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December 4, 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: November 8-9, 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 November 8-9, 2006. I am pleased to provide the responses below.

AS-2769-06/AA/TEKR

Laboratory Science Requirement for Freshman Admission

We welcome closer alignment of CSU's high school course preparation pattern with that required by the University of California. As discussed in Admissions Advisory Committee on November 15, 2006, however, we have a concern about the second resolved clause in this resolution, which was added during the November 8-9 Senate meeting and therefore was not the subject of longer consideration. We will seek to assess the impacts of mandating that both courses must be chosen from category "D" on the UC list. We believe that potential problems include the question of whether this restriction will make it more difficult for CSU to admit the top 1/3 of high school graduates. We note further that this proposed restriction excludes courses taken in area "G," which includes, for example, geological sciences.

AS-2771-06/AA/FGA

Fulfilling the Principles of Cornerstones in the New Strategic Plan

The report on "Achievements Under Cornerstones" that Academic Affairs presented at the September 2006 Board of Trustees meeting explicitly pointed to

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

Dr. Marshelle Thobaben
Page Two
December 4, 2006

those areas and priorities that did not seem to have been sufficiently addressed, and thus require continuing attention. The Board, in approving the report, has indicated its general agreement on this point. Specifically, we acknowledge the importance of the CSU reinvesting in its faculty, giving thoughtful attention to issues of graduate and continuing education, and continuing to focus on the principle that the responsibility for enhancing educational excellence, access, diversity, and financial stability should be shared by the State, the California State University system, the campuses, our faculty and staff, alumni/ae and students. That said, however, we need to ensure the integrity of the new planning initiative, *Access to Excellence*, by not prejudging at the outset which issues should receive "highest" priority. While the issues and principles identified in the Senate resolution must be important in the conversation, we believe that as the planning initiative unfolds they should be considered in the context of other identified needs and priorities, as well as state fiscal and political constraints.

AS-2772-06/FGA/FA

Advocating for Additional Funding for CSU Budget Challenges and Unmet Needs

We look forward to working with the ASCSU and other constituencies to obtain a State budget allocation for CSU that not only meets minimal needs, but also that secures above-compact funding in order to meet budget challenges in 2007-2008 and in years ahead.

AS-2780-06/FA

Monitoring and Supporting Progress in the Implementation of ACR 73

As you know, a motion to move ACR 73 implementation funding to a higher priority in the 2007-2008 budget request failed in the Board of Trustees at the November 14-15, 2006 meeting. It is significant to note, however, that no voices were heard opposing ACR 73, and in fact the goals underlying ACR 73 have always been embraced by the Chancellor's Office. The problem, of course, is that the legislature did not in 2001 and has not in the years since put any funding to advance these laudable goals. As to asking that the Chancellor's office provide an annual report to the Legislature and others on this subject, we note that CSU makes many accountability reports to the Legislature, most pursuant to appropriations. Unfortunately, there is no appropriation for which to account in this instance.

Dr. Marshelle Thobaben
Page Three
December 4, 2006

AS-2782-06/FA

Supporting Academic Freedom for CSU International
Exchange and Study-Abroad Programs

We are grateful for the Senate's expression of unequivocal support for the academic freedom of CSU faculty in developing and implementing international exchange and study-abroad programs.

Sincerely yours,



Gary W. Reichard
Executive Vice Chancellor
and Chief Academic Officer

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