

ASCSU Chair's Report
Steven Filling
January 21-22, 2016

As you will see below, the Executive Committee has had a very busy start to the New Year. This report highlights current issues and provides very brief reports on a wide variety of system level activities.

Sustainable Financial Model Task Force Draft Report

The Task Force Report is in final draft form and is on the Board of Trustees agenda next week as an information item. You may find the most recent draft included in the *BoT January 2016 finance.pdf* document in the ASCSU January 2016 Shared Materials Folder at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bmv3565k77gjfrn/AABuUczBZb1u3LsF-2soFi-Ja?dl=0>. The Task Force report starts at page 12 in that document. The Executive Committee notes that the description of this agenda item indicates that "Following the January 2016 presentation of the final report, the Chancellor will convene subject matter experts to address those recommendations that require further analysis and consideration with the goal of initiating required policy, regulatory, and statutory changes in June 2016." We are seeking clarity on whether the recommendations in the report will be action items at a future meeting of the Trustees or if those recommendations will just be implemented.

Quantitative Reasoning/GE B4 Task Force

Pursuant to AS-3230 ASCSU will be convening a Quantitative Reasoning Task Force. You will find a listing of the membership of the Task Force and a short statement concerning their charge in the ASCSU January 2016 Shared Materials Folder at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bmv3565k77gjfrn/AABuUczBZb1u3LsF-2soFi-Ja?dl=0>. We are requesting a senator who is in a non-STEM discipline to serve on this task force. If you are interested please send me an email noting your interest. We are working on identifying the remaining task force members and expect the group to convene in February and to deliver its recommendation at our May plenary. Please note that the Executive Committee has sought to be responsive to the intense interest in this issue from external parties as well as CSU faculty. While the process has not been as expeditious as we might have wished, the Executive Committee and CO administrators firmly believe that we have a widely inclusive task force and are taking the best course forward.

On a closely related topic, ASCSU has been allocated 15 places at the 26 February University of California Articulation Conference which will be focusing on mathematics issues. We have a very short timeline on this, so if you are interested in attending the one day conference at UC Irvine please send an email to Vice Chair Miller [millercm@csus.edu] by noon today [21 January].

Extended Education Economic Impact Pilot Study

The Commission has prepared a draft summary of the Economic Impact Pilot Study and is requesting comments. You will find the draft report in the ASCSU January 2016 Shared Materials Folder at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bmv3565k77gjfrn/AABuUczBZb1u3LsF-2soFi-Ja?dl=0>. Please send your comments to our representatives on the Commission on the Extended University, Glen Brodowsky [GlenBord@csusm.edu], Diana Guerin [DGuering@exchange.Fullerton.edu], Jerald Schutte [JGSchutte@csun.edu] or Praveen Soni [Praveen.Soni@csulb.edu]. They would appreciate receiving your comments prior to the 28 January meeting of the Commission.

Legislative Advocacy

As FGA Chair Krabacher will share in his report this morning, the FGA committee has recommended that ASCSU expand our work with legislators and policy makers this year by engaging in local office visits as well as our annual Day at the Capitol. In pursuit of helping us be more successful in that work Andy Martinez from the Office of State Relations will be joining us this afternoon to talk with us about effective advocacy. Your participation in this project is crucial to CSU budget advocacy and to providing counsel on the panoply of legislation being proposed that impacts what we do and how we do it.

I held briefings on our Quantitative Reasoning Task Force for legislative staff and administration officials on 13 and 14 January. There is wide interest in our process of ensuring that our curriculum is appropriate and adequate, and in our work on developmental instruction. Our thanks to CFA for graciously providing a location for the briefings and lunch for the attendees. The response to those briefings was very positive and we were asked to continue to provide “issues briefings” as appropriate throughout the legislative season. We anticipate holding 3 or 4 additional sessions this spring. I will also be meeting monthly with Department of Finance staff to keep them apprised of our activities and the challenges we face.

Academic Freedom Policy

In November the General Counsel notified the Executive Committee that Academic Freedom is an issue within scope of bargaining, and that further conversations with ASCSU concerning Academic Freedom Policy would be constrained by that. The Executive Committee agreed to establish a joint working group with the California Faculty Association to resolve the General Counsel’s concerns. The working group, composed of three representatives from ASCSU [Filling, Forrohar, Norman] and three representatives from CFA [David Bradfield, Jen Eagan and Charles Toombs] will be joined by three representatives from the Chancellor’s Office [TBD] and further discussions will ensue. A first draft of a revised policy has been prepared by CO administrators and is available in the ASCSU January 2016 Shared Materials Folder at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bmv3565k77gjfrn/AABuUczBZb1u3LsF-2soFi-Ja?dl=0>. The working group of representatives from ASCSU, CFA and CO will be meeting within the next month and we will provide updates as their work progresses. Our goal is to have a policy that can be taken to the Trustees for approval this year.

Intellectual Property Policy

We have been informed that a group of CO staff are in the process of drafting an Intellectual Property Policy. ASCSU firmly believes that this policy is within the purview of ASCSU and also a bargaining issue with CFA, hence we are puzzled by the lack of inclusion of faculty in the group drafting the policy. The Executive Committee is pursuing this issue, and we believe that it would best be addressed by a process similar to that enunciated above on the Academic Freedom Policy issue. We have requested the assistance of EVC Blanchard in making that happen.

Tenure Density

We continue to encourage administration to focus sharply on the mechanics of increasing tenure density. I think it is accurate to report that awareness of and acknowledgement of the problem is uniform across the CSU community. While we have not been successful in our attempts to have Chancellor's Office administrators establish tenure density targets and metrics, both CO and campus administrators have pledged to address the challenge of increasing tenure density. Both our FA and FGA committees have requested information that will enable further analysis of the issue and we look forward to continuing the conversation better informed by relevant data.

Included in the 2015-16 CSU budget allocation from the State was \$11M in funds to be dedicated to faculty hiring. We have asked EVC Blanchard and VC Lamb for information on how those funds were allocated to campuses and how they are being expended. We are told that there will be a report to the Board of Trustees next week on this issue and we will share information as we receive it.

CSU Budget

I participated in a Department of Finance conference call on the Governor's proposed budget last week. In summary, the administration's message is that the budget is in good shape, but prudence is important so that the next economic downturn doesn't result in yet another state budget crisis. There was a strong focus on higher education as a system intended to serve students and an emphasis on expanded use of technology to meet goals of affordability and access. Details of the proposal may be found at the Department of Finance website.

Appointments

The Executive Committee made the following appointments since my last report:

Shared Student System Oversight Committee: Francelina Neto, Sue Holl

ITL Planning Committee: Darlene Yee Melichar

AVC State Relations and Advocacy Search Committee: Tom Krabacher

Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates

ICAS met in December. The Council received the annual report from the California Open Educational Resources Council and as required by statute prepared a final report to the Legislature on CA OER Council activities. State funding for the OER Council provided under SB 1052 is expiring and the Ca OER Council will continue its work supported by external grants administered through CSU. ICAS also discussed transfer admission issues, math articulation,

and higher education/K-12 alignment with Next Generation Science Standards, among other topics.

Academic Technology Steering Committee

ATSC met in early January. AVC Eric Forbes provided an overview of administrative structure for the Common Student System implementation project. The committee also received reports from AVC Gerry Hanley on Cal State Online and the LMS contracts process.

Academic Council

The CSU campus provosts group also met in early January, and I was allowed to attend more of the meeting than I did last time, as reported in my November Chair's report. AVC Storm provided an analysis of the Governor's 2016 budget proposal and the group had a lengthy discussion of budget advocacy strategies and the metrics included in the Academic Sustainability Plan of the CSU. A major focus of the Graduation Initiative will be closing the achievement gap as we seek to improve graduation rates. State officials continue to emphasize four year graduation rates as a key metric for the CSU.

Campus visits

In line with our focus on enhancing joint work with campus academic senates I visited Dominguez Hills in early December. My thanks to DH Senate Chair James Hill and to ASCSU Senators Norman and Esposito for their hospitality and their continuing work on behalf of their campus communities. The DH Senate had a lively discussion of civility and collegiality, noting the perhaps inevitable tension between attempts to ensure civility and freedom of expression.

Campus Senate Chairs

The Council of Campus Senate Chairs gathered in Long Beach for their December meeting. EVC Blanchard visited and provided an update on budget advocacy and metrics. Dr. Blanchard also shared information concerning ongoing CSU projects on Inclusivity, noting that the CSU system is committed to inclusivity and is seeking to respond effectively and appropriately to requests and demands from a variety of groups, including the Black Lives Matter campaign. The chairs also had a lengthy discussion of the challenges of increasing tenure density and measuring CSU progress toward increasing tenure density.

And finally, please stay tuned for a likely adjustment to the October 2016 interim meetings date, corresponding to a change in the November 2016 Board of Trustees meeting. The Executive Committee is reviewing scheduling of our meetings.

On behalf of our campuses and our communities, thanks for all that you do.

As always, please feel free to contact me via email [sfilling@mac.com] or phone [209.988.8256] with any questions, concerns or suggestions on these or any other issues.