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ACADEMIC SENATE CSU CHAIR'S REPORT
Board of Trustees
July 22, 2020

Thank you, Chair Kimbell and good morning Distinguished Trustees and Colleagues. My name is Robert Keith Collins, PhD. I am a professor of American Indian Studies in the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. Go Gators! As of June 1, 2020, I have the honor of being the 2020-2021 Chair of the ASCSU. We know that our collaborative journey through this experiment called shared governance has not been a straight line. But in navigating its bumps and curves, twists and turns, we are at our best when we engage in common unity. Common unity. We often unite these two words as community, with 23 different usages, to convey understandings of what we feel unites us as educators focused on reducing barriers to student success, educators in charge of the stewardship of our work environment, education administrators charged with managing support systems and activities that enable the function of the CSU, staff who make the day to day operations possible, and students, whose pursuit of knowledge and use of the resources we provide, equip them to speak truth as a way of life. I want to separate these words common and unity for the purposes of illuminating the meaning making factors of consultation and collaboration through shared governance that illuminate how and why the ASCSU continues to stand ready to collaborate in the advancement of the principles of curriculum in this age of COVID-19. Illustrating our dedication to common purpose in these areas, during our May 2020 plenary, under the leadership of Immediate Past Chair Nelson, the ASCSU passed:

1. [AS-3424-20/EX](#)
Commending the Students, Faculty, Staff and Administrators of the California State University (CSU) System During the COVID-19 Global Pandemic of 2020

Approved

This resolution commends students, faculty, staff and administrators of the CSU system and thanks them for their actions during this historic challenge, especially custodial and other essential staff working to make our workplaces safe.

The ASCSU also passed:

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

2. [AS-3421-20/FGA \(Rev\)](#)

Reaffirming the Role of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) and Campus Senates in Establishing Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

Approved Without Dissent

This resolution reaffirms the role of the ASCSU as the primary faculty governance body for curricular issues under Higher Education Employee/Employer Relationship Act (HEERA).

Acting on behalf of the ASCSU over the summer, the ASCSU Executive Committee has met twice and passed two resolutions to address pending legislation centered on access, budget, and equity concerns in higher education. This is uncommon but we felt circumstances called for action. First:

1. [AS-3436-20/EX](#)

In Support of Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 5 (Weber) Government Preferences (As Amended May 4, 2020)

June 11, 2020

Approved Unanimously

This resolution reaffirms our 1996 resolution AS-2330-96/AA Support for Educational Equity Programs in the CSU – Opposition to the California Civil Rights Initiative, which expressed ASCSU opposition to Proposition 209, and expresses support for Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 5 (Weber) Government Preferences (as amended May 4, 2020) and its repeal of Proposition 209. In this we joined the Chancellor White and the CSU in advocating for voter approval of Prop 16 [aka ACA 5].

Also approved was:

2. [AS-3437-20/EX](#)

Response to SB 121 (As Amended, Committee On Budget and Fiscal Review) – Budget Act of 2020

June 26 (30), 2020

Approved Unanimously

This resolution responds to SC 121's amended budget recommendations and expresses concern that it would negatively impact the nearly half million students currently enrolled in the CSU. We look forward to collaborating on budget advocacy with the CO, BoT, and CFA to ensure adequate funding for the CSU.

In closing, the ASCSU will return in September. In the meantime, on behalf of the ASCSU, the Executive Committee will continue to meet, this Thursday and again on August 6, 2020. Central in these meetings will be the planning of the joint ASCSU – Chancellor's Office Leadership

Retreat on August 26, 2020. Our theme this year will be Common Unity. The goal of this retreat is to strategize on collaborations necessary to enable student achievement and well-being in the CSU in the face of COVID, with particular attention to the Graduation Initiative 2025 pillar of Student Engagement and Well Being. The rationale for this theme is a direct precipitate of my looking back on a speech delivered by Martin Luther King Jr on April 4, 1967, during a meeting of Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York City, as he attempted to remind listeners of the relationship between peace and civil rights. In it he reminds us that, “We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there “is” such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action (see http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_text-book.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3621.” It is my sincere hope that we can all collaborate towards positive actions during the 2020-2021 academic year. Thank you, Chair Kimbell. This concludes my reports and I am happy to answer any questions that you all may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Keith Collins, PhD