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December 5, 2007

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

Dear Dr. Pasternack:

RE: November 8-9, 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 November 8-9, 2007. I am pleased to provide the responses below.

AS-2812-07/FGA

CSU 2008-2009 Budget Priorities

Thank you for your recommendation of budget priorities. As you know, the Board adopted its budget request at its November 13-14 meeting, and all of these priorities were included.

AS-2813-07/AA/FA/FGA

Textbook Affordability

We welcome the Senate's interest and partnership in efforts to ameliorate the cost of textbooks and other learning materials, in the interest of keeping CSU education affordable to our students. Be assured that we will continue to seek the Senate's input and comment on this general topic as we move forward to implement the task force recommendations.

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

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AS-2815-07/FGA

Opposition to the "Community College
Governance, Funding Stabilization, and Student Fee
Reduction Act"

As you know, the Board of Trustees at its November 13-14 meeting adopted a resolution to oppose this initiative measure. It is good to know that the Senate joins the Board and many voices within CSU and from other quarters in informing the state's voters of the problems inherent in the proposal as they consider their February 2008 votes on the measure.

AS-2819-07/FA

Board of Trustees and Chancellor Office Attention
and Response to Faculty Votes of No Confidence

It is truly regrettable that troubled relationships between two campus faculties and their respective presidents came to formal votes of no confidence in spring 2007. We agree that such votes must be taken seriously, and we report that they were at the time, and have been since. The Chancellor did in fact meet with campus Senate leaders in both cases.

We note that the presidents who were the objects of the campus votes have each publicly sought to initiate improved communications and have taken other steps to build renewed confidence in their leadership. In this improving situation, encouragement of such steps on the respective campuses would seem to be far more productive than a public investigation of the circumstances that led to the votes of no confidence.

The senate's "serious concern about public statements ... that could be construed as both dismissive and condescending" is noted. It is important to remember, however, that the atmosphere at the time of the cited statements was extremely strained due to intense and difficult collective bargaining negotiations between the University and the California Faculty Association. Indeed, public verbal attacks were also directed at the Chancellor and certain members of the Board. With that atmosphere subsequently much improved by achievement of a new CSU-CFA contract, we can all hope that such statements will not recur. To reiterate what is stated above, notwithstanding any public comments that might have suggested the contrary, the campus votes were taken very seriously.

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With respect to the Senate's call for a systematic assessment of faculty satisfaction with their administrative leadership across all CSU campuses, this seems unnecessary because campus senates already have the ability to communicate faculty concerns to their respective presidents whenever they wish to do so.

AS-2821-07/EX

Response to *Access to Excellence* Draft

The senate's views on the *Access to Excellence* draft are welcome, are posted on the *Access to Excellence* web site, and were fully considered by the Steering Committee on November 14, as senators who are Steering Committee members know. We are grateful for the insights provided by the senate.

Sincerely yours,



Gary W. Reichard
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

c: Chancellor Charles B. Reed
Executive Vice Chancellor Richard West
Vice Chancellor Gail Brooks
Associate Vice Chancellor Keith Boyum