Inventory of the California State University Records

Collection number: R211

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

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Descriptive Summary
Title: California State University Records
Dates: 1957-1996
Collection number: R211
Creator: State CollegesCalifornia State CollegesCalifornia State University and CollegesCalifornia State University
Collection Size: 26 cubic feet of textual records
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: The record group consists of 26 cubic feet of textual records from the State Colleges, California State Colleges, California State University and Colleges, and The California State University created between 1957-1996. The records contain bill analysis, reports, memoranda, correspondence, press clippings, and subject files. The collection benefits researchers interested in California’s public higher education.

Physical location: California State Archives
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Acquisition and Custodial History
The California State Archives acquired the California State University Records according to state law.

Administrative History
The California State University originated from the Donahoe Act (SB33, Chapter 49, Statues of 1960) authored by State Senator George Miller, which enacted certain suggestions from the California Master Plan for Higher Education: 1960-1975 (Master Plan). The act united the State Colleges into the California State Colleges as a public trust, created the California State Colleges Board of Trustees, and moved authority over the nineteen state colleges from the State Board of Education to the Board of Trustees. Even though the Master Plan recommended legislative independence similar to the University of California Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees reported to the legislature on budget allocation and various state agencies concerning such topics as employment and campus expansion. Despite this restriction, the Trustees centralized the diverse and independent campuses into a unified system.
The Donahoe Act created a three-tier, statewide postsecondary education system. The CSU occupied the middle tier and functioned as the teacher education school. The University of California (UC) occupied the top tier and the California Community Colleges (CCC) occupied the bottom tier.

The California State University Board of Trustees (the Trustees) governed the California State University (CSU) and coordinated the various university campuses. Prior to the CSU system, the colleges that would form the university system were known variously as: Normal Schools, 1862-1921; State Teachers Colleges from 1921-1935; State Colleges from 1935-1960; California State Colleges from 1960-1972; California State University and Colleges from 1972-1982; and The California State University from 1982-1996. The first campus established was the State Normal School in San Francisco, which moved to San Jose in 1871 and became California State University, San Jose in 1972. Additional normal schools included the State Normal School in Los Angeles in 1881, which later joined the University of California, and the State Normal School in Chico in 1887.

Before 1960, the State Colleges had no single unifying plan or organization preparing for California's educational needs. Additionally, each campus retained authority and responsibility over expansion. The Donahoe Act centralized authority and granted the CSU the ability to offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in liberal arts and applied science. Furthermore, individual campuses could now create Ph.D. programs through a joint project with the University of California.

The Trustees initially consisted of sixteen Governor-appointed trustees with four ex-officio members and one non-voting officer named by the chancellor. Subsequent additions to the Trustees included faculty and student representatives, bringing the total to twenty-three members as of 1996. In 1960, the system included eighteen campuses, which increased by 1996 to twenty-two campuses, including California State University, Maritime Academy.

As the chief executive officer, the Chancellor carried out the Board of Trustees administrative functions and enjoyed authority to take actions necessary to fulfill the CSU's Constitutional mandate. One of the offices answering to the Chancellor was the Government Affairs office, which presented the Chancellor with bill file analysis.


**Scope and Content**

The record group consists of 26 cubic feet of textual records from the State Colleges, California State Colleges, California State University and Colleges, and The California State University. The majority of the records were created after 1980 with the exception of a group of records created between 1968 and 1972. This collection is organized into four series: Report Files, Subject Files, California Constitution Revision Commission Files, and Bill Files.

The records contain bill analysis, reports, memoranda, correspondence, press clippings, and subject files. The Board of Trustee's broad interests included: modernizing class rooms, increasing the prestige of CSU, limiting union and labor power, cut costing, increasing enrollment, expanding the CSU ability to grant Ph.D.'s, making the Trustees immune to legislative and executive branch oversight (mirroring the Board of Regents), maintaining academic freedom and excellence, and increasing state teacher training and competence.

The collection benefits researchers interested in California's public higher education. The majority of the collection details the CSU's legislative agenda and the bill analysis for each legislative enactment. The Government Affairs office corresponded with legislators, their counterparts at the UC, and the Governor's Office concerning the Trustees' opinion and concerns. In particular, the correspondence with various Governors offers insight into the Trustees' position on bill topics as the Chancellor hoped to spur a signature or a veto. Many of the issues deal with the increased student enrollment coupled with decreasing state funds. Similarly, the subject files reveal the Trustees and Chancellor's operations and background information of the university. The system grew extensively during the time covered by the subject files and the Trustees and Chancellor attempted to maintain the university's standards while accommodating more students. Along similar lines, the California Constitution Revision Commission Files reveal the issues the university faced in the mid-1990s and the Chancellor's Office intentions for the future. The correspondence between Dr. Lee Kerschner and Chancellor Barry Munitz was frank while focusing on the CSU's interests.

The Chancellor's Office produced most of the records in this collection. The Government Affairs office, a division of the Chancellor's Office responsible for suggesting positions regarding legal issues to the Board of Trustee, authored the largest series, bill files. The Government Affairs office did not set the Trustees' policy but analyzed bills and recommended positions to the Chancellor and the Trustees. An additional office responsibility required them to communicate the CSU's position to state legislators. The Chancellor's legislative agenda focused primarily on emancipating the Trustees from legislative oversight and expanding the CSU mission.

**Related Collections at the California State Archives**

Selected Archives: Records of the California State University, Board of Trustees (F3561)
Assembly Education Committee Records
Assembly Higher Education Committee Records
Senate Education Committee Records
California State Board of Education Records
Diane Watson Papers
Teresa P. Hughes Papers
Tom Hayden Papers

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
California State University
California State University. Office of the Chancellor
California State University. Board of Trustees
Higher education and state

R211.01, Box 1/1-Box 1/3
Series 1 Reports 1957-1964
Physical Description: 3 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content Note
Reports issued regarding the State Colleges' enrollment statistics at the various campuses across the state. The reports also include academic year and end of semester summaries, and degree and credential summaries. The Superintendent of Public Instruction wrote the reports from 1957 to 1960 while The Board of Trustees authored the 1960 - 1964 reports.

R211.02, Box 1/4-Box 2/12
Series 2 Subject Files 1968-1971
Physical Description: 41 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.
Scope and Content Note
Subject files relate to the operations of the Trustees and were created by the CSU Board of Trustees and the Chancellor's Office contain correspondence, press releases, meeting agendas, budgets, press clippings, and reports. Subject headings include: Academic Affairs, Academic Planning, Academic Senate, Advisory Board, Alumni Association, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Budget, Chancellor Correspondence, Counsel of California State College Presidents, Coordinating Counsel for Higher Education, Education Commission of the States, Faculty and Staff Affairs, Faculty Salaries, Institutional Research, Legal, and University of California.

R211.03, Box 2/13-Box 3/4
Series 3 California Constitution Revision Commission Files 1995-1996
Physical Description: 17 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged in reverse chronological order.
Scope and Content Note
The California Constitution Revision Commission Files consist of correspondence between Chancellor Barry Munitz and his representative at the commission, Dr. Lee Kerschner. The Commission reviewed the state constitution and wrote a report recommending changes. The files primarily consist of correspondence from Dr. Kerschner to Chancellor Munitz detailing developments at the meetings. Dr. Kerschner provided commentary and analysis concerning behind-the-scenes developments and the machinations of various factions vying against each other.
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Scope and Content Note
The bill files consist of bills analyzed by the Government Affairs office and their recommendations on position the CSU should take on each bill. The series ranges from 1968 to 1972 and 1981 to 1996, with the strongest concentration being 1981 to 1996. The bills relate to many subjects but some prominent subjects were funding, Trustee independence, enrollment, increased role for the CSU in higher education, cost reduction, affordable tuition and fees, teacher training, and employees. The series mostly consists of bill analysis, press clippings, correspondence, and memoranda.

Several legislators attempted to increase the Trustees independence. SCA 64 (1983-1984) by State Senator Al Alquist was a failed attempt to make the Board of Trustees independent which received student and union opposition over fears they would lose autonomy and collective bargaining powers. Yet, the Trustees argued the CSU was too big to be regulated as a typical state agency. Assembly Member Paul Woodruff authored the Trustees sponsored AB1203 (Chaptered 414, Statutes of 1991) to increase bureaucratic efficiency and independence. Assembly Member Brooks Firestone authored the CSU Management Efficiency Act (AB3132, Chapter 938, Statutes of 1996). The act made the CSU exempt from non-specific new laws affecting state agencies, exempt the CSU from the Office of Administrative Law, reformed contract management, and allowed the CSU to create risk management pools. The Trustees supported the act. Senator Al Alquist worked (SB593, Chapter 779, Statutes of 1993) to increase the Trustees' autonomy by removing the Department of Finance's approval from Trustee settlements of pending actions.

Tuition and fees increased as the state's financial situation worsened throughout the 1980s and 1990s. A fundamental shift occurred wherein the state lost the ability to finance the CSU at previous levels while student enrollment expanded. This contradiction forced the CSU to figure out how to fund the increased matriculation. The Trustees sought to prevent any enrollment loss do to escalating costs. Several legislators responded with proposals to keep higher education affordable without increasing state spending. Assembly Member Tom Hayden offered one such plan with AB 278 in 1987, which Governor George Deukmejian vetoed. The plan would have allowed parents to invest tuition futures. The Chancellor's office took no official position but supported the idea of the bill while acknowledging the possibility that the plan would not benefit low-income families. Senator Marian Bergeson sought to increase access to financial aid by introducing SB 602 (Chapter 1016, Statutes of 1987), which reformed California's financial aid to resemble federal financial aid. SB1072 (Senator Lucy Killea, 1993-1994) attempted to empower the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) to investigate ways to reduce costs at the CSU while maintaining education standards. The bill received Trustee support but the governor vetoed because he felt the bill was better served as a resolution.

Teacher training remained the major focus of the CSU and the Trustees constantly sought ways to enhance teacher training and toughen credentialing standards. Senator Marian Bergeson authored SB 148 (Chapter 1355, Statutes of 1989) to create Accrediting Advisory Council pilot program, focusing attention on candidate assessment and local flexibility. SB655 (Senator Marian Bergeson, Chapter 426, Statutes of 1993) initiated the Trustee-supported deregulation of the Commission on Teacher Credentials (CCTC) in order to increase teacher quality.

In order to establish the right of immigrants and immigrants' children to have access to higher education, the legislature passed AB2015 (Chapter 680, Statutes of 1983), which Assembly Member Art Agnos authored in 1983. The bill allowed legal aliens to establish residence thereby avoiding paying tuition at the CSU. The bill also created confusion because some officials thought illegal immigrants were covered under the new law. In response to the controversy, Assembly Member Marian Bergeson authored AB2247 in 1984 and state Senator Seymour authored SB 1350 in 1984 but both bills died in committee. In the 1991-1992 session, Assembly Member Richard Polanco authored AB 592, which would have allowed illegal aliens to achieve residency status but Governor Pete Wilson vetoed the bill.

Many attempts have been made to modify and update the Master Plan and the Donahoe Act since 1961. In the 1989-1990 session, Assembly Member Tom Hayden introduced legislation (AB462) to add new areas to the Master Plan such as a focus on access for disabled students, educational equality, and modifying the primary mission of the CSU. Governor George Deukmejian vetoed the bill. Additionally, the legislature passed AB1203 and SB1350 in 1984 and 1989 respectively which would have increased the independence of the Trustees and made the CSU exempt from non-specific new laws affecting state agencies.