

ASCSU Chair's Report
Steven Filling
March 3-4, 2016

Springtime in the CSU includes a wide array of activities, both on the campuses and at the system level. 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 was presented to the Board of Trustees in January as an information item. It was slightly revised subsequent to that, although the Task Force has not met since December and was not asked to comment on or approve the revisions. The Report as revised is on the Board's agenda for next week's meeting, again as an information item. When the report was presented at the System Budget Advisory Committee the following points were made with respect to implementation of the report's recommendations:

- near v. far term recommendations
 - allocation model changes = near term
 - changes in capital programs = near term
 - medium term, no need for BOT
 - philanthropy and alumni engagement =
 - support systems and technology
 - business analytics
 - student applicants
 - research activity
 - longer term, requires BOT approval, stretching into 2018/19/20
 - third party partnerships (3 coming to BOT in March)
 - restructuring debt
 - nonresident tuition
 - different tuition model (predictable, stable)
 - health care cost increases
 - K-12 partnerships

You may find the final draft in the ASCSU March 2016 Shared Materials Folder at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p80j940tklpok9h/AADU-ZP9hwM7-kFCWdgXLeYoa?dl=0>. EVC Relyea will be visiting the plenary Thursday to provide further information on the Sustainable Financial Model Task Force Report.

Quantitative Reasoning/GE B4 Task Force

The Task Force met in Sacramento on 22 February. 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/bmv3565k77gjfm/AABuUczBZblu3LsF-2soFi-Ja?dl=0>. The majority of the meeting was devoted to developing a shared understanding of the current state of affairs. You may access the presentations / materials from that meeting in the March 2016 ASCSU Shared Materials Folder at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3s52k3wh9pqqth9/AAAHbU2bGSq0KzuvUjunWfD9a?dl=0>. The Task Force will be meeting monthly this spring and is hopeful that it will meet the reporting deadline of mid-May.

UC Articulation Conference

Several ASCSU representatives attended the UC Articulation Conference in Irvine on 26 February. There was broad representation from the three public higher education segments as well as k-12 and California Department of Education staff. The event included informational sessions on mathematics articulation and coursework across k-12 and public higher education in California.

Committee on Online Education

The COE met in early February. A prominent agenda item was discussion of the parameters of CourseMatch course acceptance and whether CourseMatch courses meet the “courses taken in residence” requirements at campuses. AVC Hanley reported that the ex post analysis of phase I of Cal State Online that ASCSU requested would be completed and made available by the next COE meeting.

Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates

ICAS met in February. At the top of the agenda was the ASCSU request that the ICAS Capitol Day, which was scheduled for 14 April, be moved because of CFA’s announced strike dates. We are very pleased to report that after discussion ICAS agreed to shift their Capitol Day to 5 April so that ASCSU could be represented. The UC Academic Senate group reported on budget difficulties at Berkeley and plans to shift capital project funding more heavily toward Public Private Partnerships. They also reported that the UC is on track with the “Pathways” transfer project [the UC version of our TMCs]. The CCC Senate reported on their efforts to shift accreditation bodies to WASC Senior and briefly mentioned their efforts to increase faculty diversity and encourage uptake of Open Educational Resources. The CCC Senate also noted their continuing interest in increasing transfer units provided from 60 to 65 or 70. We noted that

CSU is concerned about that possibility because of the 120 unit cap imposed by the Trustees and our commitment to provide appropriate curriculum in our programs. CCC Senate leadership acknowledged our statement.

Campus Senate Chairs

The Council of Campus Senate Chairs gathered in Long Beach for their February meeting. VC Lamb visited and reported that faculty hiring was up slightly at 849 new faculty. She did not have the “net” change in number of faculty however Jen Eagan, CFA President, was also visiting and she reported that the “net” change in faculty was 196. There was discussion of parameters that need to be looked at with respect to tenure density. Campuses conducting presidential searches reported on their efforts and the processes in place, and there was continued discussion of the general preference for a more open search process. The Council will meet next in April.

AAUP California Conference Annual Meeting

I represented ASCSU at the California Conference of the AAUP Annual meeting at San Diego State in February. A highlight of the conference was a session on Academic Freedom led by our colleague Senator Wheeler. The SDSU Academic Senate is currently working on a draft Academic Freedom statement and that draft was a key element of the session. The keynote address for the conference was delivered by Rudy Fichtenbaum, AAUP President, and focused on the corporatization of higher education.

Legislative Advocacy

I continued monthly conversations with Christian Osmena from the Department of Finance. Topics of conversation included Tenure Density and the \$11M targeted funding initiated in the 15-16 state allocation to the CSU, implementation of recommendations from the SFM report, and mechanisms to encourage further formation of faculty networks across campuses and segments to leverage projects such as OER [AB 798] and instructional practices. We had further discussion of the uses, limitations and costs of online instruction.

I have also had multiple conversations with Senator Glazer and his staff concerning SB 1450, which mandates that campuses offer four year completion guarantees to qualifying students. Senator Glazer continues to solicit our counsel on various aspects of the bill and remains open to amending it.

Conversations also continue with Assemblymember Bonilla and her staff on AB 1914 concerning “Access Fees” in the CSU. This bill is sponsored by CSSA and both CSSA and the Assemblymember are soliciting our advice on the bill as it moves through committees.

As you’re aware, FGA’s annual Legislation Omnibus Resolution is on our agenda for this plenary. Further information on the above bills and a plethora of other pending legislation may be found therein. Please find time to peruse FGA’s resolution and materials prior to our Friday session.

Academic Freedom Policy

The Chancellors Office replied to a letter from myself and Jen Eagan concerning the Academic Freedom Task Force. Both Jen and I confess to some perplexity about the response letter, which largely reads as a request that CFA waive bargaining and meet and confer rights over Academic Freedom before the Task Force is instantiated. You may peruse the CO letter in the ASCSU March 2016 Shared Materials Folder at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p80j940tklpok9h/AADU-ZP9hwM7-kFCWdgXLeYoa?dl=0>. The Executive Committee will be composing a response to the CO letter, as will CFA.

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 proposed for work on the Academic Freedom Policy issue. We have requested the assistance of EVC Blanchard in making that happen.

RSCA Funding and Processes

I recently sent senators a list of campus allocations of RSCA funding budgeted for the 2016-17 academic year. Our thanks to Chancellor White and our CO colleagues for accepting our request that RSCA funding be a “baseline” item in the Academic Affairs budget. I also spoke with Interim Director of Research Zed Mason about the new software package which will be used to submit RSCA proposals and outcomes reports. I conveyed concerns expressed by the campus Senate Chairs and am pleased to report that in the near future Zed will be sending a brief summary of processes and policies applicable to the new system.

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. We have been informed that a request for ASCSU representatives for the TT Density Task Force ASCSU requested is winding its way toward us. Both our FA and FGA committees have requested and received 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 asked EVC Blanchard and VC Lamb for information on how those funds were allocated to campuses and how they are being expended. Their response may

be found in the ASCSU March 2016 Shared Materials Folder
at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p80j940tklpok9h/AADU-ZP9hwM7-kFCWdgXLeYoa?dl=0>.

Background Check Policy

VC Lamb has declined to suspend the background check policy as we requested, however the CO did convene a task force to review problems reported with policy implementation. VC Lamb reported that the group found no “facts” documenting the reported problems. We note, however, that the CO has issued multiple “clarifications” of the policy to the campuses.

Open Educational Resources

The California Open Education Resources Council was created and initially funded by SB 1052. The Council has been quite active since its creation and met the legislative requirement to identify and make available OER for 50 high enrollment courses. Funding under SB 1052 is exhausted at the end of spring semester. The Council will continue in existence funded through CSU under AB 798. AB 798 provides funding for grants to campuses willing to develop and submit proposals for implementation of OER in multiple courses. Further information may be found at <http://www.cool4ed.org>. Please note that campus proposals must be submitted by 30 June.

Campus visits

In line with our focus on enhancing joint work with campus academic senates I visited Bakersfield in January. My thanks to BA Senate Chair Jackie Kegley and to ASCSU Senators Murphy and Frye for their hospitality and their continuing work on behalf of their campus communities. The BA Senate had a lively discussion of instruments for use in student evaluation of courses.

Possible Unit 3 Strike

As you’re aware, CFA has announced a possible strike on 13,14,15,18 & 19 April. Please be aware that our staff colleagues in represented units [CSUEU, APC, SETC, UAPD, SUPA, IUOE and UAW] are by contract restricted from engaging in sympathy strike actions, in other words staff must report for work as they normally would. As a consequence Senate offices on the campuses and at the CO will be open although the faculty officers of those bodies will likely not be available.

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.