

Report of the Meeting of the
Board of Trustees
March 13-14, 2007

Craig R. Smith, CSU Faculty Trustee

HEADLINE: Board retains rules of procedures that ensure full committee reports; members of the Board condemn CFA personal attacks on Chancellor

Full reports from the Board of Trustees meeting can be found at www.calstate.edu/BOT.

The public committee meetings were held with, among others, the CSU presidents, the Lieutenant Governor, the Superintendent of Instruction, and members of the Statewide Academic Senate's Executive Committee in attendance.

- * The Committee on Educational Policy reviewed progress toward reducing degrees to 120 semester units as well as the processes for program review. Assessment procedures were reported as were several campuses' accreditation reviews. Then came the annual report on remediation. While this continues to be a major problem with admits to the CSU, it has declined from 68% to 56%. Our success continues with remediating students during their first year in the CSU. That rate is 83%. Good news also continues to flow from the Early Assessment Program. The Committee then moved to the planned evaluation of our teacher preparation programs. There were questions about the methodology used by the CSU Center for Teacher Quality to evaluate the programs. In response to my questions, the researchers responded that they were moving to hard evidence based system of assessment.
- * The Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings and Groups heard that the CSU has \$3 billion in capital projects underway, a 10% increase over 2005. Construction costs continue to escalate. The Environmental Impact Review for the Pointe project at Fresno was reviewed and comments taken from community members. The Committee certified the EIR, approved the master plan for the Pointe project, and the amendment of the capital outlay plan. The Committee approved the acquisition of lots 1, 2, 5, and 6 of Park Merced for San Francisco, a food service replacement building for Long Beach, and a home for the IPOLY program at Pomona.
- The Committee on Governmental Relations heard report number 2 regarding the thousands of bills dropped in the hopper so far this year. From our perspective, the change in Cal Grant B (AB 302) is very important and we are working with Hector de la Torre (D, South Gate) to reform the program. Cal Grant B recipients would receive the same benefits as Cal Grant A recipients. There is a bill from Mary Salas (D, San Diego) to waive the non-resident fee for military personnel in graduate programs. SB 1331 from Jack Scott (D, Pasadena) would create the Postsecondary Accountability Commission. There are many other bills affecting the CSU that are being monitored. For example, Assemblyman Portantino introduced AB 1413 which would let ex-officio members of the Board send designees to the Board, would require detailed financial information about executive compensation, would allow the

legislature to add members to the Board, and would require that faculty compensation include all compensation not just salary in terms of informing the legislature about its needs. (CPEC has adopted this approach; sometimes referred to as the Mercer Methodology. It shows that when all benefits are considered, we come out slightly ahead of cohort institutions. Cost of living is NOT taken into account, nor is workload)

- * The Committee on Institutional Advancement approved naming the College of Engineering at San Jose after Charles W. Davidson (\$15,000,000 contribution). A library tower at Fresno was named as the Table Mountain Rancheria Tower (\$10,000,000 contribution). The Committee accepted a set of principles to assess the fundraising goals assigned to the campuses.
- * The Committee on Audit received an update on the CSUs.
- * The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel heard reports on executive compensation.
- * The Committee of the Whole heard a report on litigation that revealed that 67% of cases resulting in a settlement, and ALL other cases were decided in favor of the CSU.
- * The Committee on Finance received a pessimistic budget report based on falling revenues, potential law suit losses, and the legislative analyst's assessment. The projected deficit is about \$3 billion but could be much higher. Within this context, the CSU budget is set at \$4.4 billion overall with a base budget increase of \$109 million, plus \$65.5 million for enrollment growth, \$123 million from increased student fees, and a \$2 million supplement for math and science teachers. The Chancellor anticipates that \$7 million will be restored for outreach programs. There is no funding for the ACR 73 goal of increasing tenure and tenure track ratios.

The most controversial item before the Committee was the student fee increase. The current fee policy was established in 1993. It precludes fees from exceeding 33% of the cost of educating a student; it sets aside one-third of new fees for financial aid. The 10% fee increase will result in a \$252 increase for undergraduates raising their yearly fees to \$2,722; credential students face a \$294 increase to \$3, 216; graduate students face a \$312 increase to \$3, 414 for the year. Our student fees remain the lowest among our cohort institutions and even those not granting Ph.Ds. Cal Grants or State University Grants went to 146,542 of our students and none of those will have to pay the fee increase. The Committee approved the fee increase **ON THE CONDITION THAT THE CHANCELLOR BE REQUIRED TO REDUCE THE INCREASE BY ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE IN THE FINAL BUDGET.** Thus, on lobbying days in Sacramento, buying out the fee increase will be on the agenda.

The Committee also approved bond funding for projects at San Francisco and Sacramento.

After public comments on Wednesday during the general board meeting, the above recommendations were affirmed and the reports were accepted.

* I have traveled to Long Beach, Pomona and Dominguez Hills for their campus conversations on Access to Excellence.

Board Committee Chairs:

- Ray Holdsworth, Chair, Audit
- Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, Chair, Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds*
- Murry Galinson, Chair, Collective Bargaining
- Herbert Carter, Chair, Educational Policy*
- William Hauck, Chair, Finance*
- Melinda Guzman Moore, Chair, Government Relations*
- Carol Chandler, Chair, Craig Smith, Vice Chair, Institutional Advancement*
- George Gowgani, Chair, Craig Smith, Vice Chair, Organization and Rules*
- Debra Farar, Chair, University and Faculty Personnel*

*Faculty Trustee Smith to serve as member. He will also serve as alternate representative to CPEC.

Roberta Achtenberg is the Chair of the Board and Jeffrey Bleich is Vice Chair.

My list of completed campus visits follows:

Provided here is a chart of my completed campus visits:

<u>Campus</u>	<u>1st Official Visit</u>	<u>Visit</u>	<u>Visit</u>	<u>Visit</u>	<u>Visit</u>
Humboldt	9/05	Graduation 05	10/06		
Chico	12/05				
Sonoma	2/26				
Sacramento	12/05				
Maritime A.	2/06	guest lecture	Graduation 06	Graduation 07	
San Francisco	10/05				
East Bay	11/05	Workshop			
San Jose	11/05				
Stanislaus	9/06				
Monterey Bay	2/06	1/07			
Fresno	10/05	Graduation 06	9/06		
Bakersfield	5/06				
San Luis Obispo	10/06				

Channel Islands	4/06				
Northridge	11/05				
San Bernardino	11/05				
Fullerton	11/06	Arts Center	Alumnae	Picnic	
Los Angeles	1/06				
Dominguez Hills	5/06	Tennis Center	Campus Conversation		
Long Beach	9/05	5/06	Graduation	9/06	Campus Conversation
Pomona	4/06	Campus Conversation			
San Marcos	1/06				
San Diego	1/06	Graduate Dean			