

Academic Senate California State University

Plenary – May 7-8, 2009

Election of 2009-2010 Officers

At its May 8, 2009, organizational meeting, the 2009-2010 Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) elected the following faculty to serve as officers and members of its Executive Committee:

Chair – *John Tarjan*, Bakersfield

Vice Chair – *Bernadette Cheyne*, Humboldt

Secretary – *Diana Guerin*, Fullerton

Member-at-Large – *Barbara Swerkes*, Northridge

Member-at-Large – *Catherine Nelson*, Sonoma

Message from the Chair

Colleagues,

After our ASCSU Executive Committee meeting with system executives this past Friday, May 8, I am even more convinced that the fiscal situation facing the CSU this summer will be dire. Depending upon the results of the May 19th ballot initiatives and the May 28th revision of state revenue estimates, the projected state shortfall could approach \$18 billion or more. I cannot foresee circumstances under which this would not mean additional cuts to the already bare-bones CSU budget.

Many of our campuses are already stretched to the breaking point. It is my opinion that campuses will be forced to contemplate further cost reduction strategies during the summer to balance their budgets. Therefore, I urge you to ensure that shared governance structures are in place during the summer if and when budget reduction strategies are considered on your campus.

John Tarjan, Chair
Academic Senate CSU

Resolutions Summary

One purpose of this summary is to provide ASCSU senators, campus senate chairs, and CSU colleagues with a comprehensive list of ASCSU resolutions acted upon at the last ASCSU plenary meeting. These resolutions are listed by: Resolution Number; Sponsoring Committee(s); Resolution Title; Action Status followed by brief summaries written by the sponsoring committee chair(s). Full copies of each resolution may be accessed by clicking on the Resolution Title.

The sponsoring committee chair(s):

Executive Committee (EX): John Tarjan; jtarjan@calstate.edu

Academic Affairs Committee (AA): James Postma; jpostma@csuchico.edu

Academic Preparation and Educational Programs (APEP): Steven Stepanek; sgs@csun.edu

Faculty Affairs Committee (FA): Robert McNamara; mcnamara@sonoma.edu

Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA): Buckley B. Barrett; bbarrett@csusb.edu

This Resolutions Summary concludes our work for the Academic Year 2008-2009. We hope that the introduction of the ASCSU Resolutions Summaries have been helpful to you this semester.

Sincerely,

Barbara Swerkes (barbara.swerkes@csun.edu)

Darlene Yee-Melichar (dyee@sfsu.edu)

Editors and Members-At-Large, Academic Senate CSU Executive Committee

Resolutions

**AS-2884-09/EX: (Rev) Academic Senate of the CSU Calendar of 2009-2010 Meetings
Approved Unanimously, May 2009**

This resolution is a complete schedule of Academic Senate CSU Plenary and Interim Committee meetings for 2009-2010.

**AS-2886-09/FA: (Rev) Concerns Related to the Migration of State-Supported Courses to Self-Supporting Special Sessions During Times of Budget Constraints
Approved, May 2009**

With the severe budget crisis impacting academic programs across the CSU, there are concerns related to the migration of academic programs to non-state supported sessions. Migration refers specifically to the supplanting of regular course offerings available on a state-supported basis during the college year with self-supporting special sessions. It does not refer to supplemental offerings. Such migration of courses may make them less accessible for low-income students, and has the potential to adversely impact the wages and benefits of lecturers who teach such courses. Additionally, the supplanting of state-supported courses as described here is contrary to Executive Order 802. This resolution urges the Office of the Chancellor to oppose the migration of state-supported courses to self-supporting special sessions.

**AS-2887-09/FA (Rev): CSU Faculty Professional Development Strategic Planning
Approved, May 2009**

The current work of the Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) and the Faculty Development Council (FDC), along with their strategic directions, are outlined in the white paper of March 2009 titled, “*CSU Faculty Professional Development Strategic Planning*.” Many of the commitments and strategies outlined are in alignment with *Access to Excellence*. As such, the ASCSU commends the work of both the ITL and the FDC and believes that the “Strategic Directions and Activities” outlined in this white paper should be given high priority when fulfilling the institutional commitments to systemwide faculty professional development.

**AS-2888-09/AA/FGA (Rev): Support for Honoring Alumni Interned by Federal Executive Order 9066
Approved Unanimously, May 2009**

This resolution urges campuses to find ways to express respect (including honorary degrees) toward those CSU alumni whose academic careers were interrupted by the WWII order (Federal Executive Order 9066) resulting in their relocation and internment. Assemblyman Warren T. Furutani (D-Long Beach) has modified AB 37 (Public postsecondary education: honorary degrees) in response to the concerns expressed in the First Reading version of this resolution.

**AS-2890-09/AA/FA/APEP: Support for Establishing Standards for International Baccalaureate Courses for GE and Transfer Credit
Approved Unanimously, May 2009**

This resolution expresses support for a systemwide process which will lead to International Baccalaureate (IB) courses being treated similarly to Advanced Placement (AP) courses in regard to General Education (GE) and university credit.

**AS-2891-09/AA/FA: Support for Campus Guidelines and Policies on Consultation and Shared Governance Regarding Academic Reorganization
Approved Unanimously, May 2009**

This resolution encourages campuses to develop policies and procedures (if they do not already exist) for collegial discussions of proposed reorganizations of their academic programs and urges campus administrations to follow such policies and procedures.

**AS-2892-09/FA: Faculty Control Over Course Capacities and Mode of Instruction Decisions
Approved Unanimously, May 2009 (First Reading Waived)**

During these challenging budget times, campuses have attempted to accommodate the realities of diminishing resources by employing a number of stop-gap measures, including altering the modes of instructional delivery, arbitrarily raising the enrollment caps on sections, and/or strongly encouraging faculty to accept additional students. The ASCSU requests that the Office of the Chancellor remind campus presidents and other administrators that the authority to make curriculum alterations is vested in the faculty. Any alterations of course capacities or modes of instructions must follow established campus curricular policies and procedures.

**AS-2893-09/APEP: Standardized Default Minimum Grade Requirements in Lower Division Transfer Pattern (LDTP) Statewide Discipline Courses
Approved Unanimously, May 2009 (First Reading Waived)**

CSU Lower Division Transfer Patterns consist of three components: General Education, statewide discipline requirements and campus discipline requirements. The CSU GE Breadth Area A is already covered by a policy requiring individual grades of "C" or better. Campus specific discipline requirements can carry a minimum grade requirement set by the campus. That leaves the statewide discipline requirements for which there were no minimum grade requirements. This resolution establishes the policy that if a statewide discipline set of courses does not specify a minimum grade requirement, then the minimum grade in each course must be "C".

**AS-2894-09/FGA: Support of SB 218 (Yee, D-San Francisco) Amendment to California Public Records Act
Approved May 2009 (First Reading Waived)**

This resolution requests amending language to strengthen appropriate anonymity for donors, but affirms the ASCSU's basic agreement with SB 218 in extending transparency of public records to include those relating to auxiliary organizations providing quasi-governmental functions on behalf of the CSU. ASCSU in no way wish to discourage the solicitation of large or small gifts in support of worthwhile university endeavors. ASCSU, nevertheless, does want to encourage similar openness as already exists by law for other CSU records related to state programs and in the spirit of proper public scrutiny.

**AS-2895-09/APEP/AA: Opposition to Impending Implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs
Approved, May 2009 (First Reading Waived)**

The CSU Board of Trustees (BOT) Committee on Education Policy agenda for May 12-13, 2009 includes a resolution endorsing the implementation of campus-based "early start" remediation programs for first-time freshmen who will be entering in Fall 2009. These "early start" programs must be completed prior to enrolling for the fall semester of a student's first year. The BOT resolution calls for a study of these "early start" programs with a report due by March 2010 for consideration of a full-scale implementation. AS-2895-09/APEP/AA opposes the implementation of such "early start" programs as a pre-condition for enrollment at any CSU campus without first addressing a number of critical issues specified in the ASCSU resolution in the context of shared governance at both the local and systemwide levels.

**AS-2898-09/EX: Roll Call Voting
Approved Unanimously, May 2009 (First Reading Waived)**

This resolution affirms the right of a voting member of the senate to request a roll call vote on any motion before the body and further establishes a procedure to be used when such a vote is requested.

AS-2899-09/FGA: In Support of AB 656 (Torrice) California Higher Education Endowment Corporation: Oil and Gas Severance Tax
Approved Unanimously, May 2009 (First Reading Waived)

This resolution concurs with the proposed legislation by Assemblymember Torrico (D-Fremont) in calling for a California severance tax on crude oil and natural gas, with proceeds going to the three segments of higher education. Similar taxes exist in many states such as Texas and Alaska and, we would argue, with a certain amount of bi-partisan acceptance. Notwithstanding difficult questions about targeted taxes in general, or about any new taxes specifically in a weak economy, or perhaps concerning particular governance provisions of AB 656, we believe that the Legislature should consider the principle of a severance tax in some form.

AS-2900-09/FGA: **Opposition to SB 386 (Runner): *Faculty Justification for New Textbook Editions***
Approved Unanimously, May 2009 (First Reading Waived)

The Academic Senate CSU strongly oppose SB 386 (Runner, R-Antelope Valley) which would require that faculty from the CSU or California Community Colleges to submit written justifications for adoption of new editions of textbooks within three years of adoption of prior editions. Aside from breaching academic freedoms, this bill would also represent a not-inconsequential workload burden upon faculty and others each year as multi-thousands of required reports trudged their way to academic senates and administrative offices. The legislation possibly could discourage the timely adoption of appropriate new editions with up-to-date information. Furthermore, faculty already weigh cost factors on their own or in response to prior guideline legislation and should not sacrifice learning quality to any strictures with pricing as the main or sole priority. As outlined in the report of CSU's textbook affordability taskforce and elsewhere, numerous options to ameliorate cost and protect quality already exist for faculty, students, and publishers.