Minutes: August 7—8, 2014 Planning Retreat
Office of the Chancellor of the CSU, Long Beach
ASCSU Executive Committee

August 7, 2014
10AM—2:30 PM

Present: Julie Chisholm, Steven Filling, Susan Gubernat, Diana Guerin, Chris Miller, Praveen Soni, Steven Stepanek

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM.

1. Agenda approved.

2. Minutes of July 11 and July 24 approved as amended.

3. Appointments

a) California Subject Matter Project: The Executive Committee discussed whether or not to replace former Senator Postma with a current ASCSU representative to what is a multi-year, grant-funded appointment. It was decided to put further discussion of this and other ASCSU multi-year appointments on the Executive Committee’s September agenda after a review of the relevant policy documents.

b) Senator Yee-Melichar was appointed to the Sustainability Project.

c) Executive Vice Chancellor Search Committee: Originally, the Chancellor had requested the names of three faculty from whom one would be chosen, but, after a discussion with the Chair, two faculty will now serve on the committee, as will Trustee Stepanek. A call for expressions of interest in serving had gone out earlier to the ASCSU list serve; the committee’s first meeting is scheduled for September 25. After a discussion, Chair Filling and Senator Foroohar were appointed.
Immediate Past Chair Guerin and Chair Filling have already spent time with the search firm partner to discuss desirable characteristics of candidates, including a commitment to shared governance and effective collaboration, as well as experience as a faculty member who has come through the ranks. They requested an open search, with announcement of the finalists; however, the search will be conducted similarly to presidential searches since, according to the search firm, they do not have control over this aspect of transparency. Sharon Tanabe of the search firm (Storbeck, Pimentel, and Associates) will attend the September plenary to discuss the EVC appointment with the ASCSU. A draft description of the position should be available in September and made available to the campuses as well. During a committee of the whole at the September plenary, Chair Filling and Senator Foroohar will start off by describing their roles in representing the entire faculty on the search committee. Before the September plenary, the Chair will send out an email to campus senate chairs requesting campus input on the EVC position description, with a cc to ASCSU senators.

d) Senator Soni was appointed to the Centers and Institutes Task Force, which will be updating EO 751.

(Note: There was a separate discussion of the Outstanding Professor website, in particular, whether to develop a category for those who are recognized on campuses for their overall accomplishment in teaching, research, and service. The question of including Wang award winners on the site was also raised. The Chair will discuss the latter with Associate Vice Chancellor Ron Vogel. The Chair was also asked to inquire about the need for a faculty appointment to the search committee to replace Assistant Vice Chancellor Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi.)

4. Reports

a) Report of the Chair: Chair Filling attended the AAUP Summer Institute in New York in July, together with Senator Foroohar. Many sessions there were devoted to the issues of academic freedom, sexual harassment and violence on college campuses, and shared governance. The Chair reported that in the area of shared governance the CSU is “light years ahead” of the rest of the country.

The Chair attended the first meeting of the Commission on Online Education, which was convened last month. (For details, see slides from the July meeting in the Dropbox folder). Cal State Online has now become a “coalition of the willing” in that it will remain, and campuses can choose to join it. The Chair noted that CSO has become a portal for all things online and seems to elide to CourseMatch. Pearson’s role is that of a 3rd party vendor that can be used or not, at a campus’s discretion. The Commission will be meeting quarterly and is said to need to be “nimble” in responding to current conditions using task forces, etc. The Commission is an advisory body under the aegis of Academic Affairs, in particular, the Executive Vice Chancellor.
The Chair reported on the Board of Trustees meeting of July 22, with particular emphasis on remarks made by a number of individual Board members. Trustee Fortune, for example, opined that perhaps the CSU was too “high touch” in the support services provided to students. Incoming Chair Monville raised questions about the current structure of financial aid and whether it prolonged a student’s tenure. As a general principle, the Chair noted that it would be important to get trustees onto campuses to meet face to face and become better acquainted with CSU students.

The Chair reported on attending a meeting of WICHE (Western Interstate Committee for Higher Education) where transfer issues, credit for life experiences, common courses, and interstate agreements were the topics of discussion. He also reported on the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) web conference, where “testing the test” was at issue. He would like to see more APEP involvement in this and other aspects of Smarter Balanced this year.

In a meeting with Assistant Vice Chancellor Gerry Hanley, the Chair discussed the possibility of porting the “Faculty to Faculty” newsletter to another server in the interest of timeliness and editorial control. There is a desire to increase the subscriber base; as Executive Committee members concurred, getting more people to actually read and refer to it is important. As the new newsletter editor, Chisholm agreed to explore a new communication plan with that in mind. The Chair reported that he and Hanley also discussed ways to convey the growing success of CourseMatch to the legislature.

The Chair met with Laurie Weidner, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs; she has volunteered to work with the ASCSU in helping to enhance the senate’s external communications.

The Chair reported that he and Associate Vice Chancellor Ron Vogel have committed to improving the communication between the Office of Academic Affairs and the ASCSU through frequent meetings. Vogel assured the Chair that he wants to be a resource for the senate. The Chair has ordered videoconference software, which will be installed soon, so that the Chair can meet regularly with the office staff as well.

On the 2014-15 ASCSU Budget: To date, we don’t know exactly what the budget is for next year. The Chair is in process of working with office staff to get a clear picture of what was actually spent last year and how the monies are allocated. Also in the mix is the expense of ICAS meetings (Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates), which the ASCSU is hosting this year. The Chair will bring back in September what he has gleaned about the ASCSU budget, past, present, and future. Meanwhile, the senators’ assigned time letter going out is based on current practice/policy.

b) Other: Vice Chair Miller reported that she has shared information about the status of 120/180-unit exceptions with incoming Chair of Academic Affairs, Bill Eadie.
5. The Academic Conference

a) Invitations have gone out to home addresses, and it is hoped that people will start registering online; meanwhile the ASCSU office is getting any bugs out of the registration process itself. The Chancellor’s commitment for this year’s conference is $75,000; the Chancellor is directing campus presidents to pay for travel for their team of 7-8 invitees. We have commitments from the keynote speakers, Kevin Finneran and Suzanne Mettler, as well as from BOT Chair Lou Monville. The Chancellor will be available for Thursday afternoon and dinner as well as for the Friday sessions. It is important to clarify through the CO that the campus presidents are paying for their delegations, including ASCSU senators.

b. At this point, it is imperative to convene the conference planning committee in order to finalize the conference agenda and launch into planning. A teleconference call will be arranged with the committee as soon as possible, and the committee should plan to meet during Wednesday lunch at the plenary. Among the issues raised was a potential need to provide for security. Trustee Stepanek offered to advise the group on the preliminaries. Included in the agenda for the first meetings of the planning committee are ways that the Academic Conference’s outcomes should be identified and assessed, that is, how to measure the conference’s success and whether or not to recommend it as an annual event. With that in mind, the planning group should develop an evaluation instrument as well as work on preparations for the conference. It was suggested that word could get out in a number of ways through social media; surveys could be developed, either online or on-ground. Also raised were issues of photographing and/or videotaping at the Academic Conference. Should the press be invited and how should they be prepared for? Talking points? The Chair will discuss such with Laurie Weidner. Other suggestions included having students in dress blues function as hosts and engaging Long Beach’s campus photographer to take photographs throughout the conference. The Chair will put together a timeline and summary of what steps are needed going forward and share it with the conference planning committee.

6. Discussion of Executive Committee Priorities

During a working lunch and afternoon session, the Executive Committee discussed setting, and then communicating, the committee’s priorities for the academic year. The following emerged as seminal concerns:

• The need to get clarity on the ASCSU budget now and into the future, including revisiting the current policy on assigned time, which had been in effect due to earlier budget cuts. The Executive Committee should regularly review past practices and be thoroughly informed about budgetary matters, which are clearly related to its stewardship responsibilities. A monthly report on the budget, or, at the very least, a budget report at every plenary, should come before the Executive Committee. It is important to insure transparency between the Executive Committee and the entire ASCSU in budget matters.
• Expanding the Executive Committee’s visibility and influence

• Continuing to clarify the Executive Committee’s role in the appointment of faculty, per AAUP standards, and with specific reference to, and follow up on, last year’s resolution AS-3160/EX/FA: Selection of Faculty Representatives in Shared Governance

• Advocating ways to make ASCSU resolutions more effective, more action-oriented, while disabusing any notion that quantity is the measure of productivity and effectiveness

• Helping to identify metrics that measure what they should measure

• Continuing to exert pressure vis a vis Access to Excellence, for example, in following up on the net gains in actual faculty hires from among the 700 tenure-track searches embarked upon last year

• Continuing to monitor the processes of 120/180-unit exceptions. What, for example, has happened to the task force that was supposed to be constituted to advise on these?

• Exploring alternatives beyond resolutions for getting on the record, including official position papers

• And, in general, providing more solutions, more road maps; to be more proactive, less reactive

Note: The final language for the Executive Committee’s priorities for 2014-15 can be found in the minutes of the Extended Executive Committee of Friday, August 8, along with those of the standing committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gubernat, Secretary
ASCSU