

Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU)
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Academic Senate CSU Chair's Report March 2020

Campus Senate Chairs

Campus Senate Chairs had two virtual meetings the week of March 16 to discuss what was happening throughout the system as the COVID-19 emergency progressed. I joined the Monday 3/16 meeting. Topics included:

- Student evaluations of teaching: Several campuses are moving toward allowing faculty to choose whether or not to use Spring 2020 student evaluations of teaching in RTP/Lecturer Review materials.
- Campus Consultation: Consultation with campus senate leadership amid the COVID-19 emergency varies widely. Campus senate chairs are pressing for proper consultation with local leadership.
- Student Basic Needs: There is concern among campus senate chairs about how students' basic needs will be protected and how student access to technology and the internet for remote instruction will be guaranteed.
- Librarians: Librarians have concerns about their exposure to the corona virus as libraries remain open to serve student/faculty needs.
- Quality of Instruction: There is general concern about ensuring the quality of instruction amid the move to all-remote coursework.

Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)

ICAS held its Legislative Day Tuesday, March 10 in Sacramento. We met with consultants from the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and the Assembly Budget Committee, and representatives from the Department of Finance and Legislative Analyst's Office. Major topics included:

- Transfer: There is an interest in Sacramento in smooth and efficient transfer for students from the CCCs to the CSU/UC. There is likely to be a hearing in the fall on the 10th anniversary of SB 1440 (the STAR Act)
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=200920100SB1440
- Student Basic Needs: The legislature continues to be interested in finding ways to meet students' basic needs, with a focus on financial aid and the total cost of attendance.

- CSU Budget: There was discussion of all three public higher education segments' budgets. ASCSU representatives made the case for an increase in the \$199m allocated to the CSU in the Governor's 2020-21 budget.
- Faculty Diversity: The legislature continues to be interested in faculty diversity in public higher education in California. There will be a hearing on this next fall in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.
- AB 3310 (Muratsuchi) CCC Ethnic Studies Requirement: This bill calls for an ethnic studies requirement for the CCCs. The language closely follows the language in AB 1460. This bill would, commencing with the 2021–22 academic year, require each community college district to offer courses in ethnic studies at each of its campuses. The bill would require that the units earned by students for successful completion of these courses would be eligible for transfer and, if applicable, would meet ethnic studies graduation requirements at the California State University. The bill would also, commencing with the 2023–24 academic year, require each community college district to require the completion of at least one course in ethnic studies of at least 3 units as a requirement for a student to obtain an associate degree. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB3310
The Assembly Higher Ed Staff are concerned that AB1460/3310 will open the floodgates for legislatively imposed graduation requirements. The staff respects/values the role of academic senates in setting standards for degrees and their control over the content of the curriculum. Senates and ICAS weighing in on this legislation make a difference.
- SB 874 (Hill): This legislation will make permanent and expand the CCC BA degree pilot program. Assembly Higher Ed staff think it will likely pass. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB874

March Board of Trustees Meeting

The March BOT meeting will be via teleconference and one day only. The agenda is available at:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/Pages/agenda.aspx>

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Nelson
Chair, ASCSU