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Information

Executive Committee

Review of the Process for Selecting Committee Chairs

Executive Summary: This agenda item reviews the Policy Manual process for selecting Committee Chairs.

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Dale Janssen, Executive Director

Strategic Plan Goal: 2

Support policy development related to educator preparation, conduct and professional growth

December 2009

Review of the Process for Selecting Committee Chairs

Introduction

Chair Cheung requested that Commission staff prepare an agenda item that reviews the process for selecting Chairs of the Commission's standing committees, in particular reviewing the history of Ex-Officio Commissioners serving as Committee Chairs.

Background

The Commission's Policy Manual states

SECTION 401. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The Chair of the Commission shall designate a Commissioner to serve as a Chair for each standing committee.

Historically the Committee Chairs have been selected from voting members; Ex-Officio Commissioners, as non-voting members, have never served as Committee Chairs. Ex-Officio Commissioners represent the Regents of the University of California, the Trustees of the California State University, the California Postsecondary Education Commission and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities. In reviewing the Commission's history, there is no clear guidance why Ex-Officio Commissioners have not served as Committee Chairs.

One possible explanation was the previous operation of the Commission. Prior to 1998 the Commission's standing committees met concurrently and took action as recommendations to the Commission as a whole during the last day of the meeting. One responsibility of a chair is to break a tie and a non-voting member would not have been able to perform that duty. Currently, all Commission standing Committees operate as committees-of-the-whole, consequently there is no need for the chair of a committee to break a tie.

Another possible explanation is the difference between the voting members of the Commission and the Ex-Officio's members. Besides the non-voting status, Ex-Officio's are appointed by their respective organizations while all but one voting member is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Therefore there is a public vetting of the voting members which the Ex-Officio's do not receive. The other voting member of the Commission is the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee. The Superintendent's designee does not go through a public vetting; however that member represents an elected official.

Voting members also can only serve for two four-year terms, while Ex-Officio members serve at the will of the representative organization.

All Commission meetings are governed by *Robert's Rules of Order* per Section 230 of the Policy Manual. According the *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, Ex-Officio members have the same rights and privileges as any other member of a board, unless those rights are restricted by

state law. In the Commission's situation, the Education Code restricts the Ex-Officio members from voting unless a majority vote of the Commission allows it.

Next Steps

The discussion during the Executive Committee can serve as guidance for the current and future Commission Chairs to determine who can be selected as Chairs of the Commission's standing committees and if deemed necessary, staff can prepare an update of the Policy Manual that can be presented for action at the January 2010 Commission meeting.