



ACF Report: Legislative Update **Monday, March 10, 2008**

The legislative session happily is over—those who were fearful can exhale; those who were hoping can gear up for next year. We did accomplish a few wins that we'll ask our BOG to consider acting upon for faculty and staff. The faculty, staff, and dependents' tuition waivers bill was a Shepherd issue, and I would like to thank all the faculty who kept pushing for this one. Another issue that will need to be studied is the retirement match. Finally, full-time faculty and staff can look for a small increase in your annual increment, up from \$50 to \$60 for each year of service after the first three.

- **HB4062 (Public school teacher certification).** The worrisome aspect of this bill is that it would provide elementary teachers with certification to teach in the 5-8 middle school areas, which are more subject oriented. Teacher Education programs were concerned. **This bill did not pass.**
- **HB 4076 (Legislative pay raise which included AEI increase).** **This bill to award pay raises to legislators passed both houses. The AEI (annual increment) inserted in the bill was raised from \$50 to \$60 for each year of service to the state after the first three. This is a type of "loyalty bonus."**
- **SB 595 (Vision 20/20)** This is a long-range planning and goals assessing bill that will establish goals for public higher education for 2020, create educational partnerships to achieve state goals and objectives, establish a higher education accountability system in terms of planning, compacts, and reporting, and attend to some facility needs. It is principally a bill that will keep the Legislature directly in the loop in terms of planning and reporting higher education goals, compacts, and report cards. **This bill passed.**
- **HB4623 (Retirement contributions)** **This bill passed both houses, giving institutions, HEPC and CTCs the discretion to provide an employer match of more than 6%.**
- **HB3215 (CTC boards of governors)** **This bill passed.** This very complex bill pertains to the statewide network of independently accredited community and technical colleges; it also includes a provision for the **10% salary increase for faculty promotions in the CTCs.** Dennis Taylor will provide to the ACF a breakdown of the parts of the bill and implications. One important point is that now CTC institutions have the 10% raise moved back into code, whereas the four-year institutions do not technically have the raise in code anymore. This may be an issue for the ACF to address.
- **SB 564 (Tuition waivers for faculty and staff dependents)** **This bill passed.**
- **HB 2965 (Faculty excellence)** **This bill did not pass.** The bill set legislative goals for full-time and part-time faculty at state colleges and universities with specific ratios (75% fulltime to 25% adjunct in each academic department) to be met by 2013.
- **SB 287 (Research trust fund)** **This bill passed.**
- **SB 682 (CTC bonding)** **This bill passed.**