July 11, 2006

Dr. Marshelle Thobaben, Chair
Academic Senate, CSU
The California State University
401 Golden Shore, Suite 139
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

Dear Dr. Thobaben:

RE: May 4-5, 2006 Senate Resolutions

Thank you for forwarding the packet of resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate of The California State University at its meeting on May 4-5, 2006. I am pleased to provide the responses below.

AS-2732-06/FA Re-Instituting the CSU Academic Conference

We share the Senate’s interest in finding opportunities for Senators to convene with system leaders. Our view is that such activities will be most fruitful when we have focused agendas or topics for discussion. As an example, we look forward to the October 20, 2006 systemwide conference focused on Campus Actions to Facilitate Graduation, as well as to other opportunities as may be afforded by systemwide planning in the next year or two.

AS-2733-06/FA Providing Lecturers with Timely Academic Support

While this resolution is directed to campuses, we note that assuring access to IT resources by persons with recognized disabilities, including students, will require both lead time and appropriate support when faculty turn to the development of classes. In order to
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comply with both federal and state law, campus faculty colleagues may need to take a role in assuring timely course design and timely selection of materials.

AS-2737-06/FGA/FA Re-Examination of the Faculty Salary Structure

As you know, the CSU continues to work with the California Faculty Association on wages and working conditions as a next contract for the faculty bargaining unit is sought. Salary structure is a part of that bargaining.

AS-2739-06/AA Availability of Paper Copy of CSU Catalogs

We agree that articulation officers and transfer center directors need access to paper copies of campus catalogs.

AS-2740-06/AA Creation of a Statewide Database of CSU Extension Enrollees

We have reviewed this thoughtful suggestion. Unfortunately, a variety of legal and practical obstacles will prevent the creation of the suggested database.

AS-2742-06/FA Timely Notification about Private Security Personnel on CSU Campuses

We trust that campuses will involve faculty appropriately in making policies in this and other important areas.

AS-2743-06/TEKR Support for Subject Matter-Teacher Education Faculty Collaboration

We agree that collaborative processes between CSU faculty members with specific subject matter expertise and members with teacher preparation expertise should be encouraged and supported. Campuses will consider the extent to which this should be reviewed in the context of retention, tenure and promotion policies.
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AS-2744-06/AA/FA
Opposition to AB 2168 (Liu): A Single Common General Education Curriculum for California Community College Students who Transfer to University of California and California State University

Academic Senate and CSU administrative cooperation in responding to this bill was remarkable—positive, collegial, and fruitful. Please accept our appreciation for the fine work done by Academic Senate representatives in testifying at the June legislative (Senate) hearing for this bill.

AS-2746-06/TEKR
Title 5 Language to Accommodate the Independent Doctorate of Education within the CSU

This is another remarkable instance of joint Academic Senate / Academic Affairs cooperation to do important service for the people of California. Thank you for your review and recommendation on this language, and for your tolerance of tight timelines. As you know, the Board will consider this item for action this month.

AS-2749-06/FGA
CSU Budget Priorities for Academic Year 2007-08

The Senate’s input on budget priorities is thoughtful and valued. We join the Senate in recognizing the importance of funding enrollment at true cost of delivery, of reducing student/faculty ratios, of raising salaries to market levels, of implementing ACR 73, and of addressing long-term needs.

AS-2750-06/FGA
In Support of AB 2581 (Protecting Student Freedom of Expression)

We note the Senate’s clear statement, addressed to members of the legislature.
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AS-2751-06/FGA  Annual Adjustments of the Academic Senate California State University Budget

We are committed to support the Senate at a level that will permit the fulfillment of its important functions. We recognize that as costs increase, adjustments to the Senate budget may be necessary.

AS-2721-06/FGA  Support for AB 2813 (Student Financial Aid)

We welcome the Senate’s clear statement of support for a proposal that would expand the Cal Grant program in ways that will benefit CSU students. We are pleased that this bill was acted upon favorably last month by the policy committees in the legislature, and will be reviewed by the appropriations committees in early August.

AS-2753-06/AA  Modification of Approval Process for Lower Division Transfer Pattern Descriptors

We are grateful for this sensible resolution, and, as you know, we have moved already to put it into action. The Senate’s continuing strong partnership in all of the elements of the graduation initiative is gratefully acknowledged.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Gary W. Reichard
Executive Vice Chancellor
and Chief Academic Officer

c:  Chancellor Reed
    Executive Vice Chancellor West
    Vice Chancellor McClain
    Associate Vice Chancellor Boyum