November 15-16, 2016 CSU Board of Trustees Meeting
Faculty Trustee’s Report

Steven Stepanek

On November 15-16, 2016, the CSU Board of Trustees met at the Chancellor’s Office in Long Beach. A different agenda format was tried during this meeting. The closed session meetings to discuss executive personnel matters, pending litigation and collective bargaining were moved from the meeting start on Tuesday to Wednesday morning. This allowed the open meeting activities of the Board to start on Tuesday at 8:00 am.

Here is my report on the November 15-16 meeting:

1. The first meeting on Tuesday was the standing Committee on Educational Policy to hear two informational items: recommended amendments to Title 5 regarding admission of veterans and an update on Graduation Initiative 2025.

   The recommended amendments to Title 5 were a first reading items that the Board will vote on during its January 2017 meeting. The changes update the definition of “eligible veteran” to include National Guard and Reservists and to include all veterans who were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Language is also introduced to Title 5 to permit the CSU to admit eligible veterans regardless of the number of transferable units earned.

   During the September 2016 Board meeting, the Board approved the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025. The presentation during the November meeting consisted of an update on the Graduation Initiative Student Success Symposium that occurred on September 21-22, 2016, the campus initiatives being funded by the 2015-2016 allocation of $35 million, and systemwide initiatives. The system initiatives include the review of graduation procedures to streamline administrative procedures, review of drop-for-non-payment policies to provide greater flexibility for students, funding of high-demand courses to meet student need, and study of the use of technology to assist courses with high-enrollment, high-failure rates. Two dashboards were also demonstrated: one is intended for high school students, parents and advisors considering enrollment in a CSU campus (www.calstate.edu/highschool) and the other is the CSU Faculty Dashboard (www.calstate.edu/dashboard). Access to the CSU Faculty Dashboard requires local campus participation and access permission. This dashboard provides data on:

   “Who are my students?
   How quickly do they progress toward degree?
   What paths do they follow?
   In which courses do they struggle?
   Are there achievement gaps between certain groups?
   What are their academic outcomes?
   What actions can I take [to help them succeed]?”

   The datasets for individual campus majors are currently being compiled; as they become available, they will permit one to potentially drill through the data to specific students.

   During Board discussion regarding Graduation Initiative 2025, it was pointed out that the success of this initiative is contingent on the full funding by the State of the line item for this project in the
CSU supplemental budget for a multi-year period-of-time. I pointed out that increasing the average student load will raise FTES (full-time equivalent student) without increasing headcount which translates to funding issues for the additional course sections. In response, and as a preview of the business of the Committee on Finance, it was pointed out that the proposed budget includes a request for the State to support an additional 3,616 FTES and that a large portion of these funds would be used to support additional courses rather than admission of additional students. I also pointed out that some of the bottleneck courses require access to laboratory space that may be resource limited or in need of refresh.

2. The second committee to meet was the Committee on Finance. Their agenda listed six items – four were action items and two were informational.

Starting with the action items:
The issuance of CSU Systemwide Revenue Bonds and related debt instruments was approved for:
   - The new 69,200 square foot Student Union project at CSU Monterey Bay that will be funded from student body center fees which have been approved based upon student input.
   - The parking structure V project at CSU, Sacramento – a five story parking structure with approximately 1,750 parking spaces to replace an equivalent number of parking spaces lost to current and proposed construction projects.
   - The San Jose State University Student Recreation and Aquatic Center – a 121,100 square foot facility with an estimated completion date of March 2019.

The 2017-2018 Lottery Budget was approved. The first reading for this budget was in September. The CSU receives approximately $45 million annually in lottery funds – 3.7% of the total lottery funds distributed to education.

The 2017-2018 Support Budget Request as approved. The CSU’s total budget of $5.4 billion is funded from two sources: $3.2 billion from state general funds and $2.2 billion from net tuition and fee revenue. As approved by the Board, the CSU budget contains the following supplemental requests for state funding above the base amount:
   - 3,600 FTES growth – $38.5 million
   - Current compensation commitments (this includes continued funding of CFA 2016-2017 salary increases plus funding of the 2017-2018 increases) – $139.1 million
   - Potential new compensation agreements – $55.1 million
   - Facilities and Infrastructure needs – $10 million
   - Mandatory cost increases (such as health insurance) – $26 million
   - Graduation Initiative 2025 – $75 million

This comes to a total of $343.7 million in incremental expenditures which would be offset by $176.0 million in anticipated new revenue ($157.2 million general fund increase from Governor’s Funding Plan and $18.8 million net tuition from enrollment growth.) This leaves $167.7 million as a supplemental increase request. It remains a top priority of the Board that the CSU seek an increase in state funding from the governor and legislature to avoid a possible student tuition increase but the system needs to keep its options open in case the 2017-2018 CSU Support Budget is not fully funded by the state. One of the options is a possible increase in tuition of no more than $270 per year for full-time undergraduate students. If a tuition increase becomes necessary, it would appear on the agenda of the March Board meeting.

Conceptual approval was given of a Public-Private Partnership Project with the Los Angeles Football Club [soccer] to develop a Performance Center at CSU, Los Angeles.

The two informational items were:
The 2016-2017 Student Fee Report was presented (not a future action item). The student fees covered by the report consist of three categories:
Category II – campus-based mandatory fees charges to all students such as health services, instructionally related activities, material services, student success, student association, and student center.

Category III – miscellaneous course fees to provide materials or experiences that enhance that course offering.

Category V – campus parking, housing and student unions.

On top of the $5,472 tuition for a full-time undergraduate student, the average campus mandatory fee for 2016-2017 was $1,409, up from $1,346 in 2015-2016. For 2016-2017, the campus mandatory fees ranged from $841 (Fresno) to $3,603 (San Luis Obispo). As part of the summary in the report were the following factoids:
61% of all CSU undergraduates have their tuition fully covered by grants or waivers.
Approximately 80% (367,000) of all CSU students received more than $4 billion in total financial assistance.
51% of CSU baccalaureate recipients graduate with zero education loan debt.
Of the 49% who graduate with debt, the average loan debt was $14,388; compared to the national average student loan debt of $28,950.

A report in procurement and other administrative effectiveness initiatives was presented (not a future action item). Of the CSU’s total budget of $5.4 billion, $2.3 billion of the expenditures are in categories which can be influenced by procurement and other administrative effectiveness initiatives; the remaining $3.1 billion in expenditures cover collective bargaining agreements, wages and benefits. The primary expenditures within the $2.3 billion category are construction (38%), facilities management and energy (17%), information technology (16%), financial and business support services (11%), and instructional services and equipment (6%); leaving 12% of “other”. This report covered many of the current initiatives to lower these operational costs through standardized and best practices, system contracts, and collaboration within the CSU and with the UC.

3. Next up, I convened the first of three meetings involving the Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds. This was the formal (non-joint) meeting of the committee and there were four action items to consider:
   Approval of the Master Plan Revision, amendment of the 2016-2017 Capital Outlay Program, and schematic plans for the CSU Monterey Bay Student Union Project.
   Approval of amendment of the 2016-2017 Capital Outlay Program and schematic plans for the CSU Long Beach college of Continuing and Professional Education Classroom Building Project.
   Approval of schematic plans for: the Center for Science and Innovation building at CSU, Dominguez Hills which will provide 90,854 square feet of lab and classroom space for the departments of biology, chemistry and physics; the Rongxiang Xu Bioscience Innovation Center at CSU, Los Angeles; the Academic Building III at CSU, Monterey Bay to house the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; the parking structure V, phase 1 project at CSU, Sacramento; and the Student Recreation and Aquatic Center at San Jose State University.
   Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report and approval of the 2016 Master Plan Revision for the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Student Housing Replacement Project.

4. I convened the joint meeting of the Committees on Finance and Campus Planning, Building and Grounds to approve the 2017-2018 Capital Outlay Program, the 2017-2018 through 2021-2022 Five-Year Facilities Renewal and Improvement Plan (also known as the “Five-Year Plan”), and
the Multi-Year Bond Authorization. These three action items had gone through a lengthy presentation and discussion period during the September Board meeting.

5. The joint meeting of the Committees on Educational Policy and Finance was convened to approve the CSU Academic Sustainability Plan that was initially presented to the Board during its September meeting. This plan is required by law to be submitted each year to the California Department of Finance and the state legislature. It provides a three-year projection of available resources, projections of resident and non-resident enrollment in each of those years and covers the goals for 16 performance measures as described in state law for each of those years.

6. The Committee on Audit convened to receive a status report on current internal audit assignments. This is a routine report given at nearly every Board meeting.

7. The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel received the annual report on Vice President Compensation, Executive Relocation, and Executive Transition (not a future action item), and approved the action items on:
   - Revision of Title 5 to amend the CSU conflict of interest code to reflect changes in designated positions and disclosure categories of those individuals who make or participate in the making of decisions that may have a material effect on personal financial interest (identify who must complete annually a Form 700 and the disclosure questions on that form).
   - Revision of the outside employment disclosure requirements for Management Personnel Plan (MPP) and Executive employees. Senate Bill 886 requires the CSU Board of Trustees to review the policies and procedures governing outside employment by university executives and senior management no later than January 1, 2017. One significant change is that a disclosure form will need to be filed annually even if there are no changes regarding outside employment to report. Another significant change is that the Board of Trustees shall annually review, provide the opportunity for public discussion, and approve the outside employment endeavors of all Senior Management employees.

8. The Committee on Governmental Relations convened to receive as an informational item the Statement of State Legislative Principles for 2017-2018. This item will be voted on by the Board during its January 2017 meeting. At the beginning of every two-year legislative session, the Board reviews and adopts a Statement of Legislative Principles for the California State University. These principles provide the basic parameters to guide positions taken by the Chancellor and system representatives on matters pending before the California legislature. There are seven core principles which can be summarized as:
   a. Work with the legislature and governor to allow the CSU to continue its oversight of academic affairs and matters relating to the internal governance of the university.
   b. Preserve the integrity of the collective bargaining process.
   c. Remain neutral on matters in which the state seeks to legislate the general public health and safety while not singling out the CSU.
   d. Preserve the integrity of the CSU’s budgetary process, and seek adequate funding to serve current and future students, support the work of faculty and staff, provide for ongoing operations, capital outlay and infrastructure needs, and to meet the workforce demands of the state.
   e. Seek to influence the outcome of issues which, while not affecting the CSU alone, would have a disproportionate impact on the university’s activities.
   f. Seek to secure representation of the CSU on appropriate boards, commissions, task forces, study groups, etc., whose work may have a significant impact on the system.
   g. As both the chief administrative officer and a trustee, the chancellor is recognized and designated by the Board of Trustees as the spokesperson for the CSU regarding its positions on state and federal legislative proposals.
9. The Committee on Institutional Advancement approved two naming requests: the naming of the south wing of Manzanita Hall at CSU, Northridge, as the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Wing and the naming of the College of Business Administration at San Diego State University as the Fowler College of Business Administration.

10. I convened a joint committee meeting of the Committees on Educational Policy and Campus Planning, Building and Grounds. The one agenda item was an informational presentation on Progress Towards CSU Environmental Sustainability Goals. In May 2014, the CSU Board of Trustees adopted the 2014 Sustainability Policy. This policy is broader in scope than most polities, impacting both campus academic and campus facility maintenance activities. This presentation was an update on the system’s progress towards achieving the goals set in the 2014 policy.
   
a. Greenhouse Gas Emissions – the CSU has already exceeded its 2020 goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to its 1990 level or below, consistent with the statewide target set by state legislation (AB 32).
   
b. Energy Efficiency – the CSU has installed $128 million worth of energy efficiency projects since 2005, yielding an approximate 20% reduction in total energy use from 10 years ago. These projects included upgrades to LED lighting, installation of high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, and building envelope improvements.
   
c. Renewable Energy – the CSU has already met the goal set by the state in the California Public Utilities Commission Renewable Portfolio Standard prior to the 2020 deadline requiring that 33% of electrical needs be procured from renewable sources.
   
d. Self-Generation Capacity – the CSU is on track to meet the goal of 80 MW of self-generation electricity by 2020. By 2017 the system will be generating 19.5 MW of solar photovoltaic electricity and an additional 23 MW of cogeneration capacity. Phase 4 of the system’s solar energy plan is anticipated to result in a total of 78.5 MW of self-generation capacity by 2018.
   
e. Water Conservation – the CSU has already exceeded the 2016 water conservation goal of reducing water use by 10% and is on track to meet the 2020 goal of reducing water use by 20%. This will be achieved through campus projects including behavior change, landscaping changes and plumbing fixture changes.
   
f. Integration of Sustainability into the Academic Curriculum – the Board policy called for the integration of sustainability into campus academic curriculum within the scope of the normal consultative process. The campuses have embraced this call in many different forms including the Campus as a Living Lab (CALL) initiative, creation of institutes and centers engaged in sustainability studies, and creation of sustainability minors and pathways through general education.

The Chancellor’s Office is currently working to create achievement goals for a system sustainable procurement policy and on methods to collect data regarding campus sustainable food purchasing.

Immediately after the joint committee meeting adjourned, the Board and meeting attendees were invited to a poster session and reception showcasing CSU environmental sustainability projects and the linking of academic projects with campus facilities maintenance and management.

11. Wednesday morning, the Board met in closed session to discuss executive personnel matters, pending litigation and collective bargaining issues.

12. The Committee on Collective Bargaining then met in open session to hear public comment and then ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Unit 11, the International Union United Automobile Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Works of America (UAW), covering academic student employees; and the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Unit 14, the CSU Employees Union (CSUEU), SEIU Local 2579, covering English language instructors at CSU, Monterey Bay.
Public comments during Collective Bargaining session consisted of representatives from various collective bargaining units covering such topics as: endorsement of $55 million request in supplemental support budget for future collective bargaining salary increases; appreciation of the new Unit 14 contract; a student commenting on tuition going up at the same time salaries go up for student employees; post national election harassment concerns; hate speech vs. free speech; need for more system policies; passage of Proposition 55; campus safety; working together for full funding of CSU; regret over governor’s veto of legislation to create a staff trustee position; and the pending change of some employees’ status from exempt to non-exempt to comply with changes in Federal code regarding overtime.

13. During the full meeting of the Board of Trustees on Wednesday morning, the Board affirmed passage of the action items mentioned in this report.

During the public comment session, the Board heard from: students associated with Students for a Quality Education speaking against tuition increases, against GI 2025 because of perception that it would force students to graduate within four years, issue of number of student trustees (apparent desire for each campus to have a student trustee), concerns regarding national election results, belief that CSU student loan debt is at the same level as the average national student loan debt, demands for sanctuary status on campuses; collective bargaining representatives echoing student demands for sanctuary status, complementing on the recently released dashboards, asking for funding to support students lacking shelter or sufficient food; and William Blischke, President of the CSU emeritus and Retired Faculty Association remarked on that group’s shoe campaign and the college affordability crisis.

The Board heard reports from:

a. The Board Chair – Trustee Eisen reported on some of her recent campus visits, CSU environmental sustainability activities including the tiny house competition that several campuses participated in, and the one-year anniversary of the Paris attacks that took the life of CSU, Long Beach student Nohemi Gonzalez.

b. The Chancellor – Timothy White also recognized Nohemi and those lost nearly one year ago in San Bernardino. He also reflected on the recent passing of David Dowell, former interim provost and president for Academic Affairs at CSU, Long Beach. He commented on CSU activities to meet the needs of returning veterans and the importance of everyone working together towards the goal of full state funding of the CSU’s 2017-2018 supplemental budget request. He talked about the importance of the state funding of the Graduation Initiative 2025 goals and how closely linked the graduation initiative goals are to the institutional priorities and founding mission of the CSU. He offered some personal reflections on the recent national election and the concerns by many regarding an uncertain future. He mentioned the recently released joint statement with CSSA president David Lopez regarding these uncertainties. He closed with the following statement [taken from the closed captioning transcript]:

“We are inequality committed to supporting all members of our community. That is who we are. It is a core strength and part of our DNA. Elections are essential to democracy yet they are not easy. They test our resolve but also our understanding and compassion. They can be difficult and sometimes even painful; specially for those who hope for different outcomes. Today, many in our community may feel anxious and perhaps vulnerable about their personal future, the future of those they care for, and the future of our nation. It is our duty as a community to listen to each other, to support each other throughout this time. It is also our responsibility to hold our political leaders to account regardless of party. To meet that obligation, the CSU and CSSA will together be leading advocates and advancing the rights of our students, faculty and staff. In this effort, we stand with California’s political and civic leaders, our colleagues in the University of California and the California Community...
Colleges and our many peers nationwide who care about and are dedicated to a nation that lives up to its highest principles.

Further, as you would expect of us, we have been thinking about the policy discussions of our time. This past July we provided guidance to campuses to clarify the relationship between our campus law enforcement activities and the US immigration and customs enforcement agency. Let me be clear there is no ambiguity here, we are deeply committed to fostering a campus community that is safe and welcoming for everyone. Primary jurisdiction for federal immigration laws rests with ICE, not with university police nor any other local municipalities' law enforcement unless we are directed by California government code or required by law. The CSU will not enter into agreements with state or local law enforcement agencies, ICE or any other federal agency for the enforcement of federal immigration law. Our police departments will not honor ICE immigration hold requests and our university police do not contact, detain, question or arrest individuals solely on the basis of being or suspected of being a person that lacks documentation. Further, we are joining hands with other universities, colleges and educational associations across America to protect accessible, affordability, intellectual freedom, inclusivity and diversity for all students including supporting our DACA students and the communities that support them. And finally, to our campus presidents, faculty, staff and students, I couldn’t be more proud of you. Each campus has created just the right set of circumstances to allow a cacophony of views to be expressed and provide support to those who seek to do so interspersed with academic and community discussions and forums of the issues at hand. The voices of nonviolent protest have a sacred place on our campuses and it will be one of many important forces going forward just as it has been in the past decades. It is regrettable that in a few cases there are participants involved in criminal activity including vandalism and violence. And the campuses are responding properly with law enforcement inquiry notification as situations warrant. Let me close with a comment directed to those individuals among us, our students, our faculty and staff who feel most vulnerable – your university supports you. As I look around the room I see others, the trustees, the presidents, the CSSA, the Academic Senate, the Alumni Council, our labor partners who will support you. As I look across the state, as mentioned earlier, I know we stand with the University of California and the community colleges and many other political and business leaders.”

You wish to listen to his presentation starting at time 1:17 on the Day 2, Nov 16th video located at: http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/nov16/

c. The ASCSU Chair – Chris Miller reported on “the elephants in the room” – Trump’s win and the possible increase in tuition. She spoke of the need for appropriate state funding of the CSU and covered recent ASCSU resolutions including: to earmark ½ of the Graduation Initiative 2025 funds to hire tenure-track faculty and to form a General Education task force. She reminded everyone of the upcoming CSU Academic Conference being held at San Diego State University.

d. The CSSA President – David Lopez reported on recent CSSA meetings, the tuition issue, tuition briefings by the Chancellor, their recently approved definition of shared governance, and planned advocacy for full funding of the CSU.

e. The Alumni Council President – Dia Poole provided an update on council activities and introduced today’s guest speaker: Sgt. Michael Bailey, a 2015 graduate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.