



Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 6, 2026

WebEx Meeting

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance

Joseph Holt
Michael Zimmerman
Kansen Chu
Tess Kraiker
Robyn Smith
Noah Zinner
Leigh Ferrin
Kevin Powers (on behalf of Assemblymember Mike Fong)

Committee Members Absent

Assemblymember Mike Fong
Senator Angelique Ashby

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) and Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Staff in Attendance

Elizabeth Elias, Deputy Bureau Chief
Manila Vongmany, Deputy Bureau Chief
Yan Cao, Office of Student Assistance and Relief Chief
Linh Nguyen, DCA Legal Counsel
Nicole Dragoo, Bureau Licensing Chief
Daniel Rangel, Bureau Investigations Chief
Ebony Santee, Bureau Education Administrator
Yvette Johnson, Bureau Administration Chief
Erik Casida, Bureau Compliance Chief
Renee Walters, Bureau Discipline Manager
Parker Strohmeyer, Bureau Legislative/Regulation Specialist
Janel Quayle, Bureau STRF Manager
Ryan Tacher, DCA Legislative Project Manager
Jason Piccione, DCA Chief Information Officer

Agenda #1 - Welcome, Introductions, and Establishment of a Quorum

Tess Kraiker, Chair, called the meeting to order. She acknowledged the departure of former Bureau Chief Deborah Cochrane and recognized newly appointed Committee member Noah Zinner.

Agenda #2 - Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

No public comment.

Agenda #3 - Review and Approval of February 4, 2026, Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Kansen Chu moved to approve the February 4, 2026, meeting minutes; Robyn Smith seconded the motion.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Vote

(Tess Kraiker: Aye; Joseph Holt: Aye; Kansen Chu: Aye; Michael Zimmerman: Aye; Robyn Smith: Aye; Noah Zinner: Aye)

The motion passed.

Agenda #4 - Remarks by Representative of the Department of Consumer Affairs

Lucia Saldivar, Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations, provided an update on the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda #5 – Bureau Operations Update and Discussion

Update on the Bureau's IT System Project

Jason Piccione, DCA Chief Information Officer, reported ongoing progress with the Connect system, summarizing successful alpha and beta testing of institution-facing features, including

access to institutional information, payment of annual fees, and STRF quarterly submissions. He described the upcoming soft-launch period, during which institutions will receive instructions for authentication and portal access.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Licensing Report

Deputy Bureau Chief Manila Vongmany and Licensing Chief Nicole Dragoo reported on the Licensing Unit. They outlined Attachment 5(b).

Ms. Kraiker commended staff on reducing pending renewals, noting that the improved processing numbers reflect significant work.

Public Comment

One public comment was received.

Quality of Education Report

Ms. Vongmany reported on the Quality of Education Unit (QEU). She outlined Attachment 5(c).

Public Comment

No public comment.

Discipline Report

Renee Walters, Bureau Discipline Manager, reported on the Discipline Unit. She outlined Attachment 5(d).

Public Comment

No public comment.

Compliance and Annual Report Update

Erik Casida, Bureau Compliance Chief, reported on the Annual Report Unit. He outlined Attachment 5(e).

Joseph Holt asked whether the Bureau had compared Cradle-to-Career (C2C) data with School Performance Fact Sheets and whether the Bureau anticipated producing outcome reports based on the dataset. Mr. Casida stated that internal outcome reporting has not yet been performed. Elizabeth Elias, Deputy Bureau Chief, stated that the two data collections serve different purposes, that C2C data is focused on graduate identifiers and award information.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Complaint and Investigation Report

Daniel Rangel, Bureau Investigations Chief over complaints and investigations, reported on the Complaint and Investigation Unit. He outlined Attachment 5(f).

Robyn Smith commended the unit for improvements in complaint resolution clarity and data presentation.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Office of Student Assistance and Relief (OSAR) Report

Yan Cao, OSAR Chief, reported on the OSAR Unit. She outlined Attachment 5(g).

Robyn Smith asked whether the Bureau monitors custodians of records after they assume custody and whether the Bureau contacts custodians proactively to verify continued operation. Ms. Cao stated that while OSAR can verify custodians at the time a closure is reported, the Bureau is exploring improved tracking and cross-unit coordination to better address student record-access issues.

Ms. Kraiker asked how many attempted student contacts result in unsuccessful connection. Ms. Cao explained that although OSAR tracks all incoming calls, tracking unsuccessful callbacks is more challenging, and processes are being refined.

Public Comment

One public comment was received.

Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) Report

Bureau Administration Chief Yvette Johnson and STRF Manager Janel Quayle provided a report on STRF. They covered Attachment 5(h).

Ms. Kraiker asked for an example of what constitutes proof of economic loss. Ms. Quayle explained that students must provide documentation showing both enrollment and payment, including receipts, financial ledgers, or bank statements, and noted that timeliness criteria must also be met.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #6 - Status Updates and Discussion on Regulatory Proposals

Parker Strohmeier, Bureau Legislative/Regulation Specialist, provided a status update on Bureau regulatory matters. He outlined the Bureau Regulations Tracker in the meeting materials.

6a. Proposed Section 100 to Add Business and Professions Code (BPC) Section 480.2 Provisions (California BPC section 480.2; Title 5 California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 71130, 71400.5, 71475, 71720, 71730, 75060, 75070, and 75100).

Mr. Strohmeier outlined the proposed Section 100 to add BPC Section 480.2 provisions.

Public Comment

No public comment.

6b. Approval by Means of Accreditation (ABMA) Applications (California Education Code (CEC) section 94890; 5 CCR sections 71390, 71480, and 71850).

Mr. Strohmeier outlined the memo included in the meeting packet titled Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Degree Programs.

Noah Zinner expressed concern about reduced-credit bachelor's programs. He suggested the Bureau cross-reference these programs with California's professional licensure and certification

requirements. He emphasized that even if a program has reduced credits, it must still meet the minimum credit requirements needed for licensure. He noted that students sometimes complete programs that don't qualify them for the careers they expected, and he's unsure how Bureau regulations intersect with professional licensing criteria.

Michael Zimmerman agreed with the importance of distinguishing reduced-credit bachelor's programs. He noted that such programs typically undergo substantive change review by accreditors. He stated that accreditors closely examine whether these programs provide the breadth and scope needed for employment in the field. He expressed confidence in accreditors' ability to evaluate these programs critically but added that having an additional safeguard at the state level to ensure programs meet minimum licensure requirements would help protect students. He emphasized that accreditors already pay close attention to these issues in his experience.

Mr. Holt noted that reduced-credit programs are a rapidly evolving issue in higher education, with accreditors still forming approaches and holding varied views. He recommended the Bureau rely on simple, objective guardrails rather than trying to duplicate accreditors' quality-review work. He agreed that one clear requirement should be that any program claiming to lead to licensure must meet the relevant licensure criteria, especially since some are unique to California. He also recommended limiting reduced-credit degree approvals to accredited institutions in the near term, with the possibility of expanding to fully approved institutions only after the field becomes more settled.

Mr. Holt added that it would be helpful to include a simple, clear disclosure stating that a program is a reduced-credit bachelor's degree, since the traditional bachelor's degree is a long-established standard. He noted that some accreditors are considering different naming conventions, and having the state require explicit labeling could help students understand what they're enrolling in.

Public Comment

One public comment was received.

Agenda #7 – Sunset Review and Legislative Update (Assembly Bill 2771)

Ryan Tacher, DCA Legislative Project Manager, provided an update on the 2026 Sunset Review process, including the March hearing and progress of AB 2771, the Bureau's sunset bill. He discussed upcoming milestones and staff participation in background paper development.

Kevin Powers thanked the Bureau for an excellent Sunset Report, saying it made policy work much easier. He stated that the related bill is moving through the legislative process and that this year they were able to add policy earlier than usual because of the report. He added that fee discussions are still ongoing and typically happen later.

Public Comment

One public comment was received.

Agenda #8 – Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda #9 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.