Academic Affairs (AA) Committee
End of Year Report
2014-15

1. **Membership** – The membership of the Academic Affairs Committee for 2014-15 is listed on the right-hand side of this page.

2. **Liaisons** – Committee liaisons are listed on the right-hand side of this page.

3. **Resolutions** – The Committee produced the following resolutions:

   **AS-3195-14/AA** - Commendation for Wayne Tikkanen – approved by acclimation.


   **AS-3206-15/AA** - CSU Involvement in the WICHE Passport Project – approved unanimously.

   **AS-3211-15/AA** - Expectations for Upper Division General Education – approved unanimously.

In addition, the committee also co-sponsored the following resolutions:

   **AS-3191-14/FA/AA** - Opposition to AB 46 (Pan) California State University Online Education – approved.

   **AS-3192-14/FA/AA** - Improving Campus Response to Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence – approved without dissent.

AS-3212-15/AA/FGA - Call for Adequate and Appropriate Consultation Regarding the California Community College Pilot Baccalaureate Degree Programs – approved without dissent.

The committee also put forward the following resolution for first reading:

AS-3209-15/AA - Towards a Culture of Assessment in the California State University System: A Call for Faculty Professional Development – the committee withdrew the resolution prior to its second reading.

4. **Report** – The committee produced and submitted to the Executive Committee the following report:

**Access to Excellence – Commitment 6: Preliminary Review and Recommendations**, written by members Mary Ann Creadon and Darlene Yee-Melichar.

5. **Executive Committee Referrals** – The committee responded to the following referrals from the Executive Committee:

   (a) **Task Force on Student Success Fees**. The committee discussed and made recommendations regarding potential revisions to the Executive Order 1054 section on Category II fees. The committee forwarded these recommendations to the Executive Committee as suggestions for providing feedback to the task force on behalf of ASCSU.

   (b) **Executive Order 1065**. The committee reviewed proposed revisions to this Executive Order on General Education and confirmed to the Executive Committee that adequate faculty consultation had occurred in the development of the proposed revisions.

   (c) **Academic Sustainability Plan**. A referral from the Executive Committee led to the production of AS-3194-14. Co-sponsored with the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee, this resolution garnered unanimous support from the senate plenary.

   (d) **Review of Community College Baccalaureate Proposals**. The committee discussed and offered advice to the Executive Committee regarding a request from Chancellor White about providing consultation with the Community College Board of Governors on the proposals submitted for the pilot baccalaureate degree programs authorized by the Legislature in SB 850. The committee would discuss this matter on a number of occasions and would eventually draft AS-3212-15 as an
expression of frustration regarding the lack of an adequate consultation process.

(e) **Advice on Defining Duplication of Degrees.** The committee offered advice to the Executive Committee regarding procedures for determining the duplication of degrees. Drawing upon the experiences of individual campuses in sorting out potential duplication issues, the committee recommended that review by disciplinary faculty, followed by consultation regarding how issues of duplication could be managed in ways acceptable to all parties involved would be the most appropriate way of proceeding.

(f) **Transfer of Upper Division General Education Coursework within the CSU.** The committee discussed the transferability of credit for upper division general education courses, particularly when taken online from a campus that is not the student’s home campus. The results of this discussion were included in AS-3211-15, which was approved unanimously by the members of the plenary.

6. **Other discussions:**

(a) **Distinguishing Master’s Degrees from Bachelor’s Degrees.** At the request of liaison Christine Mallon, the committee discussed proposals from the graduate deans’ council to require a certain percentage of master’s degree coursework to be completed in courses taken only by graduate students. Consultation with campuses on this proposal led to vociferous objections from particularly smaller campuses that it would endanger the continuation of some quality master’s programs. As there was no deadline for concluding the discussion, members of the committee have suggested broadening its scope to encompass the differences between master’s degrees and bachelor’s degrees in the CSU. We recommend that this discussion continue in the 2015-16 version of the committee.

(b) **Assessment.** Committee members Robert Keith Collins and Jodie Ullman took the lead in drafting the committee’s proposed resolution on assessment. Following its first reading, where a number of senators expressed significant opposition to the resolution as presented, the committee worked on a second reading version. Substantial progress was made but not enough that the committee was satisfied that the resolution said what the committee wanted it to say in terms that plenary colleagues would find to be acceptable. The committee recommends that the 2015-16 membership consider this topic once
again, perhaps continuing to refine AS-3209-15/AA for eventual presentation to the plenary.

(c) **Mathematics.** Discussion of this topic focused primarily on the need for CSU students to complete a second year of algebra in order to be considered sufficiently qualified in quantitative reasoning. Much of this discussion actually occurred in the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC), in conjunction with GEAC’s pilot program to use a method of teaching statistics called Statway as an acceptable fulfillment of the Quantitative Reasoning requirement. In May, 2015, GEAC heard from representatives of the CSU Math Council on this matter, and that report contained a good deal of new information that the committee had not previously considered. The AA committee recommends that this discussion continue in GEAC and that it be brought to AA if and when resolutions on the topic may be required.

(d) **Ethnic Studies.** Committee members, including Catherine Nelson and Judith Lessow-Hurley, were interested in the work of the Chancellor’s Ethnic Studies Task Force and were prepared to write resolutions regarding the recommendations from that group. As the task force did not present its report until the May plenary, the AA committee was unable to review the recommendations and act on them. We recommend that the 2015-16 committee take up this work.

(e) **Student Mental Health.** At its April virtual meeting, Ray Murillo of the Chancellor’s Office presented the committee with a preview of the findings of a task force on mental health issues and support within the CSU. Committee members James Locasio and Jodie Ullman have been particularly interested in student mental health issues, but this task force report also arrived too late for the committee to take up any of its recommendations. We recommend that the 2015-16 committee do so.

(f) **System-wide Sustainability Minor.** Discussions occurred throughout the academic year in the Sustainability: Campus as a Living Lab committee regarding the possibility of establishing a system-wide minor in sustainability. After consideration, the committee decided to issue a model curriculum that individual campuses might use to develop their own minors. We recommend that the 2015-16 committee monitor the work of this committee to see if a resolution endorsing its work might be warranted.

7. **Concluding Remarks.**
This year’s committee was notable for its hard work, and collegial environment. Meetings were very much “self-managing” affairs, with committee members, for the most part, staying on topic, making substantive contributions, and disagreeing respectfully when disagreement was called for. Face-to-face meetings were generally more productive than virtual meetings, as a number of the members, including the chair, were less than pleased with the Collaborate tool that the system provided. We experimented at the April meeting with Zoom as a tool for virtual meetings, with mixed results. Some members were even more frustrated with Zoom, as they did not have access to cameras and attending a long meeting solely by phone is quite wearying. It appears that Zoom allows those dialing in also to see participants who do have cameras available; assuming everyone has good instructions for access that function would provide participants with something visual for the meeting. The chair found Zoom easier to use than Collaborate, but whatever tools are used in the future we recommend that committees be given some training in how to use them.

The previous year’s committee faced a number of issues that divided faculty from the CSU administration. This year’s committee featured a good deal of collaboration between faculty and administration. On the “big issues,” faculty and administration held similar positions, which helped the process. Clearly, collaboration is preferable to conflict, and we hope that the current environment will continue with the arrival of a new Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

We left next year’s committee with more than the previous year’s committee left us, but our projects this year proved to need more than the time allowed. We wish the 2015-16 committee well as it continues consideration of the wide variety of issues important to Academic Affairs and the CSU as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, 2014-15 ASCSU Academic Affairs Committee