July 10, 2012

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1062 (Liu) Increasing Leadership Capacity in the Chancellor’s Office to Support Greater Student Success

REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

Ohlone Community College District urges your signature on Senate Bill 1062 (Liu). This bill aims to provide the Chancellor greater latitude in hiring members of the executive management team.

SB 1062 proposes a narrow, but important change. It expands the pool from which the Chancellor can hire individuals to fill career executive assignment (CEA) positions to include persons with relevant community college, higher education and workforce development experience. This does not change the existing exempt process nor does it shut out state civil service candidates from being considered for executive level positions.

The Chancellor’s Office is a state agency and subject to many requirements of the civil service system. However, it holds responsibilities more similar to the UC and CSU central offices than a typical state agency. Currently, among the three higher education segments, only the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) is held to stricter hiring requirements.

The Chancellor can recommend a candidate to the Governor to be considered for an appointment, but this process can take months. In the past, the CCCCCO has lost candidates with significant expertise because of these delays. The CEA process is timely but offers a limited pool in which to select candidates.
Specifically, this bill authorizes the Chancellor to appoint executive staff without permanent civil service status to a position classified as a career executive assignment if the individual has a minimum of five years’ work experience in one of the following:

a. A local community college;
b. A higher education policy position; or
c. A technical or occupational capacity for which there is a shortage of qualified workers.

Senate Bill 1062 would increase flexibility for the Chancellor’s Office to lead the largest community college system in the world. This bill aligns with the Student Success Task Force recommendations, which recommend strengthening the leadership capacity of the Chancellor’s Office. It is also supported by the Little Hoover Commission, which recently completed a comprehensive report on the California Community Colleges. The Little Hoover Commission Report also recommended that the Chancellor be empowered to hire senior level staff. These modest changes strengthen the leadership capacity of the Chancellor’s Office and increase its effectiveness in addressing the many complex and critical issues affecting the California Community College System.

For these reasons we ask you to support community college students of California by signing Senate Bill 1062.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chair, Ohlone College Board of Trustees

cc: Chancellor’s Office
   California Community College