History of the Student Senate

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Brief Facts about the California Community Colleges

- The Chancellor's Office and Board of Governors were created by legislation passed in 1967 (Prior to that, the community colleges were under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education

- Today we represent the largest system of higher education in the world -
  - 110 Community Colleges
  - 72 districts
  - 2.7 million students

What is Shared Governance?

- In 1988, Assembly Bill 1725 created a new governance structure for community colleges

- Required local governing boards to:
  - ➢ Ensure faculty, staff and students have the right to participate effectively in district and college governance
  - ➢ Provide them the opportunity to express opinions at the campus level
  - ➢ Ensure these opinions are given every reasonable consideration
  - ➢ Ensure the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards

Board of Governors Initiative

- In September 1990, the Board of Governors adopted an initiative in response to AB 1725 entitled, Encouraging Greater Student Participation in Governance

- Laid out a framework for local districts and the system to include student participation in every possible venue

- Recognized the Council of Student Body Governments as the official organization representing students in the statewide Consultation process

Statewide Student Senate formed in 1996

- In order to ensure effective student participation in the development of policy for the California Community Colleges system, the Board of Governors adopted section 50002 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations which states:

    "A Student Senate for the California Community Colleges has been established in conjunction with local associated student organizations so that the community college students of California may have a formal and effective means for participation in the formation of state policies that have or may have a significant impact on students….The Board of Governors recognizes the Student Senate for the California Community Colleges as the representative of community college associated student organizations before the Board of Governors and the Chancellor's Office."

Modern Effort Begins

- In October 2007, then-Chancellor Drummond invited all the Student Body Government Presidents to a "Presidential Summit"

- Call to Action – Get it started and create a new structure for the Student Senate that was inclusive and provided an effective way to engage in state level shared governance

- Twenty students were elected from all ten regions in the state to begin the work of formation – regular meetings to develop proposed model

Recipe for an Effective Student Senate

1. Provide students at every community college the opportunity and encouragement to participate

2. Maintain an effective communications system among the colleges, regions and with statewide representatives

3. Encourage participation by local student governments

4. Ensure mechanisms for participants to be supported and well-informed

5. Create an infrastructure that is sustainable as students transition

6. Embrace partnerships with other system representatives

7. Insist that student leaders be responsible and accountable

8. Keep the students' interest at the forefront

Model E

Student Senate Council

(20 Regional Senators + 10 At-Large Senators = 30 Council Members)
- *Internally elect executive officers*
- *Meet monthly to carry out the regular business of the SSCCC*
- *Appoint representatives to statewide shared governance committees*
- *Act on behalf of constituents on time-sensitive matters*

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Two General Assemblies
- *Invitation to delegates representing local associated student organizations*
- *Student leaders attend workshops on statewide student issues*
- *Elect At-Large Senators*
- *Adopt resolutions that set the Student Senate policy agenda*
- *Adopt SSCCC Constitutional Amendments*

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Ten Regions
- *Organized by geographic location*
- *Adopt region resolutions*
- *Elect regional senators*

- *Elect region executive officers*
- *Adopt region governing documents*

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110 Locally Elected and Independently Operating Associated Student Organizations

May 7, 2006 – Student Senate's Birthday!

- Student Senate for California Community Colleges Constitution was ratified

- 20 Regional Senators were elected for 2006-07 term

- Election of 10 At-Large Senators postponed until Fall 2007 General Assembly

Student Senate Action Begins

- Convene monthly meetings
- Board of Governor's meetings
- Consultation Council
- Budget Work Group
- Legislative Task Force
- Strategic Planning Teams
- Advisory Committees
- Legislative Hearings
- Federal Hearings
- Collaborate with CSU and UC Student Associations

External Groups-

- Academic Senate Exec Committee
- Faculty Association of Community Colleges (FACCC)
- Community College League of California – Legislative Advisory Committee
- California Community College Student Affairs Association
- US Student Association (USSA)

Significant Accomplishments

SB 283 – Maldonado

- Signed by Governor on June 6, 2007
- Chaptered on July 6, 2007

Successfully participated in the Consultation legislative proposal process and ultimately securing support by the Board of Governors for the following legislative proposal:

Change the Education Code to name the Student Senate as the student organization to submit names to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the Board of Governors, Student Representative

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges is to pursue policies that will improve student access, promote student success, engage and empower local student leaders, and enrich the collegiate experience for all California community college students."

Vision Statement

"The guiding vision of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges is to communicate a unified student perspective to relevant constituent groups and elected officials in all matters directly affecting California community college students."
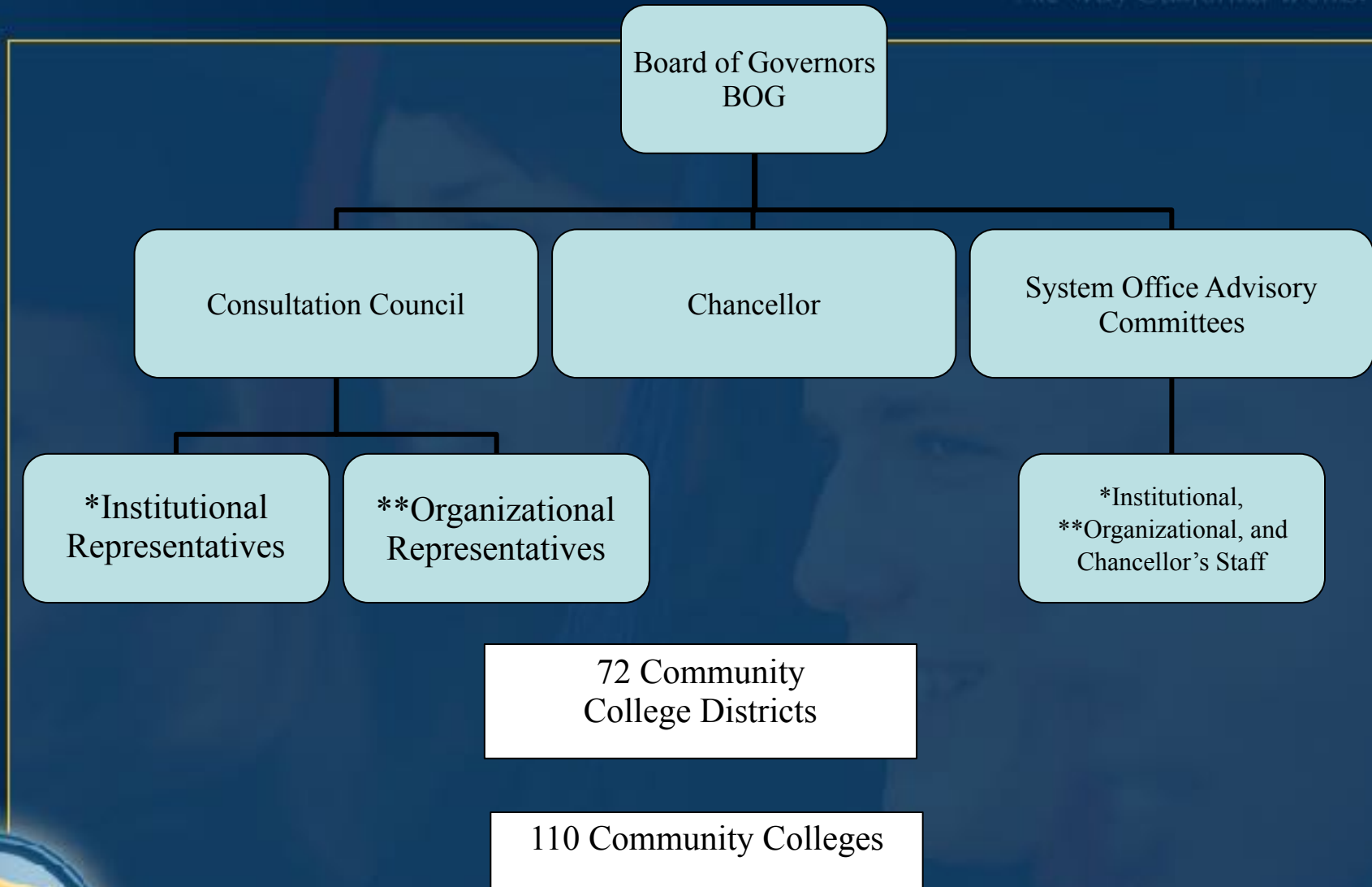
Core Beliefs

- Access to a high quality educational environment is a right for all.

- The welfare and success of future generations of community college students is in our hands.

- In all things, we take into consideration our accountability to our greater constituency of California community college students.

- Our primary obligation is to effectively fulfill our role as a system partner in the statewide shared governance and consultation processes.

- Above all, the long-term sustainability of our organization lies in the integrity of our members and actions, and holding steadfast to these principles.

The Task Ahead

The role of the Student Senate is to ensure the collective voice of students is brought into these shared governance processes. You represent the 2.7 million community college students enrolled throughout California and have taken on the responsibility of making sure their perspective and interests are heard. You are advocates for your fellow students.

Board of Governors
BOG

Consultation Council

Chancellor

System Office Advisory
Committees

*Institutional
Representatives

**Organizational
Representatives

*Institutional,
**Organizational, and
Chancellor's Staff

72 Community
College Districts

110 Community Colleges

Areas of "Significant Impact"

- grading policies

- codes of student conduct

- academic disciplinary policies

- curriculum development

- courses or programs which should be initiated or discontinued;

- Processes for institutional planning and budget development

- Standards and policies regarding student preparation and success

- Student services planning and development

- Student fees within the authority of the district to adopt; and

- Any other district and college policy, procedure, or related matter that the district governing board determines will have a significant effect on students

Board of Governors

- The Board of Governors sets policy and provides guidance to the districts and colleges in the system

- Two student members, one voting and one non-voting, are appointed by the Governor to serve on the Board. The names for consideration are forwarded by the Student Senate according to a process established by the Council in 2007

- The Chancellor's Office also provides funding for two Student Senate representatives to attend Board meetings to be informed on important policy matters and to testify on behalf of students. A Student Senate Update is a standing item on the Board's agenda

What is the Consultation Council?

- AB 1725 required the Board of Governors to maintain a Consultation process to enable community college districts to participate in the development and review of policy proposals

- Currently comprised of 18 representatives:
  - Trustees, Chief Executive Officers, Students, Faculty, Business Officers, Student Services Officers, Instructional Officers, and represented organizations such as faculty and staff unions and associations

- The Student Senate appoints two students to the Consultation Council

System Office Advisory Committees

- Student representatives are needed to participate on statewide advisory committees and task forces. There is a wide spectrum of specialized programs that benefit from having the perspective of students who are consumers of these services

- These students do not necessarily have to be formal participants in student government, but there has to be a process for their selection and reporting back to the state Student Senate on a regular basis

- A list of various committees is in your packet. Recruiting for these positions is underway. Your assistance is needed to generate wide interest to allow for a competitive pool of students to consider for appointment

History of the Student Senate

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