Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee
Academic Senate of the California State University
2015-2016 Year-End Report

I. Membership and Attendance

**Committee:**

- Thomas Krabacher (Chair) Sacramento (Geography)
- Erick Eschker (Vice Chair) Humboldt (Economics)
- Steve Browne Maritime (Marine Transportation)
- Otto Benavides Fresno (Instructional Technology)
- Diana Wright Guerin Fullerton (Child & Adolescent Studies)
- David Hood Long Beach (History)
- Eileen Klink Long Beach (English)
- Jerry Schutte Northridge (Sociology)
- Beth Steffel San Bernardino (Graphic Design)
- Jay Swartz Pomona (International Business Marketing)
- Mark Richard Wheeler San Diego (Philosophy)

Chancellor’s Office Liaisons: Ed Sullivan (assisted by Kara Perkins)
Executive Committee Liaison: Darlene Yee-Melichar, Steven Filling

**Guests:**

- Garrett Ashley (Chancellor’s Office) Recognition of taxpayer funding of CSU
- Jason Constantouros (Legislative Analyst Office) Budget outlook (Nov) & May Revise (May)
- Lori Lamb (Chancellor’s Office) Compensation issues, tenure-density follow-up
- Andrew Martinez (Chancellor’s Office) 2016 legislative landscape
- Margie Merryfield (chancellor’s Office) Tenure density task force update
- Christian Osmena (Dept. of Finance) Governor’s Budget (Jan & May)
- Marisa Ortiz (Dept. of Finance) May budget revise
- Kara Perkins (Chancellor’s Office) BOT 2016-17 Proposed Support Budget
- Lori Redfearn (Chancellor’s Office) Recognition of taxpayer funding of CSU
- Ryan Storm (Chancellor’s Office) CSUS Sustainable Futures Task Force update
- Meredith Turner (CSSA Legislative Director) CSSA 2016 legislative priorities
- Leo Van Cleve (Chancellor’s Office) RSRA funding update (per AS-3247-16)
- Karen Yelverton-Zamarippa (Chancellor’s Office) Political & legislative updates

II. 2015-2016 Resolutions Recommended by the Committee
During 2015-2016 the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee sent the following resolutions forward to the Academic Senate:

**AS-3222-15/FGA**
Approved Unanimously
*Support of SB 707 (Wolk) Gun-Free School Zone*
The ASCSU supports SB 707 (Wolk), which would prohibit individuals with a concealed weapon permit, unless otherwise authorized, from bringing a firearm onto K-12 school grounds or higher ed campuses.

**AS-3224-15/FGA**
Approved Unanimously
*Support for SB 172 (Liu) Pupil Testing: High School Exit Examination Suspension*
The bill would suspend the requirement that students pass the California High School Exit Examination as a condition for receiving a diploma for the three academic years (2015-16 through 2017-18) until uncertainties concerning the exam, including its availability, are resolved.

**AS-3225-15/FGA**
Withdrawn
*Response to Sustainable Financial Model Task Force Report*
Initially proposed by the Committee but ultimately never sent forward for consideration.

**AS-3229-15/FGA**
Approved
*California State University 2016-17 Support Budget Preliminary Plan*
The ASCSU commends the Board of Trustees for proposing a support budget the goes beyond the Governor’s proposed budget, including funding for 3% enrollment growth. The ASCSU urges the Board also to seek additional funding to support a compensation plan beyond the 2% currently proposed.

**AS-3231-15/FGA**
Approved by Acclamation
*Commendation for Associate Vice Chancellor Ron Vogel*
Resolution acknowledging Ron Vogel’s longstanding service to the CSU and, in particular, the support he has provided to the Academic Senate.

**AS-3237-15/FGA**
Approved
*Recognition of California Taxpayers for Their Support in Funding the CSU*
Resolution urging the Chancellor’s Office and individual campuses to frequently and visibly acknowledge the central role of California taxpayer in funding the CSU.

**AS-3240-15/FGA**
Approved Unanimously
*Request for Joint Task Force to Develop an Action Plan for Increasing Tenure/Tenure-Track Density in the CSU*
Resolution urges the Chancellor’s Office in conjunction with the ASCSU, and with the participation of the CFA, to establish a joint task force for the purpose of developing a multi-year plan for increasing tenure density in the CSU while maintaining or decreasing the student to faculty ratio.

**AS-3243-16/FGA**
Approved by Acclamation
Commendation for Karen Y. Zamarripa – Assistant Vice Chancellor, CSU Advocacy and State Relations
Resolution acknowledging Karen Y. Zamarripa’s longstanding service to the CSU.

AS-3248-16/FGA
Approved

2016 Legislative Advocacy Positions of the Academic Senate of the California State University
The ASCSU adopts as its advocacy legislative positions the recommendations in the document “Academic Senate of the California State University, Positions on Proposed Bills in the California State Legislature – 2016.”

AS-3250-16/FGA
Approved Without Dissent

Resolution Regarding Evaluation of Online Teaching
Resolution recommending to the Chancellor’s Office and the ASCSU that they jointly review existing reports on the use of online teaching in the CSU with the goal of (1) urging campuses to develop their own databases on their use of online teaching, (2) aggregating the resulting data system-wide, and (3) making the data available for the purpose of developing campus-based protocols for the use of online instruction.

AS-3255-16/FGA
Approved by Acclamation

Commendation in Honor of Trustee Lou Monville
Resolution acknowledging Trustee Lou Monville’s longstanding service to the CSU.

III. Legislative Monitoring

The Committee, in accordance with its charge, monitored legislative activity in Sacramento and recommended to senate action on specific bills when deemed appropriate. Because January 2016 marked the second year of the 2015-2016 legislative session, there were two-year bills carried over from 2015 and legislative committee action got underway during the first week in January. The deadline for the introduction of bills to be heard by the legislature in 2016 was technically the end of the third week of February, this year Friday, February 19th. In reality, however, new bills were introduced late the following week.

Following the practice established in 2013-2014, the Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee carried out a review of all bill relating to higher education in general and the CSU in particular, and identified those of potential interest to the ASCSU. The Committee also consulted with the CSU Office of Advocacy and State Relations, the CSSA, and the CFA regarding their legislative agendas at this point. Twenty-seven bills were so identified as of potential interest and the Committee recommended positions the ASCSU should take in respect to each. In addition, there were nine higher education-related placeholder or “spot bills,” that had the potential to become active that required monitoring as well. These recommendations formed the basis for Academic Senate resolution AS-3248-16 (above) approved at the March plenary, which established 2016 ASCSU legislative priorities.

It is worth noting that due to the unusually early date of the March plenary and the fact that bills were still being introduced as late as the fourth week of February, FGA had much less time than usual to complete the review. The Committee also carried out a subsequent review of the status of the identified bills prior to the May plenary meeting to see if there were any alterations in bill language that might merit a change the position adopted by the Academic Senate in March. There were none at that time.
IV. ASCSU Advocacy

The Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee has the responsibility for planning and coordinating Academic Senate advocacy activities. Although meetings took place with individual legislators on various issues throughout the year, formal activities were confined to Spring 2016 when the Legislature was in session, new bills were up for consideration, and the 2016-2017 CSU support budget was taking shape. Because there were no high profile bills on ASCSU agenda this year, advocacy activities were directed primarily toward advocating for an augmentation of the Governor’s proposed CSU support budget. The Academic Senate’s primary advocacy activity was its annual spring Advocacy Day in Sacramento.

In-Sacramento Advocacy:

The ASCSU held its Spring 2015 Advocacy Day on the second Tuesday in April, April 12th, as has been the pattern in previous years. The threat of a pending faculty strike, tentatively scheduled to take place the following day, initially posed some reason for concern given that, if it took place, it would overshadow any ASCSU talking points. In the end, however, the strike was avoided and it was not an issue.

The Advocacy Day delegation consisted of twelve senators representing both the Extended Executive and Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committees, along with six students recruited with the assistance of the CSSA legislative director. Visits were made to the offices of thirty-nine legislators, education committee consultants, and Department of Finance staff. Legislators included members of the relevant higher education and budget committees of both the Senate and Assembly as well as the leadership of both Houses. In addition, several informal drop-in visits were made by academic senators to the offices of their local legislators.

Given the lack of priority bills on legislative calendar, the ACSU’s primary goal this year was to argue the need for an augmentation of the Governor’s proposed CSU budget, which paralleled the message being carried by other CSU stakeholders (campus delegations, unions, student groups) in preceding weeks. Much of this activity built upon the groundwork laid by the “Stand with the CSU” initiative coordinated by the CSU’s Office of Advocacy & Institutional Relations.

Because of the heavy April legislative committee schedule, most legislators were unavailable to meet with our delegations who met with members of their staffs instead. Both verbal comments and the post-visit written reports suggest the day was a productive one. Legislators by and large were receptive to the CSU budget augmentation request, although comments on the need for the CSU to improve graduation rates and reduce time to degree were also heard. Interestingly, several also asked why we weren’t asking for additional funding to cover the newly negotiated compensation increase, as well.

V. Recommendations for 2016-2017

At its May 2016 meeting the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee discussed recommendations for the Committee to consider 2016-2017. The following suggestions were generated:

I. Time Management: This was also a recommendation last year, and although steps were taken to address it, time constraints continued to be a problem for the Committee; on several occasions where there was insufficient meeting time available to get through the day’s agenda. The Committee should think carefully about the number of reports, and particularly the number Time Certain guests, it schedules. Not all guests may be necessary for every meeting, especially if they will also be speaking at the Senate’s plenary.
2. **In-District Advocacy**: This was FGA’s big *Non-Accomplishment* in 2015-2016, despite that fact that it was one of the lead priorities at the beginning of the academic year. The plan – to have individual senators visit their local legislators in their district offices– never got off the ground. In retrospect, the failure was primarily due to a matter of timing. The Committee’s spring agenda, particularly during its January, Feb, and March meetings – is simply too tied up with bill monitoring and prioritization and Advocacy Day planning to allow time to devote to In-District Advocacy as well.

Preparing for in-district Advocacy, it is now obvious, needs to be a year-long exercise for FGA. Academic Senators should be made aware in the fall that they will be encouraged to engage in these activities in the spring, and FGA should be prepared to roll out the complete plan in January. Waiting to introduce the idea initially in January, as we did in 2016 with the presentation by Andrew Maritnez, was simply too late.

3. **Advocacy: Tailoring the Messages**: When targeting key legislators, the Committee should look into ways to highlight the importance of the CSU to the legislator’s local district. The most efficient way to do so is by working with local campus government relations offices. The CSU Office of Advocacy and State Relations maintains a current list of campus government relations officers and, in the past, has been happy to make it available,

4. **Election-Season Advocacy**: Fall 2016 is election-time and everyone will be in their district campaigning. While most legislators will be re-elected there is always some turn-over with new faces appearing. If possible, the ASCSU should try to make contact with candidates before the election and begin acquainting them with who we are.

6. **FGA Resolutions**: It is recommended the 2016-17 Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee periodically monitor Chancellor Office activity on implementation of the tenure-density task force, and its follow-up response to the resolution on online instruction.(AS-3250). In particular, see the Chancellor’s Office response to AS-3250-16.

**VI. A General Recommendation:**

This is directed as much to the Academic Senate leadership as it is to the 2016-17 FGA Committee.

The Academic Senate was more active than usual in the Capitol this past year. The Senate Chair, the Legislative Specialist, FGA, and several individual senators were, to greater or lesser degrees, in regular contact with Legislators or their staffs, with key committee consultants, and with representatives of the LAO and Department of Finance. This has been overwhelmingly to the good since it helps raise the Academic Senate’s profile in the Capitol.

At the same time, however, this has created potential problems in that parties often don’t know what the others are doing. Appointments are duplicated and on two occasions FGA had meetings canceled we were informed that the individual had already met with other representatives of the ASCSU. None of this is intentional, but it does speak to a need to coordinate legislative activity on everybody’s part and keep everyone informed of what everyone else is doing in their conversations with the Capitol. It would be useful to have a protocol for this in place when the new legislative session begins in January.

-- Submitted by Thomas Krabacher
2015-2016 Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee Chair