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ACADEMIC SENATE CSU CHAIR'S REPORT
Board of Trustees
September 23, 2020

Thank you Chair Kimbell. Congratulations Chancellor-Select Castro and Trustee-Elect Raynes! I look forward to working with you both. Good morning to you all. I hope that everyone one is well and staying healthy. It is truly an honor to offer this report on behalf of the dedicated senators of the ASCSU. My name is Robert Keith Collins, PhD. I am the 2020-2021 Chair of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) and a professor of American Indian Studies in the College of Ethnic Studies at SF State University.

With the recent passing of Justice Ginsburg, I am reminded that there is always hope when we work together. Therefore, the goal of this report is to offer brief insights into our current efforts and goals and potential areas for collaboration to promote Common Unity through a central question that was at the core of our recent ASCSU- CO Leadership Retreat and asked of the ASCSU by California State Student Association (CSSA) Liaison Garcia: What should the CSU community know about how faculty are coping during the COVID-19 pandemic and what is the ASCSU doing to enable faculty and student success through our contributions to the collective CSU response?

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

Acting on behalf of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU), the ASCSU Executive Committee has engaged in actions conducive to building community unity and enhancing avenues of communication. On August 26, 2020, the ASCSU hosted the Fall 2020 ASCSU-CO Leadership Retreat: Common Unity: Reducing Barriers to CSU Student Success and Wellness during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This gathering of leadership from the ASCSU, CSU Office of the Chancellor, California State Student Association (CSSA), California Faculty Association (CFA), CSU Employees Union (CSUEU), and others, engage in conversations related to five breakout areas and produced a minimum of two recommendations for collaboration during the 2020-2021 academic year.

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

Breakout #1

Mental Health, Racism, Student Success, and Wellness (ASCSU At-Large Senator Nola Butler Byrd/ Faculty Affairs Chair Thomas Norman) recommended the following:

- a. Create a Task force with multiple stakeholder groups (Students, Staff, Faculty, Administration, etc.) that expands the focus on counselor ratios, to address Mental Health and Well Being.
- b. Reaching out after the Ethnic Studies effort.

Breakout #2

Privacy, Technology, and Remote Student Success (ASCSU Secretary Beth Steffel/ASCSU Immediate Past Chair Catherine Nelson) recommended the following:

- a. Have messages about Eduroam at all campuses and let students know they can go to campuses for wireless services and Eduroam.
- b. Bring support services into the classroom. Make it part of the conversation at the beginning by including information in the syllabus, LMS and during classroom time. Perhaps as an embedded tutor. This would go a long way to reducing any stigmatization for learning and using the services available.

Breakout #3

Graduate Education, Experiential Learning and the California Workforce (ASCSU Vice Chair Darlene Yee-Melichar / Academic Affairs Chair Susan Schlievert) recommended the following:

- a. Targeted outreach and enhanced support for graduate students on their basic needs and wellness (i.e. housing, food, physical & mental health and safety, childcare, internet/technology, etc.).
- b. Explore how campus and faculty may allow curricular and programmatic flexibility and innovation in graduate studies and student learning (knowledge of resources, active learning and high impact practices, credit for prior learning etc.)

Breakout #4

Funding the CSU: Legislative Advocacy and Student Success (ASCSU At-Large Senator David Speak / Fiscal and Government Affairs Chair Mark Hoven Stohs) recommended the following:

- a. Establish a systemwide directory of all the individuals and groups within the CSU who have responsibility for legislative advocacy.

- b. Work on the potential for additional funds from Proposition 63 (recently updated). It may provide for additional counselors on campus and could require collaboration with at the county level.

Breakout #5:

Graduation Initiative 2025: ACT/SAT, Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT), Ethnic Studies, and Equitable CSU Student Preparation (Robert Keith Collins, ASCSU Chair/ Academic Preparation and Education Programs Chair Sue Holl) recommended:

- a. Equitable student preparation would allow us to address student concerns about Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT). This is a question that comes up often in discussion with California Community Colleges (CCC). But, there should be an exploration of what that means on the CSU side through the following questions:
 - What sort of discourse on transfer preparation is crucial to enabling students to understand that they're transitioning from one system to the other?
 - What is needed to onboard students?
 - What mentorship is provided?
 - What advising is necessary?
- b. Professional learning communities for faculty (especially for first-year students) to close equity gaps. This is not only important in terms of the Gradation Initiative 2025, it's also important as it applies to Ethnic Studies. Students will need to be supported and advised about the Ethnic Studies requirement.

This retreat produced incredible conversations that all are encouraged to engage in over the year. If you all have found these breakout conversations of interest, then please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to put you in touch with the breakout leaders who are all members of the ASCSU Executive and Extended Executive Committees.

The ASCSU also met on September 17-18, 2020 for our first plenary of the academic year. We completed a robust agenda, comprising 13 resolutions, 7 of which were approved for a waiver of first reading, and 6 appearing in first reading. In brief, they included, but are not limited to the following:

1. [AS-3438-20/AA](#)

Recommending Core Competencies for Ethnic Studies: Response to California Education Code 8903c

Approved

The Academic Affairs Resolution, **AS-3438-20/AA Recommended Core Competencies for Ethnic Studies: Response to California Education Code 89032c**. Reflected of conversations with members of CSUCOES and dialogue with Chancellor's Office representatives, as well as campus feedback responses and senators' input. The resolution includes five core competencies, developed through these conversations and informed by previous ASCSU resolutions. It is important to note that the origins of this resolution lie in the following:

- a. As per AB 1460, consultation occurred between the Chancellor's Office, the ASCSU, and CSU Council on Ethnic Studies on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
- b. The ASCSU Chair organized the meeting, in collaboration with CSU Ethnic Studies Council Chair, between the CSU Chancellor's Office, the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies, and the ASCSU.
- c. This meeting, as agreed upon between the ASCSU Chair and CSU Ethnic Studies Council Chair, would begin with an informal meet and greet to re-establish collegial working relationships that occurred during the drafting of AS-3403-19/FA (Rev) and then move to discussion of the following central question: Were the core competencies or learning outcomes in AS-3403-19/FA (Rev) still viable?
- d. Prior to the meeting on 9/15/20, the CSU Ethnic Studies Council Chair submitted the core competencies approve by the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies to Academic Affairs (AA) Standing Committee Chair for inclusion in the discussion and consideration by AA and the CSU Chancellor's Office.
- e. The ASCSU Executive Committee attended the meet and greet portion of the meeting and returned to prepare for the September 17-18, 2020 after the meet and greet. At-Large Senator Butler-Byrd and liaison to AA remained to represent the ASCSU Executive Committee in discussions of the core competencies and will continue in this role as the Executive Committee Standing Committee liaison.
- f. Prior to the exit of the ASCSU Executive Committee, and in answer to Executive Vice Chancellor Blanchard's question on agreement, the core competencies were approved. This approval enabled the Academic Senate to conduct its work as part of the process and lent to the creation of AS-

3438-20/AA: Recommending Core Competencies for Ethnic Studies:
Response to California Education Code 8903c.

- g. It is also important to note, that the core competencies submitted from the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies were very similar to those agreed to in AS 3403: Recommended Implementation of a California State University (CSU) Ethnic Studies Requirement.

As the processes towards implementation progress, and as communicated to Dr. Monteiro, the ASCSU looks forward to ongoing conversations to ensure the successful implementation of the CSU Ethnic Studies requirement. The Academic Affairs Committee, given that this work falls within their charge, and their effective past collaborations with representatives from the CSU Council of Ethnic Studies, has been selected by the ASCSU Executive Committee as the committee space where meetings with the council will continue on AB 1460 implementation, along with representatives from the Chancellor's Office and ASCSU.

FURTHER RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

2. AS-3439-20/FGA

Request for Funding the Implementation of AB 1460 (California State University: Graduation Requirement: Ethnic Studies)

Approved

The State of California adopted AB 1460 without attached funding. The ASCSU request that the State provide the funds needed to the CSU for implementation of bill, approximately \$18 Million, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic period when State funds to the CSU are likely to be reduced.

3. AS-3441-20/FGA

A Call for Federal Stimulus Funding in Support of Public Higher Education

Approved

With the CARES Act, the United States provided substantial funds to public higher education, including the CSU. The ASCSU urge Congress pass a second federal stimulus funding act with equivalent or augmented funding in support of public higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. AS-3442-20/FGA

In Support of California Proposition 16, Constitutional Amendment to Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment (Weber)

Approved

As consistent with prior ASCSU resolutions, AS-3436-20/EX and AS-2330-96/AA, the ASCSU support California Ballot Proposition 16 (2020), which would repeal Proposition 209, the 1996 state constitutional amendment that prohibits universities,

schools and government agencies from using race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in decisions about public employment, education or contracting.

5. [AS-3443-20/FGA](#)

Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) Support for “Get Out the Vote”

Approved

Given state mandates in accordance with California Election Code 14000 and 14001, related to providing time off for voting and posting relevant notices about this right to vote, The ASCSU support campus-wide participation in upcoming local, state, and federal elections; and urge all 23 CSU campuses to adopt and implement a comprehensive election engagement plan for the upcoming election up to including the use of campus facilities as polling places and the establishment of on-campus ballot drop off locations.

6. [AS-3449-20/FGA](#)

Supporting CSU Student Veterans Taking Remote Courses During COVID-19

Approved

The ASCSU recognize that the COVID–19 pandemic has impelled the CSU to shift to remote instruction for Spring 2021. Such remote instruction may have a negative impact on CSU veteran students using GI Bill benefits and housing allowances, which are based on in-person courses.

7. [AS-3450-20/FA](#)

Suspension of Mandatory Peer Observations of Instruction and Student Evaluation for Academic Year 2020-2021

Approved

This resolution notes that teaching within the CSU is being accomplished through virtual and/or asynchronous instruction from remote locations, including faculty members’ homes. This emergency response of requiring remote teaching is likely to exacerbate – as for some it already has - the inherent and systemic biases in peer observations and student evaluations, including racial/ethnic, gender, sexuality, age, appearance, and other biases already confirmed to exist in many studies of teaching evaluations. As a result the Chancellor’s Office and campuses are asked to suspend throughout the CSU system all mandatory peer observations of teaching during the 2020-2021 Academic Year and instead to allow individual faculty to decide whether or not peer or student evaluations of teaching from Academic Year 2020-2021 are included in their permanent personnel files.

RESOLUTIONS COMING BACK TO US IN FIRST READING AND AVAILABLE FOR CAMPUS FEEDBACK THROUGH ASCSU SENATORS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. [AS-3440-20/FA](#)

Mental Health and Well-Being are Critical to CSU Success

This resolution follows two recent resolutions (AS-3317-18/FA/AA [Rev] & AS-3405-19/FA [Rev]) that recognized the importance of supporting the mental health of the students, staff, and faculty of the CSU.

2. [AS-3444-20/APEP](#)

Affirming the Role of the Board of Trustees in Adopting Rules, Regulations and Policies Governing the CSU in the Donahoe Act

This resolution is intended to affirm that the CSU Board of Trustees is the body empowered by legislation to govern the CSU.

3. [AS-3445-20/FA](#)

Addition of Dedicated Seats for Contingent Faculty Senate Members

In recognition of the more than 16,000 contingent faculty employed by the CSU this resolution calls for the establishment of three additional seats specifically for full-time lecturers in the Constitution of the Academic Senate of the CSU.

4. [AS-3446-20/APEP](#)

Accommodating Changes to General Education (GE) in Transfer Model Curricula (TMC)

This resolution is intended to identify the groups that will be required to adjust the Transfer Model Curricula and Associate Degrees for Transfer because of the recently mandated GE addition of an ethnic studies course. Support for all necessary work is requested.

5. [AS-3447-20/FGA](#)

Call for Consultation on Academic Implications of Systemwide Fiscal Decisions

The Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) urges the CSU Board of Trustees and the Chancellor's Office to engage in full collegial decision-making with the ASCSU, among other relevant stakeholders, concerning crucial fiscal and budgetary decisions, especially concerning expected revenue reductions during the current COVID-19 pandemic

6. AS-3448-20/APEP

The Need for Student Transcripts to Document the Governing Transfer Model Curricula for Associate Degrees for Transfer

This resolution is intended to provide a solution to a long-standing issue dealing with requirements in Transfer Model Curricula and Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT).

The goals of these first reading resolutions are hopefully rather self-explanatory, hence my discussions were brief for the sake of time; please email me at rkc@sfsu.edu for further explanation; however, it must be noted that they contain the tools necessary for proactive actions taken on behalf of the CSU faculty to address faculty and student success challenges that we currently face.

In closing, let's consider these resolutions and the steps that they suggest and continue forward by taking these steps together – in common unity – to create the enduring change through shared governance necessary to ensuring faculty and student success. This concludes my report, I thank you all for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions that you all may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Keith Collins, PhD