

November 17-18, 2015 CSU Board of Trustees Meeting Faculty Trustee's Report

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Here are four key highlights of the November 17-18, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting:

1. On November 17th there was a march and rally by members of California Faculty Association in support of CFA's collective bargaining push for a 5% general salary increase. Approximately 1000 CFA members and friends gathered about a mile from the Chancellor's Office for a march to the facility and a noon time rally. The Board continued to conduct its business in the Dumke Auditorium at the Chancellor's Office while the rally occurred outside.
2. The full Board, by an 8-5 vote, approved a revised Employee Compensation Policy that impacts presidential salary offers to incoming campus presidents. The proposal as it was presented to the Board in September 2015 called for inclusion of campus presidents within the overall guidelines for determining employee compensation; that proposal raised considerable concerns because it would have totally removed the presidential compensation clauses of the 2007 policy that capped presidential salaries at the amount of the outgoing president with the possibility of up to a 10% increase covered exclusively by campus auxiliary (non-state) funds. Based on the September 2015 Board meeting feedback, the compensation policy presented at the November 2015 Board meeting brought back special language to control presidential salaries. This proposed policy went through two rounds of revisions during the November 2015 Board meeting, leading to a version that was approved by the Board with the understanding that the policy is open for more discussion in the future. The approved policy states that during the hiring process, presidential salaries should not exceed a 10% growth cap on the compensation level of the outgoing president. It lifts the current prohibition on the use of state funds to cover the full amount of the presidential compensation. The desire for a November approval of a reviewed policy was driven by the five presidential searches currently underway. The searches for Sonoma State University and San Jose State University should come to the Board in January 2016, the searches for California State University Chico and California State University Channel Islands should come to the Board in March 2016, and the just started search for California State University Stanislaus should come to the Board in May 2016.
3. On November 18th, tennis greats Billie Jean King and Rosie Casals were present during the Board action to approve the naming of the Rosie Casals and Pancho Gonzalez Tennis Center at the Billie Jean King Sports Complex at California State University Los Angeles. Billie Jean King spoke on the importance of sports facilities open to the public and her use of public tennis facilities in Los Angeles during her years of training for the sport.
4. Since this report is being written after the November 20th press release on the issue, I can report that on November 18th, the Board, in closed session, voted to revoke the honorary Doctor of Letters degree awarded to Bill Cosby in 1992 on behalf of California Polytechnic University, Pomona. Quoting from the press release: "Cosby's conduct is contrary to the values of the CSU and inconsistent with the criteria and high standards that honorary degree recipients are expected to exemplify. The CSU has been awarding honorary doctorate degrees since 1963, and this is the first time in 52 years that the Board of Trustees has voted to rescind a degree."

In addition to the above topics, the following items also appeared on the Board's agenda:

5. The status of pending litigation and collective bargaining issues were discussed in closed session during the morning of November 17th.
6. The Committee on Governmental Relations received an update on the status of various legislative bills of interest to the CSU. Of particular note are the four measures sponsored by the Board of Trustees:
 - a. **AB 819 (Irwin) – CSU and UC Alumni Affinity Programs** was signed into law by the Governor; this measure provides permanent authority for the CSU and UC to participate in affinity programs such as alumni sponsored credit cards;
 - b. **SB 562 (Wolk) – Sonoma State Green Music Center Ad/Sponsorship Allowances** was signed into law by the Governor; this measure allows local wineries and beer manufacturers to purchase ad space, donate products for sale and provide event sponsorships;
 - c. **SB 634 (Block) – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)** is now a two-year bill and hearings will occur shortly after the Senate session resumes; this measure is in anticipation of a U.S. DOE anticipated regulation requiring every campus offering online programs to be authorized to do so in every state where the program is offered; and
 - d. **AB 130/SB 104 – CSU Investment Authority** was tabled by the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee until next year; this measure would provide the CSU with increased investment earnings through a broader range of investment options similar to the investment options enjoyed by the UC.

Also of note: **AB 340 (Weber) – Campus Climate Report** and **AB 968 (Williams) – Postsecondary Education: Transcripts** were vetoed by the Governor; **AB 798 (Bonilla) – College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015**, **AB 716 (Low) – California State University Special Sessions** (supplanting) and **AB 1000 (Weber) – California State University: Student Success Fees** were signed into law by the Governor.

7. The Committee on Audit convened to receive a status report on current and follow-up internal audit assignments. This is a routine report given at nearly every Board meeting.
8. The Committee on Organization and Rules approved the calendar of Board meetings for the calendar year 2017.
9. The joint meeting of the Committees on Educational Policy and Finance approved the 2015 Academic Sustainability Plan which reports on 16 performance measures mandated by state statute. The joint meeting also received the first annual Donahue Higher Education Act: Report on Hate Crime Statistics covering the calendar year 2014. In this first reporting year, two instances of hate crimes on CSU campuses were reported.
10. The Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds approved recommendations for amendments to the 2015-2016 Capital Outlay Program for projects at Chico, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Northridge, San Diego, San Jose, San Luis Obispo and San Bernardino. The 2016-2017 Capital Outlay Program was also reviewed and approved. The CSU Seismic Safety Program Annual Report was received.
11. The Committee on Finance approved the 2016-2017 lottery revenue budget and 2016-2017 Support Budget Request plus provided conceptual approval of a public/public partnership charter school at CSU Monterey Bay, a public/private partnership hotel development project at CSU Northridge and the CSU Channel Islands Site Authority apartment sale project.

2016-2017 Support Budget Request:

Increased Expenditures:	
3% Funded Enrollment Growth	\$110.0 million
2% Compensation Pool	\$69.6 million
Student Success and Completion Initiatives	\$50.0 million
Academic Facilities and Infrastructure Needs	\$25.0 million
Mandatory Costs (health benefits, pensions, ...)	\$43.0 million
Total Incremental Budget Request	\$297.6 million

Sources of New Revenue:	
No Tuition Increase	\$0.0
Net Tuition from 3% Funded Enrollment Growth	\$55.9 million
General Fund Revenue from Governor's Multi-Year Plan and Middle Class Scholarship Redirected Funds	\$139.4 million
Additional Board of Trustees Request	\$102.3 million
Total Additional Revenue Needed	\$297.6 million

The proposal is that the CSU request additional funding in the areas of enrollment growth (3% vs. the Governor's proposed 1%), student success and completion initiatives, and infrastructure support. The 2% compensation pool is based on "the current agreements reached through the collective bargaining process" and remains unchanged from the agreement with the Governor even though issues of salary compression and inversion are recognized.

12. The Committee on Educational Policy approved amendments to Title 5 so campus presidents can authorize the withholding of enrollment services for students who have not completed Title IX training or have not met university requirements for continued attendance. The Committee also approved a policy for the awarding of honorary degrees, codifying existing guidelines into policy and updating aspects of the prior guidelines.
13. On the morning of November 18, the Committee on University and Faculty Personnel had a lengthy discussion regarding a new Employee Compensation Policy and Reexamination of Policy on Presidential Compensation. The first action on this topic was to totally replace the draft policy included in the Board agenda with an alternate policy proposal. During the full meeting of the Board later that morning, the alternate policy proposal was further amended and approved as covered in the highlights section of this report.
14. The Committee on Institutional Advancement approved the naming of the Rosie Casals and Pancho Gonzalez Tennis Center at the Billie Jean King Sprots Complex at CSU Los Angeles (as reported at the start of this report), the naming of the Donald & Carolyn Lundberg Hall (dedicated by Hae & Shina Park) at Calif State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and the naming of the Joel and Dena Gambord Business and Information Technology Building at CSU Monterey Bay.
15. The two key actions during the full Board meeting on November 18th were the discussion and approval of a new compensation policy as covered at the start of this report and the recognition of the 50th anniversary of CSU San Bernardino.
16. After the close of the open session on Wednesday, the Board continued to meet in closed session to discuss executive personnel matters.