FISCAL & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

May 2006

Present: Krabacher, Barrett, Guerin, D. Hood, Hornbeck, Montanari, Morgan, Muraoka, O'Brien

3 May 2006

APPROVAL OF 8 MARCH 2006 MINUTES

LEGISLATION UPDATES

AB2582 (Yee/Nation: Prohibiting Censorship of University Student Publications)
-- Faculty Trustee Craig Smith spoke with us about this bill and provided a brief legal background on the case from Illinois that had precipitated the California legislation. He explained about the CSU concern over liability but said the system does want to protect free speech. We also heard about how many newspapers may have some form of "dependent" status on a campus. For instance, a curricular connection with a journalism program or a money connection as to funding might exist, either of which could result in certain levels of oversight control with sometimes unclear boundaries or protections.

AB2168 (Liu: Common G.E. for CC Students to UC/CSU)
-- Chair Krabacher advised this legislation could easily pass the Assembly and that our strategy would be to wait till it hits the Senate and Jack Scott's Education committee. Some FGA and/or ExCom members may have to visit Sacramento in early June to speak with legislators about modification or outright opposition.

TIME CERTAINS

Wess Larson (CSU Office of Advocacy and Inst. Relns./Sacto.: Teleconference: 1030a)
-- All bills with fiscal implications left policy committees by the 1st of May. Although rules can be waived, the latest Morrow bill on so-called student rights appears dead for this session as it was not heard. Regarding legislation that did pass from committees and hearings, these items must go to the other house by late May or early June.
-- May Revise expected by mid-May.
-- AB2813 (Student Fin. Aid): Doing well but had to strip out language requesting double the number of grants because of projected $150m cost. Provision raising age limit from 24 to 27 remains.
-- AB2168 (Liu/Common GE): [Referred to Appropriations suspense] .... To be heard 10 May. Estimate by CSU of $750k to implement, and argument is that we would have to stop LDTP midstream and rework everything from scratch. OAIR assumes will pass Assembly and would then reach Scott's Senate education committee by 3rd week of June. Krabacher mentioned that select members ExCom and/or FGA might visit Capitol early June to lobby against or for mitigation.
-- AB2582 (Prohibiting Censorship of Student Pubns.): Larsen spoke of CSU concerns about language related to liability.
Patrick Lenz (AVC/ Budget Development: Teleconference: 11a)

-- While tax revenues continue to increase, sizeable structural deficits remain along w. competing high-priority items such as K-12 paybacks. Lenz mentioned that deficit concerns reach across party aisles.

-- The Legislature might agree to modest enhancement of marginal funding and could go along with a mild easing of our enrollment shortfall penalties. The CSU would like to operate in future with an enrollment leeway of plus/minus 1%; however, this does not appear assured for the next year at least.

-- In spite of LAO recommendations, Assembly and Senate will probably support this year's proposed fee buyouts.

-- Nursing Programs: A Senate bill by Jack Scott would enhance financial aid for nursing students. Additionally, the Legislature could provide around $3.6m by Fall 07 for modest FTES growth of around 340 in nursing programs

-- Bond package: Mr. Lenz thought that agreement was imminent between Governor and Legislative leadership on bond offerings for November ballot. This did come to pass shortly thereafter, which means we don't need to consider lease revenue alternatives unless the issue is defeated at the polls.

-- Overall budget: While the Compact looks secure, election-year politics could delay budget adoption till further into the Summer than we'd prefer.

Christine Helwig (CSU Gen. Counsel: 230p)

-- AB2582 (Yee/Nation: Censorship of Student Expression): Ms. Hellwig mentioned that many CSU campuses do fund student newspapers and thereby act somewhat in the legal role of a publisher. Therefore, the System is currently taking no position on the bill but remains concerned in terms of campus or CSU-wide liability. She also spoke of hypothetical instances wherein campus administration or others might wish to refuse publication of such items as religious cartoons offensive to some groups.

CFA REPORT

-- The union will continue to pursue health care equity for rural campuses.

-- CFA supports the student financial aid bill (AB2813).

LEGISLATION DAY DEBRIEF

-- About 24 or 25 office visits occurred on our trip to the Capitol on 18 April; and members reported supportive feedback on expanding Cal Grant student aid (AB2813), on opposing the latest Morrow bill on student rights, on regaining the outreach money cut by the Governor's January proposal, and on the Budget Compact overall. Some of us also heard about possible added funding for nursing education, although this would not be a huge amount of money and might only cover an increase of 300-400 FTES.
POSSIBLE CARRYOVER ISSUES/ITEMS FOR 2006-07
-- The Committee may re-visit the updating of the 1998 survey on campus best practices for budget governance.
-- FGA and ASCSU may further encourage campus presidents to fully engage campus senates and executive committees in whatever local legislative/political activities occur. It was pointed out that, as with money matters, a wide range of such involvement exists right now; and, in some cases, local faculty and senates already work extensively with administration in various advocacy efforts.
-- Development of ASCSU/FGA Legislative Consultation Process with Chancellor's Office and Sacramento advocacy branch.

3 & 4 May 2006
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
The Committee worked on constructing and/or revising the following resolutions for the 4-5 Plenary:
-- Re-examination of Faculty Salary Structure (w. FA: AS-2737-06)
-- Re-submission of Resolution on ASCSU Budget (Waive 1st: AS-2751-06)
-- In Support of AB2813: Student Fin. Aid (Waive 1st: AS-2752-06)
-- In Support of AB2582: Opposing Censorship of Student Newspapers (Waive 1st: AS-2750-06)
-- Recommended CSU Budget Priorities for 2007-08 (Waive 1st: AS-2749-06)

Respectfully Submitted,
Buckley B. Barrett
Vice-Chair
10 May 2006