Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA) Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coronado Room, CSU Chancellor’s Office, Long Beach, CA

Present: Darlene Yee-Melichar (Chair), Edward Aguado, Michael Ault, Jim Meriwether, Dick Montanari, Catherine Nelson, Cezar Ornatowski, Praveen Soni, William Wagner, III.

Guests: David Hood (ASCSU Budget Specialist), Thomas Krabacher (ASCSU Executive Committee Liaison), John Travis (CFA Liaison), Eric Forbes (Chancellor’s Office Liaison), Robert Turnage (AVC, Systemwide Budget), Karen Zamarripa (AVC Advocacy and State Relations),

I. Call to Order; Welcome and Introductions

Darlene Yee-Melichar, ASCSU FGA Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

II. Announcements and Updates

Darlene Yee-Melichar, ASCSU FGA Chair reported that:

- American Institutions: AA and APEP committees will be working on a joint resolution for the Plenary.
- Humboldt State University is considering term-limits for their Statewide Senators.
- Transfer Model Curriculum: If there are concerns about TMCs, we need to speak up now and forcefully.
- CSSSA has a resolution on SB8, and they are speaking against the bill at it stands. They would like an exemption from the bill as amended.

III. Campus Reports; Liaison Reports; Member Items

Chair Yee-Melichar reported that there has been a loss of assigned time for her campus (San Francisco) senate standing committee chairs (.20 per semester to .20 per year).

Senator Nelson reported that her campus (Sonoma) and others are considering resolutions about the American Institutions issues.

Senator Ornatowski reported that his campus (San Diego) is considering three finalists for President, one of which is the current President from CSU, Chico.

Senator Montanari reported that his campus (San Marcos) will continue with their 30+ faculty searches. Also, he reported that he will be retiring from the ASCSU after this
year. Chair Yee-Melichar thanked him for his tireless efforts and commitments to the FGA and the Statewide Academic Senate.

- Senator Ault reported that he will be rotating off the ASCSU. After becoming Chair of his Department last year, he has decided to focus his efforts on the creation of the CSUB Earl Warren Institute, which is meant to celebrate the legacy of Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, originally from Bakersfield. Chief Justice Warren attended Bakersfield High School and his legacy has largely gone unnoticed in Kern County. Senator Ault’s efforts over the next few years will be to change this.

- Senator Wagner reported that he will be rotating off the ASCSU. Chair Yee-Melichar thanked Senators Ault and Wagner for their helpful contributions to the FGA and the Statewide Academic Senate. She wished them both well, and said she hoped that they will return to the ASCSU in the future.

IV. Consent Calendar

- Approval of the April 8, 2011 FGA Minutes – approved. [http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/fga/meetings.shtml]

V. Consultations

- Tom Krabacher, ASCSU Executive Committee Liaison (1pm)
  - He began by thanking the FGA for attending the ASCSU Legislative Day on April 12, 2011.
  - American Institutions issue will be a “hot button” issue. It looks like there will be three resolutions coming forth concerning this issue. The main thrust of the resolutions is “consultation” and “go slow.” Also, to encourage campuses to review waivers through proper campus faculty curriculum committees.
  - ASCSU Budget: has not changed since March Plenary. Presently, it looks like there’s going to be an $85,000 cut to the Senate. This means there will be no way for the ASCSU to cut around the edges and it will have to butt into assigned time.
  - Also, Tracy wants everyone to know that all travel claims must be in ASAP (May 13 deadline).
  - The ASCSU Plenary will be meeting at 10:15am tomorrow morning.

- John Travis, CFA Liaison
  - Budget: he reported that different groups are taking different approaches to the budget. Because of Republican obstruction to the budget, there have been meetings taking place in several Republican districts. There are three meetings planned in Stanislaus, Fresno, and San Bernardino. He recommended bringing students to any meetings with state legislators. It does help to tell the story of budget cuts.
  - SB8: focus of CFA lobby days. They are participating in negotiations and believe the Chancellor Office’s proposal weakens the substance of the bill. CFA has made several amendments to the bill.
  - Oil Severance Tax: CFA had the author of the bill speak to the body. There is hope for the bill but it will be a long, long path. He did not think it was possible to get the 2/3rd vote necessary on this bill.
  - SB736: legislation that is sponsored by Chancellor’s Office that eliminates the need for audits on campuses. Right now, campuses are audited every two
years, and the Chancellor’s Office wants to remove this requirement. Systemwide audit would remain in effect. CFA opposes this bill.

- CFA lobby day was fairly successful. Members of both parties are aware of what the impact of an all cut budget would mean for the state and there seems to be concern among members from both parties.

- Bargaining: It’s difficult to characterize it. It’s been up and down over the past few months. He reminded the committee that the last contract took almost 2 ½ years. Right now, the negotiations are about 5 months old. There is a technical issue that is the sticking point – Article 10 (grievance procedures) and 19 (discipline action).

- There was a nationwide meeting held by CFA for faculty nationwide – they produced a statement of principles and values: Educators for Higher Education.

- Senator Hood commended him on CFA’s decision to target Republican legislators in their own district. Also, he commended on the decision to bring students to the lobby days.

- Senator Montanari reminded everyone that lunch is ready.

- Senator Ault asked about other Republican districts that might be targeted (i.e., Kern County). There are plans for more meetings but at this time the details are not final.

- Chair Yee-Melichar asked about bargaining and the work load issues as it applies to distance and online education. There is concern that this could become a factor in decisions about faculty layoffs.

- **Eric Forbes, Chancellor’s Office Liaison**

  - SB1440: Faculty have been working with the CCs on this issue. There are weaknesses: the CCs do not track students like we want them to. The CSU is asking the CCs to track them. The CCs also do not give students an admission incentive. CSU is asking them to develop a priority system for these systems. The danger is it adds cost. The CCs seem interested in this, but they seem more interested in marketability not necessarily transferability.

  - Early Start: They are in the process of building the apparatus for it. There is an internal process in order to make it happen and the Chancellor’s Office is absorbing the costs to make this happen. They are also doing outreach to the high schools to change the need for remediation at the CSU. The English and Math programs have been working with high schools on this issue. This summer they are trying to bring these programs out.

  - Because of enrollment management issues, students are limited in their second BA.

  - Senator Ault asked about Early Start and priority registration for Fall quarter.

  - Senator Hood asked about CCs unwillingness to compromise with the CSU on some issues. Eric Forbes responded that most recently with the IGETC certification. The CSU has the responsibility to participate with the development of the TMC with the CC faculty. After that, specific CCs are charged with building the curriculum under the TMC. There is a central office in Sacramento that reviews the TMCs and makes suggestions/approvals for the TMC.

  - Senator Nelson asked about the American Institutions requirement waiver and lack of language requiring proposals to go through normal curriculum review. The AI requirement is a Title V issue.
- Senator Ault asked about SB1440 constraints and the need for ‘civic literacy.’
- Senator Meriwether asked about the TMCs and outside accreditation.
- Chair Yee-Melichar read an email from Bob Cherny (former ASCSU Chair) concerning the American Institutions waiver.

- Robert Turnage, AVC Systemwide Budget called in at 11:01am.
  - He prefaced his remarks that he did not have any definitive information at this time, but there seems to be some hope that there is “improvement” in the education side of things. People are waiting to see what’s in the May Revise before stating anything definitively. There are also efforts to “get the word out” on the impact of an all cuts budget. There was a hearing at CSU Pomona by several State Senators.
  - To illustrate the severity of further cuts, “(this is only an example), In order to come up with an additional $500 million in General Fund money, the CSU would need to close the 10 smallest campuses.” The effort/example is meant to “light a fire” under certain Republicans to advert a true disaster. There will be a conversation with the CSU BOT about scenarios. There is information on the CSU website about this.
  - Senator Ault asked about any informal discussions about the additional $500 million cut. AVC Turnage said there have been discussions, but these have been confidential. Next week’s BOT meeting will be a public conversation about these plans.
  - Senator Hood asked about AVC Turnage’s written report. He also asked about budget allocation memos to campuses. AVC Turnage indicated that they must wait for the May Revise to make any changes to the budget allocation memos.
  - Chair Yee-Melichar asked about the LAO’s Budget Reduction Options for Higher Education. During the ASCSU Legislative Day, she indicated that one of the legislators in her district asked her about this report. She stayed “on message” during the meeting (i.e., repeating ASCSU lobby day messages). AVC Turnage indicated that they are responding to these reports with Legislative staff to “steer them away” from the LAO recommendations outlined in the report. Also, he mentioned that some of the recommendations are actually helpful (e.g., that the CSU be given ‘credit’ for the earlier cuts and increased FTES). He indicated that he doesn’t get too worried about the LAO reports – he claimed that CSU and UC work well with the legislative staff to steer them away from these reports.

- Karen Zamarripa, AVC Advocacy and State Relations called in at 10:20am.
  - Bills that have a fiscal impact must move through house of origin by Friday May 6. Some may be tagged “fiscal.”
  - Bills on vehicle purchases have moved to Senate.
  - Cost savings bill is expected to move to Senate floor.
  - SB1440 cleanup bill: There are some issues that need to be clarified concerning Veterans and other smaller issues.
  - The Higher Education committee met yesterday and took action on the Oil Severance tax measure. CSU and UC will support if amended. It does need a 2/3rd vote to move forward. Also, there is some discussion about the percentages for each system.
o AB844: Attempts to deal with ASI issues and employment with ASI. The bill does not ‘fix’ the employment issue. The way the system managed the Fresno situation is consistent with the bill.

o CSU is not weighing in on the bill to allow CCs to offer a BA pathway.

o All of the bond bills could move forward but AVC Zamarripa was pessimistic about whether or not voters would support a bond in 2012.

o SB721: it is now a two year bill that sets goals for higher education. He’s made a judgment that it needs more flushing out and that the author is skeptical about new mandates, given the current environment.

o Senator Nelson and Chair Yee-Melichar asked about SB8 and several issues surrounding the lack of support from CSSA.

o Chair Yee-Melichar asked about the Budget and how this will play out. AVC Zamarripa responded that they are trying to inform voters about the impact of an “all cuts budget.” There is some discussion among the GOP Five about “spending caps” and “reform on pensions.” Also, there is a discussion about “ratification” on tax bills in 2012.

VI. Fiscal Affairs

  o The committee discussed several changes to the resolution.

- AS-3016-11/FGA, Concerns about Summer Session Courses and Fees (Meriwether).
  o The committee discussed several suggestions made at the March Plenary and there was an extended suggestion concerning the content of the resolution.

- Possible resolution on Enhancing Student Success Using Resource Management Response Strategies (Montanari).
  o Senator Montanari discussed the resolution and whether or not it should receive a first reading waiver. The committee also discussed several changes to the resolution.

- FGA discussion of recent CSU Board of Trustees’ Committee on Finance Report (http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/Mar11/Finance.pdf)

VII. Governmental Affairs

- Debriefing on ASCSU’s FGA Lobby Day. Chair Yee-Melichar thanked FGA members for their participation leading to a successful effort.

  o There have been several changes made to the bill that originated from the first reading in March. Senator Nelson recommended that we “go ahead” with the resolution. Chair Yee-Melichar recommended several editorial changes to the resolution.

- AS-3015-11/FGA, Statewide Access to the California State University (Aguado, Ornatowski)
  o The committee discussed editorial changes to the resolution.

- FGA discussion of recent CSU Board of Trustees’ Committee on Governmental Relations Report (http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/Mar11/GovRel.pdf).

VIII. Collaboration with Other Committees

- Faculty Affairs
FGA will collaborate with FA on a joint resolution on reaffirming the CSU
systemwide policies governing special sessions.

IX. Adjournment

- Chair Yee-Melichar thanked members of the FGA committee for all their helpful
  contributions and thoughtful work throughout the past year.
- Chair Yee-Melichar also thanked FGA consultants David Hood (ASCSU Budget
  Specialist), Thomas Krabacher (ASCSU Executive Committee Liaison), John Travis
  (CFA Liaison), Eric Forbes (Chancellor’s Office Liaison), Robert Turnage (AVC,
  Systemwide Budget), Karen Zamarripa (AVC Advocacy and State Relations) for
  their informative comments and suggestions throughout the past year.
- The Committee adjourned at 4:00pm.

--- Submitted by Michael Ault.