with the State Chancellor’s Office being the only constant in our fiscal affairs. Even though financial sustainability has always been at the forefront of the organization’s goals, it has been very challenging to keep a steady flow of revenue that is consistent with other statewide student organizations.

California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO)

At the beginning of every fiscal year starting July 1st, the CCCCO funds the SSCCC with $30,000 for general operating expenses. This funding source is used to cover basic operating expenses for council meetings including mileage reimbursement, airfare, and train travel. Other expenses to include are lodging, food, and hotel meeting rooms. This funding source is designed to be used as seed money and only allows us to operate for four or five months out of the year. In January of 2011, a number of representatives of the SSCCC met with the Speaker of the Assembly and requested a discussion occur on the feasibility of funding from line item apportionment from the Legislature. Such a dialogue has not yet occurred, but we look forward to working with legislators to identify such opportunities of support for student representation.

Financial Contributions from Local Associated Student Organizations (ASOs)

Local community college Associated Student Organizations make financial contributions to the Student Senate through the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC). The Foundation is the fiscal agent for the SSCCC. As contributions come in, this fund provides a flexible way for a diverse set of expenses to be paid. Most local ASOs that contribute to the SSCCC through the FCCC have a reserve of Student Representation Fee money (SRF) or other source of fee revenue that has not been used. However, there is no consistency with this kind of funding source. In order for the SSCCC to function effectively we must engage in the rigorous process of soliciting contributions from local ASOs which can be often impeded or blocked because of personality conflicts or other unpredictable influences. Additionally, projecting a budget for the following fiscal year is made more difficult with an inability to determine a concrete stream of revenue that allows for expenses to be offset.

Donations from External Organizations

The external community and other various organizations sometimes make an in-kind donation to the SSCCC.

The SSCCC Fall and Spring General Assemblies (Conferences)

The conferences held by the SSCCC are self-sustaining, and also allows the SSCCC to pay for any expenses related such as travel, food, lodging and miscellaneous conference expenses. Any revenue earned through registration fees exceeding the cost of the conference, and exceeding the minimum amount of funds maintained in the SSCCC’s conference account are used to supplement lack of funds necessary to perform basic duties such as meeting monthly.

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