Chair's Report, September 2003

Executive Committee: Though it has been summer break for most the time since our last plenary meeting, the Academic Senate's Executive Committee has been busy. Our efficient secretary, David Hood, has provided you with the minutes of our July meeting, so I'll provide only the highlights of the Executive Committee's work. The executive committee and the standing committee chairs met on July 13-14, following the second meeting of the Integrated Teacher Preparation taskforce and preceding the July meeting of the Board of Trustees. We dealt with a wide range of matters--filling committee positions for the senate's standing committees and for the systemwide committees and taskforces, planning activities for the year, cutting the senate's budget, and reviewing the agenda for the July trustees' meeting.

I've already reported to you on the senate's projected budget for this coming year--we cut more than $130,000 from last year's expenditures, and there may be more belt-tightening as the year proceeds.

The executive committee has also done a good deal of business via e-mail over the course of the summer, including a discussion of proposed amendments to SB81. That legislation has been much improved, and the most objectionable sections have been removed or--we've been promised--will soon be removed. David Spence and I have worked closely on this, and David has been both receptive to our concerns and helpful in getting them translated into amendments. Similarly, the executive committee has reviewed and suggested changes in language for legislation now under development on higher-education accountability. David Spence is the CSU representative on this planning group; he has been receptive to our concerns and has largely succeeded in translating them into the draft.

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing: On July 2, Lynne Cook and I attended a meeting of the CCTC for public comment on a proposal for meeting some of the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act; I raised a number of questions that the proposal left unclear.

Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees met on July 15-16, and the full executive committee (except David McNeil, who had to be in Italy) was in attendance. The BOT heard our recommendation for changes in Title 5 regarding integrated teacher preparation programs and will take final action in September. The most contentious matter on their agenda, by far, was the 30% increase in student fees. During the discussion, I presented the senate's position on both fees (from March 2003) and limiting enrollment (from May 2003).

Intersegmental Coordinating Committee: The ICC met in Oakland at the UC Office of the President on July 18. The committee organized itself for the coming year, including
transferring the chair to Allison Jones of the CSU. In addition, the committee heard reports from the key subcommittees: Intersegmental Applications of Information Technology, Intersegmental Budget, K-18 Curricular Issues, and Student Academic Preparation, Access, and Transfer. The senate has representatives on all these subcommittees, and they will report separately on their work.

**Academic Council:** The Academic Council (academic vice-presidents) met on June 26-27 at CSU San Marcos and on August 22 at LAX. They heard a report on an instructional technology initiative that they have been involved in developing through the Academic Technology Planning Committee, on which the senate was also well represented. A revised and renamed version of that committee will oversee the next phase of the initiative this coming year; the senate will also be represented on that committee.

**Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates:** The ICAS meeting was the first of the new academic year, and part of the business of the day was to set the meeting dates for the remainder of the year. In addition, the committee heard reports from each segment on budget and enrollment issues. We discussed SB 81, our integrated teacher preparation taskforce, the accountability legislation now under development, the CCC search for a new chancellor, and our plans for meeting with legislative representatives during the coming year.

**System Budget Advisory Committee:** SBAC discussed a proposal for the 2004-05 budget. The above-the-line portion is based on the last partnership with the governor, which looked to 3-4% annual growth in enrollment and 4% annual growth in the CSU budget. This section asks for funding for a 3% increase in enrollment (including a 10% increase in fees, which is part of the partnership), a 4+% increase in employee compensation, and the restoration of several items including instructional equipment and libraries. Below the line (outside the partnership) are requests for more restoration plus funding for the first year of the ACR 73 report. There was general consensus that it was highly unlikely that there would be sufficient funds to do most--probably all--of these things. There was some discussion that it is nonetheless important to make the request as a way of educating the legislature to our needs. The committee also approved a 2004-05 budget for lottery funds that is virtually identical to that for 03-04. Finally, there was discussion of a long-term policy on student fees. The BOT is expected to receive a proposal for a fees policy in January for information and in March for action.

**California State Student Association:** On July 12, David Spence, Sandy Sutphen (CSU Fullerton), and I took part in a panel on governance as part of the transitional meeting of the CSSA. On August 23, I served as the senate’s liaison to the regular monthly meeting of the CSSA board of directors, and reported to them on the senate’s work over the summer.

**CSU Fullerton Faculty Retreat:** On August 19, the CSU Fullerton faculty held a retreat to discuss a range of issues facing them during this coming year. I spoke following lunch, focusing on some of the major challenges facing the CSU academic senate: legislative intrusion into the curriculum, articulation, and the budget.

**CSU Budget:** As the summer has progressed, I and other members of the executive committee, especially David Hood, who chairs his campus budget committee, have tried to keep you up to date on the system budget. My letter to you and campus senate chairs of
July 29 was an attempt to provide you with prompt information, and I hope that you either have, or will, circulate it among your colleagues on campus.

**Faculty Trustee:** As you all know by now, Governor Davis appointed Kathleen Kaiser of CSU Chico as faculty trustee. Kathy and I have sent a message to campus senate chairs, offering to visit campuses as our calendars permit us to do so.

**Other Activities:** I also gave a paper at a conference entitled *La Californie: laboratoire ou périphérie?*, sponsored by Société d'Etudes Nord Américaines (SENA) and Université Paul Valéry Montpellier III, Montpellier, on 5-7 June 2003. My paper, based in part on the 21st-century report, was entitled "The California State University System and the State's Fiscal Crisis of the Early 1990s." In keeping with the conference theme of California as laboratory, I suggested that two of the state's most prominent "experiments"--the Master Plan (which promised access, at little or no cost, to high-quality higher education for all able and willing to take part) and direct democracy, especially voter initiatives--had come into collision, as illustrated by the experience of the CSU in the early 1990s. Following that conference, I spent two and a half weeks in Moscow, doing research at the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History, looking for material on the Communist Party in California, Washington, and Oregon in the 1920s; I also renewed my acquaintance with my colleagues at Moscow State University, where I was a Fulbright lecturer in 1996. On August 11-12, I went to Washington, D.C., to take part in the evaluation of proposals for funding under the Teaching of Traditional American History program of the Department of Education, and then stayed for a two more days to read microfilm at the Library of Congress.

This has been a busy summer, and I'm sure the year to come will be even busier. I look forward to working with you in meeting its many challenges.

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