

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

California Community Colleges

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December 31, 2003

TO: Distance Education Coordinators

FROM: LeBaron Woodyard, Dean
Academic Affairs and Instructional Resources
Educational Services Division

SUBJECT: Update on the California Virtual Campus (CVC) and Course Management

System Negotiations for 2004-05 California Virtual Campus Funding for 2004-05.

The California Virtual Campus (CVC) program was created in 1998 to assist community college faculty and staff implement and expand online distance education opportunities for students. The Chancellor's Office, through the Academic Affairs and Instructional Resources Unit, has supported the online distance education activities of the five CVC Regional Centers through the administration of an annual appropriation within the State Budget.

The program is currently funded for \$1.347 million in FY 2003-04, reduced by more than half of its FY 2002-03 funding. These funds enable the CVC Regional Centers to help the California Community Colleges deliver quality instruction by enhancing the professional development of faculty and staff engaged in online distance education, increasing the number of on-line offerings covering more diverse areas, covering the licensing and hosting costs for several course management systems, and providing additional support and services to the local community colleges.

There have been questions about the future viability of the CVC program. This memo is intended to provide information on the current actions being taken by the Chancellor's Office to ensure continuity in the level of CVC services to the system. In September 2003, the decision was made to support continued funding of the CVC program in FY 2004/05 at its current level of funding. At the Board of Governor's meeting in November 2003, the current funding level of \$1.347 million was included in the system budget submitted for 2004-05.

The Chancellor Office has begun a process for determining the direction for the CVC beyond 2004-05. The first step as stated above is to extend the current configuration of the CVC into a sixth year while the system completes a process of redesign for the future. Second, information is being gathered on the essential and preferred components of a statewide online program. Third, following the collection and analysis of this

information, a task force will be convened and charged with reviewing and evaluating several models that may be used to implement these essential and preferred components. The task force will make a recommendation to the Chancellor's Office and system of the preferred statewide model. Fourth, the selected model will be developed into a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) for funding in FY 2005/06.

The activity of the program in 2004-05 is contingent on the Governor's Budget for FY 2004/05. The Governor's proposed State Budget will be released a few days following his State of the State presentation January 6, 2004. All efforts are being made to ensure that there exists a level of service for all campuses to continue to offer online courses and programs to students throughout the state. Please know that we persist in our support of the CVC activities.

Course Management System Negotiations for 2004-05

The Chancellor's office and the California Virtual Campus projects recognize the importance of the CVC Course Management System hosting/ licensing program, and the positive impact that the program has had on the growth of community college online programs and student access. Given the current budget uncertainties, it is increasingly important that colleges continue to have the option to participate in this cost saving program, and for planning purposes, that colleges have price information about the program as early as possible in Spring 2004. To this end the Foundation for Community Colleges is working closely with the CVC to negotiate license agreements for WebCT and Blackboard for 2004-05.

The Foundation is focusing on leveraging the buying power of the community college system to achieve the highest level of service options at the lowest cost to colleges. To inform this negotiation process, the Foundation and CVC will be conducting a very brief survey of colleges in early January, with the goal of completing negotiations and releasing price information to the system by the end of February 2004. Your assistance in responding to this survey will be greatly appreciated.

cc: CVC Directors
Chief Instructional Officers (CIOs)
Distance Education Technical Advisory Committee (DETAC)
Dona Boatright, Interim Vice Chancellor, Educational Services
Ken Nather, Specialist, Distance Education
Cris Mora, CCPA II, Distance Education

Revised Update --- The Governor's Proposed Budget for 2004 - 2005, issued in January, 2004, includes \$1,374,000 for the CVC.