

ASCSU Chair's Report
February 2018
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. 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

- Board of Trustees in Long Beach
- California State Student Association at Dominguez Hills

February

- ICAS Transfer Forum in Sacramento
- General Education Task Force meeting in Long Beach
- California Faculty Association Board Meeting in Sacramento
- San Francisco State University Senate meeting
- Chancellor's interim meeting in Long Beach
- Shared governance meeting in Long Beach
- ICAS meeting in Sacramento
- CSU Monterey Bay Senate meeting
- Stakeholder's Advocacy meeting in Sacramento
- Cal Maritime Senate meeting
- Council of Campus Senate Chairs in San Jose

Upcoming

- Stakeholder Advocacy meeting in Sacramento
- Academic Council in Los Angeles
- General Education Task Force in East Bay
- CSU Advocacy Day in Sacramento
- California State Student Association meeting in Sacramento

Key Issues

Shared Governance

Since our last report at the January plenary meetings, the Executive Committee has met again with senior administrators in the Chancellor's Office to discuss shared governance issues in accordance with the Senate's motion in November. The next two-hour meeting is slated for Tuesday, March 13, 2018. As occurred in January, each member of the Executive Committee will share her/his perceptions of the meeting with the Extended Executive Committee (the standing committee chairs), and as I explained during the plenary, I am keeping my written comments about these meetings brief and descriptive so as not to eclipse the views of my colleagues, whose assessments should receive equal consideration. I will simply say that I continue to believe these meetings are frank and productive.

Another shared governance issue which the Executive Committee will discuss with the Extended Executive Committee is a resolution passed by the California Conference of the American Association of University Professors (CA-AAUP). Sent to you yesterday via email, it indicts the content and processes used to enact Executive Orders 1100 (revised) and 1110. The CA-AAUP Steering Committee has requested that the national AAUP organization launch an investigation into the conduct of the CSU administration on these matters.

The CA-AAUP resolution cites a meeting with members of ASCSU (and CFA) upon which its resolution is predicated. The Executive Committee had no knowledge of this meeting, either beforehand or afterward. The involvement of these senators with the CA-AAUP resolution complicates the discussions the Executive Committee is having with the Chancellor's Office, and indeed I personally believe these circumstances are antithetical to the will of the Senate as expressed in its November motion, which is why I see it as a shared governance issue.

Sustainable Financial Model Work Group

As I have mentioned in prior reports, I have been serving on a "work group" commissioned by the Chancellor to review progress toward twenty-one recommendations made by a 2016 Task Force concerning the financial sustainability of the CSU. This work group was also tasked in its charge with considering "other related recommendations that support the financial strength of the university." The group met one final time after Governor Brown released his budget, and a report to the Board of Trustees on the group's work is slated for the March Board meeting. An initial draft of the report concentrated heavily on chronicling progress toward the Task Force recommendations, but was silent on the other issues we discussed (some of which I have identified in past Chair's Reports). I noted this in my feedback on the report, but I received no response to my feedback, so I'm not sure if the Board report will include discussion of the second half of the group's charge.

Advocacy

Last week, Senator Krabacher and I represented ASCSU at a second CSU Stakeholder's meeting on budget advocacy held in the CSU Advocacy and State Relations (ASR) offices in Sacramento. Participants were ASCSU, CSSA, CFA, the Alumni Association, and ASR. A third meeting is scheduled for Monday, two days prior to the CSU Advocacy Day, where campus delegations, members of the Board of Trustees, CSSA, ASCSU, CFA, and the Alumni Association will lobby at the Capitol.

Additional advocacy opportunities for me and others include (but will not be limited to) CSSA activities (e.g., CHESS), CSU Hill Day in Washington, D. C., and advocacy days organized by ICAS and ASCSU.

Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)

As you may recall, ICAS directed the three segment Senate Chairs to send a request to President Napolitano and Chancellors White and Oakley asking them to consider pooling resources which serve undocumented and immigrant students. I sent both the ICAS letter and the response by President Napolitano to you via email. When I receive additional responses, I will also forward them.

Tenure Density Task Force

As I understand it, the final report of the Task Force was sent to Chancellor White about a month ago. The Chancellor initially indicated he would release it before the end of January, then later he said February 14 was his goal. Rest assured I will distribute it when I get it.

Campus Visits

At the beginning of my term as Chair, I set as my goal visiting each of the 23 campuses to attend a senate meeting. This goal aligned with one of the priorities set by the Executive Committee both last year and this year: to strengthen the relationship between ASCSU and campus senates. Thanks to the recent hospitality of San Francisco, Monterey Bay and Maritime, I can now very happily say I've reached my goal. These visits have been one of the most gratifying things about my service as Chair, and I'm grateful to faculty throughout the system for welcoming me and sharing their campus culture with me.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Miller