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DAVID S. SPENCE
EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

August 13, 2004

To: Dr. David McNeil, Chair
Academic Senate, CSU

From: Dr. David S. Spence *David S. Spence*
Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolutions

Thank you for forwarding the packet of resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate of The California State University at its meeting on May 6-7, 2004. I am pleased to provide the responses indicated below.

AS-2645-04/AA Support for a Systemwide Campus-Specific Transfer Pattern by Degree Program in the California State University

This support by the Senate is especially welcome. As you know, at its July 2004 meeting, the Board of Trustees took favorable action on this program, in a context of data that document the problem to be solved. In partnership with the Senate, we look forward to a vigorous and successful effort to develop the transfer patterns. We join the Senate in its view that impact assessment of the transfer patterns will be a priority undertaking approximately three years after implementation. In a context that necessarily takes into account other priorities and requests, we will consider whether to specifically request funding for this program from the Legislature as the budget development cycle proceeds this year, and in further years.

AS-2646-04/AA Definition of Sanctionable Units and Recommendations and Guidelines for Campus Facilitation of Progress to the Degree

We note that in response to a request from the Task Force on Excess Units, the Academic Affairs Committee developed and the Senate agreed to a definition, namely, that sanctionable units be those in excess of 20% over the student's current degree/credential program, including all CSU eligible units transferred and all CSU baccalaureate-level units attempted and excluding units accumulated prior to completion of the summer immediately following high school graduation. We agree that a wide range of efforts should be undertaken which together may support student success in achieving the baccalaureate degree.

AS-2647-04/FGA Recommending Allocation of Graduate Fee Differentials to Graduate Programs and Creation of an Exemption to the Differential for Graduate Assistants and Graduate Teaching Associates

Although campuses, Trustees, and the Chancellor's Office have all worked hard to keep negative impacts away from students and academic programs, it is still true that CSU programs – master's, bachelor's, credential – have felt stings from the continuing budget reductions in the past few years. Any negative impacts are known firsthand and best at the campus level. Thus, it seems that allocations of graduate student fee revenue may wisely be left to campus judgments.

We wish that student fees could be set at more modest levels. However, even with current-year fee increases, the price of CSU graduate instruction is inexpensive in comparison even to those universities whose posted price is effectively lowered by waiving some or all of the fees for graduate assistants and teaching associates. Of course, CSU graduate assistants and graduate teaching associates receive compensation for their work.

AS-2648-04/AA Principles for Decision Making on Regional and Statewide Program Alignments in the California State University

We look forward to a vigorous and successful partnership with Senate leadership to put in place statewide program alignments that will contribute to student success in achieving the baccalaureate degree. In this, faculty determinations concerning curriculum will be indispensable and central; all CSU campuses that offer a particular program will be represented in discussions about that program; faculty travel will be supported; faculty consensus will be sought. We agree that a suitable means will be required whereby disciplinary faculty may later review the curriculum for appropriateness, currency, and educational effectiveness. As you know, we have made substantial budget and staff commitments to help to assure the success of this partnership.

AS-2649-04/FA Academic Freedom and Free Speech Rights

AS-2661-04/FA Endorsing the AAUP Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure

We agree that only when universities protect academic freedom and foster the free exchange of ideas can they effectively fulfill their mission of providing high-quality education.

AS-2650-04/FA Maintaining Quality in Credit Classes Taught in the Extended University

Maintaining quality in credit classes taught in the extended university requires faculty within academic departments to review professional qualifications of classroom instructors, and to insure that only well-qualified persons are assigned to teach particular classes. We agree that adequate support must be generated in order to properly mount credit classes.

AS-2651-04/AA Response to SB 1785 (Scott and Alpert): Public Postsecondary Education: Dual Admission Programs

As you know, we have appreciated the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Senate to encourage modifications to the proposed legislation that put in place programs that we believe will

contribute to the authors' overall goals, but without making such programs a matter of legislation. We continue to welcome the Senate's views concerning matters such as this.

AS-2652-04/EX Recommendation on the Report from the Task Force on Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Education in the California State University

As does the Senate, we welcome this creative and insightful report. We agree that the report will require further review with an eye toward plans for action. As the Senate notes, the issue of differential fees for students in various types of postbaccalaureate and graduate programs will be part of further, ongoing discussions of graduate education in the CSU.

AS-2653-04/FA CSU Administrative Search Committee Principles

Involving faculty in appropriate ways for appropriate searches is a high priority for the Chancellor's Office, as our record shows – most recently, in the search for the new Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. We pledge to continue earnestly to solicit and to welcome faculty involvement in administrative searches in every appropriate instance.

AS-2654-04/FGA CSU Budget Priorities for Academic Year 2005-06

The Senate's input on budget issues is welcome, and has indeed been especially helpful. We join the Senate in the view that wherever possible any needed budget reductions should be made via CSU processes and decisions. We agree that authentic access to high-quality academic programs is the fundamental goal, and that high quality requires funding sufficient to achieve and maintain appropriate student-faculty ratios, adequate technology and library acquisitions, and competitive faculty salaries. We will continue to champion these goals in budget discussions with public decision-makers in Sacramento.

AS-2656-04/FGA Supporting ACR 193 (Liu and Scott): High-quality Higher Education

We join the Senate in supporting policy goals for the CSU that emphasize access, high quality, and equity.

AS-2660-04/FA Affirmation of Principles of Collegial Behavior

We commend the Senate for this affirmation.

AS-2662-04/FA/FGA Financing the Implementation of the Master Plan for Higher Education

The Senate's expression of commitment to California's Master Plan for Higher Education is welcome.

AS-2663-04/TEKR/FGA In Support of AB 2860 (Pavley): Integrate K-12 Assessment with Higher Education

The Senate's expression of views on this issue is helpful, and welcome.