Fiscal & Governmental Affairs (FGA) Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 11:00 am-5:00 pm
Room 210, CSU Chancellor’s Office, Long Beach, CA
http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/FGA/index.shtml

Present: Praveen Soni (Chair), Erick Eschker (Vice Chair), Steven Brown, James Lee, Cezar Ornatowski, Mark Hoven Stohs, Jay Swartz, Jerald Schutte, Eileen Klink.
Chancellor’s Office Liaisons: Ed Sullivan, Kara Perkins
Executive Committee Liaison: Tom Krabacher

1. Approval of the agenda – Meeting of September 14, 2016. Agenda was approved.
http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/FGA/agendas.shtml

2. Approval of the minutes – Meeting of May, 2016
Minutes were approved.

3. Chair’s report
Chair Soni attended the ASCSU Leadership Retreat in August where the annual priorities of the ASCSU and the standing Committees were discussed. He has placed those priorities on the agenda for discussion and action.
Chair Soni requested committee members to peruse the ASCSU Chair report which has important information about the Graduation Initiative, General Education, QRTF Report, Tenure Density task force, Intellectual property etc.
In discussions with the Executive Committee, it was made clear that the October Interim meetings will occur as scheduled and are considered part of the overall work of the senators, who should all try to attend the meetings, and not schedule other appointments during that time. The Executive Committee has also decided that the Social Fund for the year will remain at $35 because there is a small positive carryover. However, the Social fund is now also being utilized for coffee service in the Senate office and other allied Senate services. It is likely that the amount may have to be adjusted upward to $40 next year.

4. Other brief reports

5. Discussion of FGA priorities and action plans thereof
a. Advocacy efforts – Sacramento and/or local and b. Advocacy messages – Standardized and/or customized

Fruitful discussion took place around how much local advocacy FGA wants to do with customized messages, and which mechanisms to use. Senator Swartz thought it is very important to form ties with local assembly members and senators. Senator Schutte echoed those comments and recommended knowing the alma matter of the assembly person staff members, and bring faculty from that CSU campus along. He also related his personal experience with Dept. of Finance staff and the positive experience he had. He suggests focusing budget talks with DOF rather than LAO. The Committee was in general agreement with the importance of local advocacy and agreed to still go to the Capitol in the spring utilizing standardized messages, and also make local visits to local representatives. The Committee discussed bringing in a professional lobbyist to advise us, and there are well connected people in
Sacramento that could help us as well. FGA will likely focus on our local representatives for this year (FGA committee members only) and in following years try to use the greater ASCSU body for advocacy. Jay Swartz will take the lead on the planning for this.

c. Progress on tenure density – Task force
Jerry Schutte kicked off the talk and brought us up to speed on what happened over the summer with gathering data on tenure track hires, etc. A Committee was formed with the Chancellor’s Office and a first meeting is coming up within the week.

d. Progress on online education – Commission on online education
Jerry Schutte brought the Committee up to speed about work done over the summer.

e. Balancing effectiveness and efficiency in FGA short term and long term efforts and at FGA meetings
As per last year’s FGA Annual report and the ASCSU theme of finding the balance, Chair Soni will try and balance reports/presentations to the committee with the work of the committee and long term strategic outlook for the committee.

6. Financial and Budget Update – AVC Ryan Storm: Time certain – 2 pm
FGA discussed Support Budget request for 2017-18. The state has strong increasing revenue, based on strong growing economy. However, a recession is certainly coming in the next few years, which will put budget pressure in the future. Government has provided modest investment amounts, and that is likely to continue. Two costs upcoming, which are costs for the graduation initiative and salary increases for faculty. The government’s additional funding is enough to basically pay for increased compensation, but not graduation initiative or other projects. Board of Trustees can either increase revenue (request more from governor, raise tuition) or not fund future increased compensation. There are other plans for alternate funding for capital projects. Overall, compensation increases and other spending totals more than the extra funding likely from the governor.

7. Discussion and finalization of resolutions
a. FGA (Sen. Hoven Stohs ) drafted a resolution regarding the California Promise (California Senate Bill 412). FGA discussed significant changes to SB 412 that took place after our last plenary. The Committee discussed whether or not a resolution is effective at this point, since the bill sits on the governor’s desk. The Committee noted that it appears that all transfer students will be made a “promise” and that will affect the 2-year graduation rate, not the 4-year rate. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee decided to NOT continue drafting this bill, with the reasoning that the resolution is likely too late at this point to effectively influence whether or not SB 412 is signed.

b. FGA discussed a request to draft a resolution in support of Prop 55, which would provide for continued income tax increases for K-12 education. There is a question about how it directly affects the CSU. FGA voted to draft a resolution to bring to the full senate body, and lengthy discussion ensued.

9. Executive Committee Liaison – Tom Krabacher: Time Certain – 3:30 pm
Tom filled in the Committee of the Exec meeting after Extended Exec adjourned. GE discussion took place and EVP Blanchard’s point of view is that GE is faculty purview and he sees his role as answering questions about GE to Board, public, etc. EO 1100 is open for change and amendments, and the GE workgroup may recommend changes to GE. It is important to make the faculty role in designing GE more apparent. Exec also followed up on Intellectual Property
issues, and Tenure Density Task Force meets Monday. Oct. 6 the Assembly Higher Ed consultants will consider Diversity among the faculty. Important legislators will be there. Academic Conference will be at Sac State Feb 9, 10 2017. ACR 158 was introduced in the spring after we did our ledge review. This bill may be unnecessary and ill informed. Sen. Krabacher gave the history of ACR 158 and the justification. He fielded some questions and provided clarification. FGA made edits to the Resolution and discussed how to educate the assembly on all the existing systems in place that are in the spirit of ARC 158. It will be brought to the plenary body.

10. Legislative and Advocacy Update – AVC Kathleen Chavira from Sacramento: Time certain – 4:30 pm

Prop 55: item will be recommended to the Board that they support it. Kathleen feels that Prop 55 has a direct impact on the CSU budget since Prop 30 had an impact. The is the potential for extra funding coming from Prop 55. Second, Capital Outlays and funding for deferred maintenance. AB 2215 Medina clarified how CSU gets lottery funds. SB 412 on California Promise is likely to be signed by governor. AB 1747 and food insecurity on campus. SB 1359 Block campuses highlight courses that use free digital materials. AB 2317 Mullen authorizes Audiology Doctorates, and signed by governor. Discussion followed. It will be brought as a first reading with a waiver.

11. Adjourn

Minutes taken by Erick Eschker and Chair Soni