June 25, 2014

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

RE: May 15-16, 2014, 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 May 15-16, 2014 meeting. We are pleased to provide the responses below:

1) AS-3166-14/AA: Advice Regarding Unit Limit Exception Requests

The process for a 120 unit limit exception is still unfolding and we value the opinions and recommendations from the ASCSU. This resolution will be taken under consideration as the process continues to evolve.

2) AS-3167-14/APEP/AA: Creation of California State University Discipline Councils

Discipline councils as proposed by the ASCSU in this resolution certainly merit consideration but further clarification will be necessary. For example, the language in the first resolve clause states that the ASCSU requests the Chancellor’s Office to facilitate the formation of discipline councils in “all of the academic programs within the CSU.” There are hundreds of academic programs in the CSU and developing discipline councils for all of them will be extremely expensive and time consuming. Was the intent of the resolution to have academic programs combined into disciplines? For example, engineering embodies several distinct academic programs/departments (e.g., Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Aerospace, Civil, etc.). In this
example, there could be several discipline councils or possibly one Engineering Council. The same question arises for smaller programs like ethnic studies that are administratively combined differently from campus to campus.

The rationale in the resolution states that discipline councils should be composed of department chairs. Considering consultation and shared governance, it is not clear if this approach has been vetted with program/department faculty or discussed in campus senates throughout the CSU. There are many academic program coordinators in the CSU and it is not clear if they would be included. Making such determinations and the process used needs to be clarified.

Finally, if the focus is on academic programs or disciplines and considering the amount of time that will be required of many individuals to bring this resolution to fruition, in what capacity does the ASCSU intend to serve to help accomplish this goal?

3) **AS-3169-14/AA: Designation and Compilation of Course Modalities**

The resolution is welcome considering the timing of the legislative mandate (AB 386). The information compiled for this resolution provides six definitions that are based on information collected from the campuses. The ASCSU should be recognized for their efforts and the report.

However, there are parallel efforts that have been undertaken by the Departments of Analytic Studies for IPEDS reporting and Academic Programs for the Degrees Database. There are nine definitions that are proposed but not yet finalized. Comparing the two sets of definitions, there is a great deal of commonality and because the definitions are not yet finalized, we suggest forming an ad hoc committee with a member from the ASCSU, analytic studies, academic programs, and extended education to merge the two. Consistent definitions across the CSU will help with reporting, analysis, and evaluation. We look forward to a response from the ASCSU on this approach.

4) **AS-3171-14/AA: Recommendations Regarding Changes to Title 5, Section 40510, The Master’s Degree**

The Division of Academic Affairs appreciates ASCSU’s review and deliberation of draft proposed changes to Title 5 master’s degrees requirements. The consultation process is on-going, and we have noted the senate’s support of changes to residency requirements and proportion of graduate-level courses, as well as adding language about “graduate study” to emphasize appropriate rigor. As further changes are introduced, we will revisit this issue with the ASCSU.
5) **AS-3172-14/EX: In Support of AB 2324 (Williams) Pertaining to CSU Faculty Trustee**

AB 2324 was supported by Academic Affairs, the chancellor, advocacy and state relations, and authored by Assemblyman Das Williams. Currently the bill is in the State Senate and we hope it will eventually be signed by Governor Brown.

6) **AS-3173-14/FA: Eligibility Status for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Awards**

We join the ASCSU in recognizing the importance of research, scholarly, and creative activity for the faculty and students in the CSU. The value of these activities spread far beyond our institutions and positively impacts the state, region, nation, and international communities. As noted in the resolution, the distribution of the funds for this program is based on FTEF, which includes lecturers.

The ASCSU encourages “campuses to allow faculty of all ranks, including lecturers, to be eligible to receive RSCA funding.” The intent of the resolution is clear and we hope that a focused discussion with faculty and administration guide decision making that informs policy on each campus.

7) **AS-3174-14/EX: ASCSU Calendar of 2014-15 Meetings**

We thank the senate for providing us with their calendar of meetings for 2014-15.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Vogel
Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

c: Dr. Timothy P. White, Chancellor
Dr. Ephraim P. Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Steven W. Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Garrett P. Ashley, Vice Chancellor, University Relations and Advancement
Ms. Gail E. Brooks, Vice Chancellor, Human Resources