February 12, 2007

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: January 18-19, 2007 Senate Resolutions

Thank you for forwarding the packet of resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate of The California State University at its meeting on January 18-19, 2007. I am pleased to provide the responses below.

AS-2773-06/FGA/AA Resource Needs for high-Quality, independent Ed.D. Programs in the California State University

We certainly agree that Ed.D. programs in the CSU need support, and that such needed support must not come at the expense of existing programs. It is clear from campus Ed.D. implementation plans that they plan to use the authorized Ed.D. fee revenue to augment the funding for these programs, including for both direct instruction and resources and services specific to those programs.

AS-2774-06/AA Request for a Task force to Study California State University Student Fee Policy

I am glad to have had the opportunity to discuss this in a little further detail with the ASCSU Executive Committee. We recognize that the way in which fees are levied—that is to say, any change in fee structure—can change student behaviors. These are important issues. Establishing a task force, however, may create expectations for policy recommendation and/or potential action that seem premature at this time. For purposes of exploring some of the issues connected to fee structure, I think commissioning a background paper for Academic Affairs and ASCSU consideration may be the better course at this time. Subject to our further conversation, I am prepared to commission such a study for our mutual consideration.
AS-2776-06/AA  Principals to Guide the Application of the Transfer CSU Numbering System for CSU System Wide Articulation

We agree with the principles articulated in this resolution, and look forward to a robust and useful TCSU numbering system. We are grateful for the Senate’s continuing interest, energy, and strong partnership in making LDTP a reality.

AS-2777-06/AA/TEKR  Response to SB 1543 (Alarcon): High School Curriculum; High School Coursework Requirements

The California Center for College and Career has volunteered to facilitate a process by which the requirements of SB 1543 can be met. Leading the ConnectED efforts are a former UCOP staff and a former member of Senator Alarcon’s staff. We plan to involve faculty recommended by the Senate to participate in an effort that, among other things, will feature a winter meeting at which common statements of principle will be developed. Model curriculum standards as contemplated by the legislation will be developed in a faculty-led process for Senate review and recommendation.

AS-2778-06/AA/TEKR  Support of the a-g Curriculum as California’s Primary High School Graduation Course Requirements

As you know, CSU’s position is entirely consistent with this welcome resolution. We strongly agree entirely that a rigorous a-g curriculum ought to be the primary pathway to graduation, and should be available to all students.

AS-2779-06/FGA  Library Resource Needs for All Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

The Trustees Budget request for 2007/08 identified a $5 million remaining unmet need to provide support for acquisition of library information resources on an annual cycle. The unmet need in library funding resulted from cumulative funding shortfalls and declining purchasing power beginning in 1991. That unmet need has been acknowledged by the Governor, and base budget augmentations for libraries were received in 2000/01, 2005/06, and 2006/07. The Governor has
proposed a $2.15 million augmentation for 2007/08 in comparison to the Board of Trustees request for a $2.5 million. CSU staff will advocate with the Legislature for the Trustees’ budget request, and we are hopeful that the additional voice of the Academic Senate will be helpful. As well, CSU will continue to pursue funding for the remaining unmet need through the Higher Education Compact in future years.

AS-2781-06/FA Recognition and Support of Faculty Service in Governance

We note this resolution, directed to campus presidents, provosts, and senates. We greatly appreciate the contributions to collegial governance made by the Academic Senate CSU.

AS-2782-06/FA Importance of Settling the Contract Between the CSU and CFA

CSU looks forward to reaching agreement with the California Faculty Association on a fair and equitable contract that will help the CSU attract and retain high quality faculty who will continue to provide a superior education to the people of California. We share the Senate’s hope that the fact-finding process may be the means for reaching such an agreement. We also join the ASCSU in affirming the role of the academy as a venue for creative, thoughtful and respectful discourse where conflicting perspectives can be debated and reasonable compromises reached.

Sincerely yours,

/\Gary W. Reichard
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

cc: Chancellor Reed
Vice Chancellor McClain
Associate Vice Chancellor Boyum