



# THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Report of the meeting of the Board of Trustees September 20-21, 2005

Craig Smith, Faculty Trustee

**HEADLINE:** Trustee Bill Hauck promised to “bring the salaries of all CSU employees up to market levels.” He will work with Trustee Roberta Achtenberg on an ad hoc committee to achieve this goal as soon as is feasible.

The Board of Trustees met at the office of the Chancellor on September 20-21, 2005, which was my second meeting as the faculty trustee. The full Board agenda can be viewed at [www.calstate.edu/BOT/agendas](http://www.calstate.edu/BOT/agendas). Full reports can be found there also. There was a closed meeting of the Board concerning personnel matters and presidential evaluations, which I attended, and then a closed meeting on bargaining, from which I am legally precluded. However, the Board appointed me to all of the other important committees including Government Relations, Institutional Advancement, Campus Planning, Building and Grounds, Educational Policy, Finance, and Organization and Rules.

The public meeting then began with the CSU presidents, the Statewide Academic Senate’s Chair and Vice Chair, members of the CSSA’s executive committee, members of the Chancellor’s staff, and the public in attendance.

The Committee on Educational Policy heard about revisions to Title 5 regarding the proposed changes and updates of the Student Code of Conduct. The new version reflected many of the changes suggested by members of the Statewide Academic Senate and me. The final formal approval of the item will come at the November meeting of the Board. The Committee approved the Academic Plan Update for Fast-Track Development concerning new degree programs at Cal. Poly SLO. As part of the report on Graduation Initiatives, the Committee focused on the Early Assessment Program (EAP). Those taking the Early Assessment Test were up 21% in English to 186,000+. In math they were up 23% to 119,000+. Those diagnosed with a need to improve English skills were up 19% to 142,000+. In math the numbers were up 1% to 52,000+. Those demonstrating college level proficiency in English were up 29% to 43,000+; those demonstrating proficiency in math were up 5% to nearly 67,000. The Chancellor’s office’s division of academic affairs was asked to provide broader numbers with regard to total eligible students and non-students and to check on minority area advertising for the program. This item will come back to the Board in November.

The Board then met as a committee of the whole to hear a report from the General Counsel. There has been a significant and steady decline in the volume of cases coming from the campuses. About 20% involve student complaints; 49% are employment issues.

Over the last year, 47% were settled; in 48% the CSU prevailed in court; in 5% the CSU lost the case. The average cost of a case resolution is \$57,000.

The Committee on Organization and Rules made permanent a pilot program to move the public comments before the plenary session of the Board to its formal beginning time instead of toward its end. The public comment period is limited to 30 minutes but the chair of the Board can extend the time at his/her discretion.

President Bob Maxson was given an award by Lieutenant Governor Bustamante for a decade of service at California State University, Long Beach.

The important items considered by the Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds included further reviewing information and public comment on the Final Environmental Impact report concerning the plan to increase enrollment at San Diego State University. For the second meeting in a row, the Board heard one hour of comments from the community and the campus. One of the spokespersons was Statewide Academic Senator Fred Hornbeck. The Board voted to approve the proposal. The Committee approved the Revised Policy on Energy Conservation, Sustainable Building Practices, and Physical Plant Management which sets goals for conservation that exceed state standards. The Committee accepted the annual report of the Seismic Review Board. The Committee approved the final state (\$5.9 billion) and non-state (\$3.1 billion) funded Five-Year Capital Improvement Program 2006/07 through academic year 2010/11. The report noted that from 2001/2 to 2005/6 the cost per square foot has gone up from \$196 to \$338 on your average science building. Finally, the Committee approved a seismic plan for Humboldt State University.

The Committee on Governmental Relations discussed the 2005/6 legislative report (number 5). The legislature has adjourned. I recommend you examine the following bills:

The bill allowing fund-raising through the use of affinity credit cards has gone to the desk of the governor.

AB 706 (Parra): Whistleblower Protection passed with amendments from CSU; it is on the desk of the governor.

SB 724: To allow the CSU to offer D.Ed. Degrees (See amendments and agreements that changed the scope of the original bill.) has gone to the governor; he has until October 9 to sign it.

AB 196 (Liu), which would have changed the charge of the California Post-secondary Education Commission to develop and administer an accountability structure for the state's post-secondary educational institutions, was carried over to next year.

AB 1088 (Oropeza): Mandatory orientation for incoming students about abuse to women.

AB 992 (Spitzer), which would have given UC and CSU campus police chiefs the same authority to use wiretaps and other investigative tools currently employed by local law enforcement officials, was defeated.

SB 5, which would create a student bill of rights that might allow students to by-pass on-campus remedies for grievances, though defeated in committee, was revived on the floor and carried over to next year.

The important items considered by the Committee on Institutional Advancement included approving the naming of the McMahan House at CSU San Marcos. The annual William

R. Hearst/ CSU Trustees' Award for outstanding achievement by 12 students were recognized.

The Audit Committee received a report on the internal audits that showed corrections had been made on three campuses. That brings the system up to full compliance.

The important items considered by the Committee on Finance included a report on CSU investments. The long term portfolio of \$417,000,000 grew at an annual rate of 6.08%; the short term portfolio of \$168,000,000 grew at a rate of 4.19%. The Board has begun consideration of the 2006/07 budget and will spend all of its October 27 meeting focusing on the item. The Board anticipates a 3% increase in the budget, along with an 8-10% increase in student fees. The Board will make a case for re-assessing the assigned marginal cost of educating a student. One of the many justifications for the re-assessment is that the CSU has been asked to increase its output of nursing degrees, math and science teachers, and facilitate graduation all at the same time. Trustee Hauck pledged to close the salary gap. The Chancellor's Office noted that the cost would be about \$300 million. The Chancellor noted that energy costs, health care, and retirement were taking a heavy toll on the budget. Currently, 110,000 needy students are being funded by the state from student fees. By setting aside 33% of student fees, that number can be increased to 116,000. The Board asked that the Chancellor's Office provide the actual number of needy students and how that number is determined. The Lottery will provide over \$34 million to the campus. The Committee funding for a new swimming complex for San Diego State University, a repurchase of the CSU Headquarters, a restructuring of the funding of the Village Housing Complex at San José State University, and refinancing of the Housing Facilities at CSU Monterey Bay.

At the plenary session, Kathleen Kaiser was named Faculty Trustee Emerita. The motions and reports from each of the above committees were approved.

Scheduled Visits to CSU Campuses by Faculty Trustee Craig Smith for the Fall.

<u>Main Day</u>	<u>Campus</u>
9/27	Humboldt
10/4	San Francisco
10/10	Fresno
10/18	S.L.O.
11/1	San Bernardino
11/11	Northridge
11/29	East Bay
11/30	San José
12/6	Chico