

# Academic Senator

*A Publication of the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU)*

April 2009

## Message from the Chair

**John Tarjan (Bakersfield)**

As faculty are likely aware by now, California, and by extension, the CSU, is in the midst of a budget crisis. Recently the legislature took the unprecedented step of passing a 17-month budget. Normally this would be a welcome development—providing stability and the ability to plan within a longer time horizon. Unfortunately, it now appears unlikely that the assumptions upon which the budget was crafted will be realized. If this is the case, it is very possible that the CSU will experience a significant decrease in our already-inadequate budget for the year 2009-10. Adjustments to the CSU budget, if any, will likely come after the May election (containing several budget-related propositions) and the early June revision of projections of state revenues.



Therefore, I strongly encourage CSU campus senates to take steps to ensure that they have shared governance structures in place during the summer. If difficult decisions need to be made, it is incumbent upon faculty leadership to provide a faculty voice in the process of prioritization and adjustment. As a reminder, the Board of Trustees' statement on shared governance and collegiality states, "The collegial process also recognizes the value of participation by the faculty in budgetary matters, particularly those directly affecting the areas for which the faculty has primary responsibility." ([http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/system\\_strategic\\_planning/docs/rpt2BOT-collegialityresponsibility.pdf](http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/system_strategic_planning/docs/rpt2BOT-collegialityresponsibility.pdf))

Is there anything that we, as faculty, can do to proactively address the coming challenges? The most effective approach is likely to be to work as hard as we can to educate our political leaders about the critical role the CSU plays in the state's economic health. Objective data support this position. For example, a recent analysis revealed that for every dollar invested in the CSU, the state received a \$4.41 return (<http://www.calstate.edu/impact/index.asp>). This same study provides data on the economic impact of individual campuses.

Best wishes during the coming months. The Academic Senate of the CSU stands ready to assist in any way we can as we collectively face difficult circumstances.

## REPORTS

### Faculty Trustee Craig Smith (Long Beach)

On March 24-25, the Board of Trustees met. I encourage you to read my full report at [www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Faculty\\_Trustee](http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Faculty_Trustee) and the Board's agenda, reports and resolutions at [www.calstate.edu/BOT](http://www.calstate.edu/BOT). In this space, I will highlight some of the major items considered and actions taken.



There is great fear that as of April 1<sup>st</sup> the CSU budget will suffer another \$50 million cut due to lack of the necessary funds from

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## PLENARY SUMMARY

Full Minutes:  
[www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Minutes](http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Minutes)

## RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY:

[www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Summaries](http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Summaries)

## FUTURE DATES

<b>April 9</b>	Campus Senate Chairs
<b>April 10</b>	Interim Committees Meetings
<b>May 6</b>	Academic Senate Committees
<b>May 7-8</b>	Plenary
<b>May 12-13</b>	Board of Trustees

## Faculty Trustee

### Craig Smith (Long Beach) (Continued)

the federal stimulus package. Furthermore, deficits continue to mount inside the current budget (\$8 billion already) and the ballot provisions necessary to keep the budget from going even further out of balance may not be approved on May 19th. The starting point for this house of cards is the final state budget package which makes the following budget changes for the CSU in 2009-10:

- Makes permanent the \$66.3 million budget reduction of 2008-09.
- Restores the \$31.3 million amount associated with budget savings that the administration requested that CSU achieve in 2008-09. This means the impact of this reduction is one-time only, felt in the current year, as requested by the Chancellor
- Assumes the CSU Trustees will increase student fee rates by 10%, for a projected increase in gross revenue of \$130.4 million. The budget also assumes one-third of this increase will be set aside for student financial aid (\$43.8 million). One bright note with regard to students, 121,000 students now receive State University Grants, an all time high. Federal legislation has provided 40% more in student aid over the last two years. In fact, when all grants are counted, 170,000 of our students PAY NO FEES.

Let me turn to the ballot propositions which must pass to avoid another budget downward revision in late May or early June. These propositions face an uphill battle because they are confusing and because they raise taxes while cutting some services.

Proposition 1A modifies the state's existing provisions for a rainy day account, increasing from 5% to 12.5% the target amount of General Fund revenues to be set aside.

If Proposition 1A is passed existing laws tied to the measure give the Governor the authority to reduce spending during a fiscal year without additional legislative approval. Specifically, the Governor could reduce spending for general state operations (such as equipment purchases) or capital outlay by up to 7%, and cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for any programs specified in the annual budget. The proposition would extend the sales tax increase for another year, and the vehicle and personal income tax increases for another two years.

Proposition 1B requires the passage of 1A and would

make a total of \$9.3 billion in additional funds to K-14 education (Proposition 98 funds), with annual installments starting in 2011-12.

Proposition 1C would allow the State to borrow \$5 billion in the 2009-10 fiscal year from future lottery profits.

Proposition 1D amends the California Children and Families Act to temporarily allow Proposition 10 revenues to be used to fund other state health and human services programs for children up to age five. In effect, these revenues would be used to offset existing state General Fund costs, thereby achieving savings to help address the state's current budgetary problem.

Proposition 1E allows for the temporary redirection of some support for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program's mental health services. Specifically, this Proposition would redirect \$226.7 million of Proposition 63 funds in 2009-10 and between \$226.7 million and \$234 million would be redirected in 2010-11, to support EPSDT. In effect, these Proposition 63 revenues would be used to offset state costs that would otherwise be borne by the General Fund, thereby achieving savings to help address the state's current budgetary problem.

Proposition 1F amends the Constitution to prevent the California Citizens Compensation Commission (established by voters in 1990, to establish annual salaries, medical insurance and other benefits for elected officials) from approving increases in the annual salary of elected state officials when the state General Fund is expected to end the year with a deficit.

In part to present a united front with other educational groups, the Board endorsed propositions 1A-E, and took no stand on F.

In other action, the Board expressed its enthusiasm for the responsible development of on-line courses which obtain faculty senate approvals. It also expressed its support for Trustee Carter's call for a more rigorous mandatory policy on remedial work being completed before entry into the freshman year. This last item will come back to the Board in May, which will be my last meeting.

## Fiscal & Governmental Affairs (FGA)

**Buckley Barrett (San Bernardino), Chair**

For the March Plenary, Fiscal & Governmental Affairs co-sponsored one item with Academic Affairs as the primary author: **Support of CSU Authority to Offer the Doctorate in Nursing Practice (AS-2885-09/FGA/AA)**. This resolution passed unanimously on a waiver. We will point to this resolution when we visit the Capitol in Sacramento in April.



Our chief priority for March and April involves final planning for the 14 April 2009 Academic Senate CSU Legislative Day in Sacramento. At our March meeting and via other ongoing communications, we have worked on and will continue with: organizing teams from the Executive Committee and FGA, setting up a list of state senators and assembly members for office calls, finalizing our key discussion points on budget and bills, drafting the introductory cover letter for the Academic Senate CSU Chair, deciding on game-day logistics, and other matters.

## Faculty Affairs (FA)

**Robert McNamara (Sonoma), Chair**

In addition to the several resolutions outlined in the *Resolutions Summary*, the Faculty Affairs Committee has been working with other constituencies in the CSU on a number of issues and projects.



### Contract Reopener Bargaining

Faculty Affairs has met with representatives of the CSU Administration and the California Faculty Association (CFA). As contract impasse has been declared and the negotiations now move to mediation, Faculty Affairs encourages both sides to work constructively toward a speedy resolution so that attention can be focused on the current budget threats to the CSU.

### California Doctoral Incentive Program

Previously known as the Forgivable Loan Program, Faculty Affairs looks forward to working with the Chancellor's Office on this program. A current initiative for this program includes putting information on-line that will help potential faculty members understand what is involved in being a faculty member at the CSU.

## Campus Practices Regarding Governance

The committee has reviewed preliminary data collected by Vice-Chair Bernadette Cheyne on this issue. Further data will be compiled for this survey, and Faculty Affairs will consider either a resolution or report with a recommendation on the findings.

## Academic Preparation & Education Programs (APEP)

**Steven Stepanek (Northridge), Chair**

In addition to the "a-g" course pattern resolution covered elsewhere in this newsletter, APEP has been involved in the following activities:

### Lower Division Transfer Pattern (LDTP) Update

APEP heard reports from and provided feedback to representatives of the LDTP Steering Committee, Advisory Committee and Workgroup. During the March 17, 2009 LDTP Workgroup meeting of representatives from CSU and California Community Colleges, the Workgroup members determined that their role of assisting to shape the LDTP process had reached a conclusion and it was time to disband the Workgroup and allow the Advisory Committee to assume the responsibilities of the Workgroup.



### Troop to College Initiative

APEP discussed the February 11, 2009 Executive Order No. 1040 regarding "Admissions by Exception of Military Service members and Veterans of Military Service". This Executive Order establishes a new CSU admissions group for military service members and veterans so they can qualify for CSU admission based on their overall "schooling, training, readiness for the academic environment, and likelihood of success at the specific campus."

### Budget Impact on P-12

APEP discussed the impact of the planned State budget cuts on P-12 instruction, including the possible "pink-slipping" of over 28,000 P-12 instructors.

## ***“A Budget Built on Quicksand”***

### **David Hood (CSU Long Beach) Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee Academic Senate of the CSU Budget Specialist**



California's long-standing structural deficit and the world-wide recession together produced a \$41.6 billion state budget shortfall. On February 20<sup>th</sup> Governor Schwarzenegger signed an unprecedented 17-month budget plan to carry the state through June 30, 2010. How this will affect the CSU was described by Executive Vice Chancellor Ben Quillian in his report to the Board of Trustees:

The two-year fiscal impact to the CSU support budget totals a decrease of \$600 million, including consideration of revenues that would have been forthcoming under the Compact for Higher Education. Moreover, the CSU faces continuing fiscal uncertainty. The underlying themes of the state's budget package are complexity and contingency. The balance of the overall package, as well as the condition of the CSU support budget, are affected by interactions between the federal stimulus bill and the state budget, most of the propositions on the May 19, 2009 ballot, and continuing uncertainty about state General Fund revenues caused by the precarious nature of California's current economy.

To make matters worse, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recently recommended that since the CSU has been able to handle over 10,000 unbudgeted students, that there be no increase in funding for the current over-enrollment. In response, Chancellor Reed has directed campuses to manage enrollment down to target.

The Governor's Budget is quite uncertain because of collections, elections, and stimulus. First, tax collections are predicted to be \$8 billion below those necessary to fund the Governor's budget. Second, in the May 19<sup>th</sup> election voters will decide on a combination of intertwined propositions including borrowing \$5 billion against future Lottery revenues. Finally, if, by April 1<sup>st</sup>, it is determined that California will not receive at least \$10 billion in stimulus money to offset General Fund expenses, the CSU budget will be reduced an additional \$50 million. But, if California DOES receive \$10 billion in stimulus money that can be offset against General Fund expendi-

tures, then some specific tax increases will not occur and there will be an additional \$2.8 billion *annual* revenue shortfall. Since each of these three items contributes to the revenue side of the Governor's budget, the revised budget which will be released in late May could well be quite different from the current plan.

While nobody can predict the exact effects for the CSU, it is likely that our ability to provide quality services to our students will be impaired, that our enrollment will shrink by 10,000 students, and that, as a result of this enrollment decline, our part-time workforce will be reduced.

The Executive Vice Chancellor's complete report to the Board of Trustees may be found at:

<http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/mar09/FIN.pdf>

### ***Give Students a Compass: CSULA GE Project*** **Kevin Baaske (CSU Los Angeles) Chair, General Education Advisory Committee**

The CSU is part of three-state collaboration to plan, implement and assess innovations in General Education. Working with the Association of American College and Universities (AAC&U) the CSU and the state systems in Oregon and Wisconsin have adopted the "Give Students a Compass" project to foster the development of high impact practices across systems of higher education.



All three state systems are characterized by a high proportion of student transfers and diversity. The Compass Project provides seed funds for sustained emphasis on equity and the success of historically underserved students.

In the first phase of the project, three of CSU's campuses: Sacramento State, San Jose State and Chico State were each selected to receive \$40,000. The funding, obtained by the AAC&U from the State Farm Insurance Companies, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Lumina Foundation for Education, will permit each campus to refine and assess approaches to GE that incorporate the AAC&U's LEAP goals (Liberal Education and America's Progress) which have been recently included in Executive Order 1033—the Executive Order that lays out the requirements for GE breadth.

### ***Give Students a Compass: CSULA GE Project (Continued)***

- CSU Sacramento proposed to develop and implement a series of high-impact practices related to Civic Agency, Sustainability, Literacy, and Service Learning.
- CSU San Jose proposed to develop, implement, and assess a model project to create a more coherent learning experience for transfer students.
- CSU Chico proposed to integrate civic engagement in GE and create a community of practice centered on engaged scholarship.

The CSU Compass Project Steering Committee anticipates a summer 2010 conference to share high impact practices across the system and with California Community College partners and, if additional support is forthcoming, the funding of projects on additional CSU campuses.

### **Collegiate Learning Assessment Report Catherine Nelson (Sonoma) Task Force Co-Chair Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee**

The California State University is a participant in the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), a partnership established in 2007 between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. The VSA is a response to recommendations made in the 2006 federal Spellings Commission report, "A Test of Leadership: Charting the Future of U.S. Higher Education." In that report, the Commission called for more accountability from public institutions of higher education, through, among other things, the measurement of student achievement on a "value added" basis that takes into account students' academic baseline when assessing their results. The VSA allows participating institutions to use one of three value-added instruments, the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAAP), or the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP).

In August 2007 the CSU Executive Council of Presidents recommended that the CSU adopt the VSA, using the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) as the primary means of measuring student learning outcomes. The Executive Council also recommended a two-year pilot period beginning in 2007-2008, after which a determination would be made about the frequency of administration of the CLA. In late Fall 2008 the Presidents' Council on Accountability established the CSU Joint Taskforce on the Collegiate Learning Assessment to review the CSU experience with the CLA instrument. The membership of the taskforce includes four statewide Senators, five administrators (a President, provost, vice provost, and two institutional research officers (an Associate Vice President of institutional research and planning, and a Director of institutional research), and two support staff from the Office of the Chancellor.

The CLA Joint Taskforce began meeting in January 2009. At its March meeting, the Taskforce drafted its final recommendations to be forwarded to the Presidents' Council on Accountability for their April 29, 2009 meeting. Those draft recommendations include:

- #1 Continue using the CLA under the auspices of the Voluntary System of Accountability.
- #2 Convene a taskforce of system test administrators and faculty to develop standardized implementation protocols for use throughout the CSU system.
- #3 Delay administration of the CLA for one year. After that, institute requirement that campuses administer the test a minimum of one every three years.
- #4 Characterize the CLA as an accountability instrument instead of an assessment instrument. Assessment is evaluation intended for program improvement while accountability is evaluation intended to demonstrate accomplishments to external groups.
- #5 Arrange a meeting between representatives from the CSU and CAE to discuss possible changes/additions to the CLA to tailor it to the CSU's need (eg., ethical decision-making and quantitative skills).