Members Present:
Praveen Soni, Chair (Long Beach); Jim LoCascio Vice Chair (San Luis Obispo); Steve Browne, (Maritime); Kate Fawver (Dominguez Hills); Eileen Klink (Long Beach); Thomas Krabacher (Sacramento); Martin Linder (San Francisco); and Cezar Ornatowski (San Diego).

Regrets: Otto Benavides (Fresno); and James Swartz (Pomona).

Guests:
Steven Filling, ASCSU Executive Committee, Vice Chair.

Welcome and Call to Order: Praveen Soni, Chair 10:11 AM.

1. Agenda Approval: The October 12, 2012 agenda was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the FGA meeting of September 13, 2012 were approved without changes.

3. Chair’s Report: Praveen Soni reported on ASCSU Executive Committee meeting

   • The Academic Affairs Committee is concerned that dropping upper division GE units will leave graduating students without the proper preparation for the work force.
   • The Early Start program did start this past summer. Fresno State reported that their math program was successful. The committee members engaged in discussion on early start including: (1) while there are lots of success stories the English Council is concerned about ongoing accountability for these programs (2) concerns were raised that Lottery funds were used to fund Early Start this past summer and as the program becomes bigger the question is where will the money come from (3) it was reported that there was no difference in outcomes between online and face to face programs (4) self-paced course maybe in the future for Early Start (5) it was reported that students who finished Early Start were placed in remedial classes in the fall (6) it was noted that ESL programs at CSULB were cut (7) the new president of CSUSB is advocating that the CSU stops all remedial programs.
   • Fall advocacy is the main work for members of FGA.
   • FGA will be responsible for the May social. Some discussion ensued.

4. Other brief reports:

   • There were no other reports.
5. **Executive Committee Liaison:** Steven Filling:

- Steven reported that the Executive Committee supports the fall advocacy activity and it was suggested that legislators be asked about their knowledge of CalState Online. There was a discussion on the difference between campaigning and educating our students and the general population on the proposition on the November ballot.
- The following budget items were discussed; (1) the Chair and Vice Chair of FGA should be appointed to the System Budget Advisory Committee (2) It was decided that FGA should develop a long term strategy to better understand the CSU budget with the goal of producing a ‘spread sheet’ showing income and spending in the CSU. It was determined that Ben Quillian and Robert Turnage would be the best CO administrators to contact for budget information. It was suggested that they be invited to FGA’s November meeting and a list of questions be generated for them. (3) SUGS was also discussed with regards to its percentage set aside of student tuition for financial aid distribution.

6. **Fall 2012 Advocacy Planning and Implementation** Tom Krabacher, Legislative Specialist:

- **Overview:** After the June primary it was possible to predict some of the probable winners in November. Legislators have a lifespan of 10-12 years due to term limits, are usually in their home districts on Fridays, and they have the most time in the fall which is when FGA members can best start a relationship with them.
- **The Plan:** (1) meet your legislator early (2) make an appointment either through their website or with their local office staff (3) meet the legislator or staffer by yourself (4) bring them information; (a) prepared talking points by the FGA and Tom Krabacher (b) explain that you are from the ASCSU and explain how the ASCSU functions in context of the entire educational system (c) explain how the CSU is funded (d) check to see if they have written or cosponsored legislation that will affect higher education; especially concerning curriculum, offer to help them write bills that will not have unintended consequences. Jim LoCascio suggested inviting your legislator to visit your campus and address your class if it is appropriate.

7. **CSU memos regarding political advocacy;** Kate Fawver:

- Kate reported that it is legal for faculty to educate students on the issues of the propositions, it is illegal to advocate for a particular proposition. Unless you teach courses that lend themselves to political topics it is best not to interject politics into your course.
8. **FGA, fiscal matters and budget:**

   a) FGA analysis, planning, and strategy on budget matters and issues. In answering the question "what should FGA be doing, a suggestion was made that perhaps a formal budget committee be created with a 3 year commitment. Marty Linder noted that it is difficult to understand the budget data at both the campus and system level. Jim LoCascio agreed that the same is true at Cal Poly SLO and that Fresno has an understandable budget website that is open to the public. Tom Krabacher said that Sacramento was in the process of modeling their budget website after Fresno’s. For the FGA as a committee to carry out its responsibilities on fiscal and budget matters, it was decided to review and discuss the responsibilities of the FGA as well as that of the ASCSU budget specialist at the next meeting.

   - The FGA unanimously approved that both the chair and the vice chair of the FGA represent the ASCSU on the System Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) in addition to the chair and the vice chair of the ASCSU.

   b) One Third set aside [SUGS]-Jim LoCascio. The State University Grants program is a needs-based grant that is received by approximately one third of CSU students and is funded by setting aside one third of the student tuition for financial aid. Jim LoCascio has not seen an analysis as to the origin of the one third set aside. This dollar amount was relatively small when the state was funding the CSU at 90%. Now the SUGs are causing dissent among CSU families and campuses. At the current state funding of 40% to 45%, and continued set aside of one third of the student tuition results in a considerable tax on the other 2/3’s of families whose children are attending the CSU. The effect on individual campuses is a decrease in their effective operating budgets and those campuses that receive more SUG money than they generate are pitted against those campuses that receive less SUG money than they generate. This generated considerable discussions including but not limited to; (1) what is the appropriate set aside percentage (2) how should it be funded (3) are graduate SUGs appropriate (4) what other aide is available to students in need (5) do students value their education if they pay some amount.

   c) Unrestricted Net Assets-Memo from Ben Quillian. It was noted that the value of the unrestricted net assets has been increasing in the last few years. Questions have been raised about why such large amounts are being sequestered and not being spent when state support is being drastically cut, student tuition is increasing and employee morale has suffered due to no increases in compensation. It was suggested that this money is a ‘rainy day fund’ for unforeseen expenses such as the Northridge earthquake, lawsuits, unfunded mandates etc. It was decided that Ben Quillian or his designate should be invited to the November meeting to help us better understand his memo, and answer questions
9. **Resolutions:**

   a) California State University Board of Trustees Proposed 2013-14 Support Budget: AS-3097-12 First Reading: The committee discussed this resolution and it will go forward as a second reading in November.

   b) There were no new resolutions written. Jim LoCascio will look into the effect of SUGS on campuses and students and how it is funded. Afterwards we will discuss the possibility of writing a resolution.

10. **In District and In Sacramento Advocacy in Spring 2013:**

    There was no time for this agenda item.

11. **Adjourn: 1:10 PM.**

    Meeting minutes submitted by Jim G. LoCascio, FGA Vice Chair