

ASCSU Chair's Report
January to March Plenary 2017
Christine M. Miller

It has been my privilege to represent the Academic Senate of the California State University between our last plenary meeting and the present one. I offer the following listing of my activities followed by summary and commentary on key issues that arose during that time.

Meetings and Activities

January, post-plenary

- Honorary Degree subcommittee in Long Beach
- January Board of Trustees meeting in Long Beach

February

- Meeting with Trustee Firstenberg in Sacramento
- Math 110 meeting (virtual)
- State Government Relations welcome reception for legislators in Sacramento
- California State Student Association meeting in San Luis Obispo
- Academic Conference in San Diego
- San Luis Obispo Campus Senate and Executive Committee meetings
- Council of Campus Chairs meeting in Long Beach
- ASCSU interim virtual meeting
- Interim "agenda setting" meeting with Chancellor and cabinet in Long Beach
- Meetings with EVC Blanchard in Long Beach
- California State University Fullerton Campus Senate and Executive Committee meetings
- Meeting with Lark Park, Senior Consultant for Governor Brown
- Tenure Density Task Force meeting in Long Beach
- Academic Council meeting in Los Angeles

March, pre-plenary

- California Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 advocacy in Sacramento

- Meeting with EVC Blanchard (virtual)
- Meeting with Christian Osmena and others, Department of Finance
- Meeting with Lark Park, Senior Consultant for Governor Brown
- California Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 advocacy in Sacramento
- CSSA CHESS Reception in Sacramento
- Advocacy meetings (along with Chancellor White, CSSA President Lopez, and SEIU Legislative Coordinator Harrington) with Assemblymember Ting, Senate Pro Tem de Leon, Senator Portantino, and Speaker Rendon

Upcoming

- Interim “agenda setting” meeting with Chancellor White and cabinet
- Board of Trustees meeting in Long Beach
- Tenure Density Task Force (virtual)
- General Education Task Force in Long Beach
- Assembly Higher Education committee hearing on AB 394 (Medina)
- State Governmental Relations reception aboard the Golden Bear in Sacramento
- Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates Lobby Day in Sacramento
- CSU LA Senate and Executive Committee
- Academic Council in San Francisco
- Humboldt Senate and Executive Committee
- ASCSU Legislative Advocacy Day
- Outstanding Alumni awards dinner
- Campus Senate Chair’s Council meeting in Long Beech
- ASCSU virtual interim

Key Issues

General Education

At the January meeting, the Executive Committee approved a document articulating the membership, charge, principles, goals and timeline for the General Education Task Force. The group will be co-chaired by me and Academic Affairs Chair Jodie Ullman. In addition to Mary Ann Creadon (GEAC Chair) and Denise Fleming (APEP Chair), The Executive Committee appointed two additional senators and two representatives from campuses to join the work, and representatives from the University of California, the Community Colleges, the Board of Trustees, and the Chancellor’s Office have been identified as well. The first meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for March 27, 2017.

In the meantime, on March 10, 2017, EVC Blanchard sent a letter to presidents asking campuses to provide feedback on potential revisions to EO 1100 governing general education in the system. Dr. Blanchard’s letter and call for feedback raised several questions about how this effort relates to the charge of the GE Task Force. These questions are being engaged in discussions between ASCSU leadership and Chancellor’s Office leadership. More information will be forthcoming as events unfold.

Quantitative Reasoning

On March 7, EVC Blanchard sent me a letter articulating the direction being pursued by the Chancellor's Office regarding the recommendations of the Quantitative Reasoning Task Force. The pieces are beginning to fall into place, as that letter discusses, and groups such as GEAC are offering their expert analysis of how to make the words on the pages of the Task Force report come alive as student experiences.

Tenure Density

The Tenure Density Task Force members determined that they could provide a more compelling analysis if they extended their work past the March 1 deadline. Their next meeting takes place on March 24, and an accounting of their activities was provided by ASCSU representatives Schutte, Aloisio, and Guerin in an email forwarded a couple of days ago.

Intellectual Property

Yesterday afternoon I forwarded to you (as well as campus senate chairs) a letter to ASCSU regarding intellectual property co-authored by EVCs Blanchard and Virgee. The letter and attendant report (with recommendations) have a deadline of 60 days in which to respond. Presumably, this response will be shepherded by our Faculty Affairs Committee.

Academic Conference

With thanks to the Academic Conference Planning Committee, at this point what's left is analysis and assessment of the conference. These activities are taking place, with an eye toward making recommendations for the future. Thanks to all who were able to participate in this meaningful event.

Legislative Advocacy

Now that the legislature is back in session, there is plenty happening on the legislative front. In addition to advocating for the Board of Trustees' support budget, there are myriad bills affecting the CSU to consider and track. The Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee has been, and will continue to be, quite busy for the rest of the academic year. Already this legislative season there has been an instance where a bill was slated to be heard prior to the ASCSU being able to vote on it, so the Executive Committee acted on behalf of the Senate. I wrote a letter in support of the bill, which requests legislative authorization to continue offering the Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree. ASCSU Legislative Advocacy Day is coming up in April, and you will hear more about this from FGA Chair Soni.

The meeting rooms and offices of the state capitol are not the only places I enjoy advocating for the mission of the CSU, and representing the role of the Senate in fulfilling that mission. I consider it a privilege to discuss with anyone who will listen the ways in which the Senate promotes academic quality and student success. Thank your for this opportunity to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Miller