October 14, 2015

Dr. Steven Filling, Chair
Academic Senate, CSU
The California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA  90802-4210

RE:  September 3-4, 2015, Senate Resolutions

Dear Dr. Filling:

Thank you for forwarding the packet of resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate of the California State University at its September 3-4, 2015 meeting. We are pleased to provide the responses below.

1) **AS-3222-15/FGA: Support of SB 707 (Wolk) Gun-Free School Zone**

   Providing a safe environment for our students, faculty, and staff is an important part of our work as a teaching and learning community. We believe that SB 707 (Wolk) will help to create that environment and on September 2, 2015 Assistant Vice Chancellor Karen Zamarripa sent a letter of support urging the Governor to sign this bill. The letter re-iterates concerns noted by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence including, “mental health, risk of suicide, risk of gun theft, and the potential for accidental shootings.” The letter also highlights the importance “that school officials remain in charge of who, if anyone, is allowed to bring a firearm on their campus.” We are pleased to be aligned with the ASCSU on this important issue.
2) **AS-3224-15/FGA: Support for SB 172 (Liu) Pupil Testing: High School Exit Examination Suspension**

The CSU will continue to watch this bill closely as it is discussed in the legislature. These discussions are critical in preparing California students to succeed in their lives and careers. Our concern is that students graduating from high schools in California arrive at the CSU prepared to undertake university level work. The CSU has a long history of working closely with our K – 12 partners and we look forward to continuing that relationship.

3) **AS-3230-15/AA: Establishing a Task Force on the Requirements of CSU General Education (GE) Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B-4) Credit**

There have been continuing discussions in various university groups regarding the best way to achieve quantitative reasoning proficiencies, what those proficiencies should be, and how pre-college instruction might be done concurrently with college-level courses. Most recently, we received the report from the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) recommending that we extend the pilot in the use of alternative pathways (as noted in this resolution). With that extension in place, we agree that there is a need for further discussion so that the CSU will be ready with a permanent update to policy before the temporary authorization expires.

The CSU finds itself at a moment of transition in math instruction on many fronts. Over the next several years we expect to learn much more about the adoption of Common Core curriculum in public high schools, and the attendant Smarter Balanced assessments.

At the same time, both the University of California and California Community College systems have recently made separate commitments to strengthen their role in the state’s transfer function, the CCC through its Student Success Task Force and subsequent legislation, and the UC Office of the President with its creation of a Transfer Action Team. Going forward we expect new, intersegmental attention to questions of alignment across all disciplines, including math.

Additionally, there are the implications for student success alluded to in the Resolution’s rationale section. Faculty from the whole spectrum of academic disciplines are asking themselves about the nature of quantitative reasoning in their own fields, and how it can best be developed, applied, and assessed.

In view of the range of issues and stakeholders, we expect that there will be other groups adding to this discussion. The work of the proposed Task Force will make an important contribution to the overall review of the subject and its future direction.
4) **AS-3232-15/APEP: On the California High School Exit Examination**

We appreciate the efforts of these legislators which are aligned with the efforts taken within the CSU. On August 18, 2015 Executive Vice Chancellor Blanchard asked that “the admissions offices at all 23 CSU campuses to be flexible in the final evaluation of new freshmen who might not have received their graduation date on final transcripts.” He added that “California high school graduates who aspire to enroll at a CSU campus and meet all other requirements for admission to the CSU will not be turned away because of the decision to cancel the exam.”

Sincerely,

Leo Van Cleve  
State University Dean

c:  Dr. Timothy P. White, Chancellor  
Dr. Loren J. Blanchard, Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs  
Mr. Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Garrett P. Ashley, Vice Chancellor, University Relations and Advancement  
Ms. Lori Lamb, Vice Chancellor, Human Resources