April 7, 2005

To: Dr. David McNeil, Chair
    Academic Senate, CSU

From: Dr. David S. Spence
      Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer

Subject: March 10-11, 2005 Senate Resolutions

Thank you for forwarding the packet of resolutions heard on initial reading / adopted by the Academic Senate of The California State University at its meeting on March 10-11, 2005. I am pleased to provide the responses below.

AS-2682-05/FGA/FA Reconsideration of the Student Administration Component of CMS

Trustees and presidents know that the functionality of software systems currently in place is not the best criterion for understanding the worth of CSU's now-longstanding commitment to a common management system. Rather, we look forward to the time when a CSU common management system will permit insightful analyses and generate efficiencies systemwide beyond those available now to individual campuses. In this light, individual campus postponements of the implementation of the student administration module based on local circumstances will continue to be discouraged.
Observing the 50th Anniversary of the CSU as a System and Preserving the History of the CSU and of Each CSU Campus

The Senate's interest in the 50th anniversary of the CSU as a system is welcome. We will discuss with the Senate and with other constituencies the best ways in which to mark the 2010-11 occasion. We are pleased to report that the always-energetic President Emeritus of CSU, Sacramento, Dr. Donald Gerth, is hard at work now on a history of the system. Of course, we recognize the importance of the CSU Archives and, consistent with other budgetary priorities, we intend to support them appropriately.

Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act

The Senate's support for fundamental civil rights and civil liberties places the body in very good company, and bears upon the capacity of campuses to do their essential work of educating leaders for tomorrow's polity, tomorrow's economy, and tomorrow's society. Senior administrators in the CSU will indeed take reasonable steps to insure that investigations and requests for information of which we are aware are conducted in accordance with appropriate legal protection of individual civil rights and civil liberties.

Actions Needed to Improve the Quality of Academic Advising in the CSU

This welcome resolution captures most of the multi-constituency consensus that is now apparent concerning campus-based actions that should be taken to facilitate student progress to the baccalaureate. As you know, this resolution in particular formed the basis for a March presentation to the Board of Trustees. We welcome the Senate's useful participation in building the system-wide consensus on this important topic.