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ASCSU CHAIR'S REPORT
March Plenary 2021
March 18-19, 2021

I hope that everyone is well and staying healthy. It is an honor to represent and serve the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU). It is also an honor to offer my chair's report and present efforts engaged on behalf of the ASCSU since January 21-22, 2021. Two practices that have continued to shape my approach to promoting common unity are effective communication and advocating for faculty success and how it enables student success. These efforts have included, but were not limited to the following:

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

- Virtual meeting CSU Admissions Advisory Council, Ad Hoc Extended Work Group to Examine the Role of Standardized Testing, Academic Year 2020-2021
- Virtual meeting CSU Campus Senate Chairs.
- Virtual meeting with California Faculty Association (CFA) Board of Directors
- Virtual meeting with California State Student Association (CSSA) (Vice Chair Yee-Melichar)
- Virtual meeting with CSU Council on Ethnic Studies Steering Committee Chair
- Virtual meeting with CSSA President Khuraibet to discuss strategies for effective messaging of ASCSU efforts to enable integrity in the implementation of the new CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement
- Virtual meeting with CSU Committee on Academic Technology and Online Education (CATOE)
- Virtual meeting with CSU Stakeholders Advisory Committee
- Virtual meeting with CSU Stakeholders Budget Advisory Committee
- Virtual meeting with the Quantitative Reasoning Steering Committee
- Virtual meeting with U.C. Academic Senates Chair and Vice Chair on ACT/SAT, legislative advocacy, dual admissions, and Ethnic Studies

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

FEBRUARY

- Chaired the virtual February 2020 Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) meeting
- Virtual meeting CSU Admissions Advisory Council, Ad Hoc Extended Work Group to Examine the Role of Standardized Testing, Academic Year 2020-2021
- Virtual Chancellor's Legislative Advocacy Team
- Virtual interim meeting with ASCSU Executive Committee
- Virtual interim meeting with ASCSU Extended Executive Committee
- Virtual meeting with CFA Board of Directors
- Virtual meeting with CSSA (At-Large Senator Speak)
- Virtual meeting CSU Alumni Council
- Virtual meeting with CSU Campus Senate Chairs meeting
- Virtual meeting with CSU Council on Ethnic Studies Steering Committee Chair
- Virtual meeting with Executive Vice Chancellor Loren Blanchard and Assistant Vice Chancellor/Chancellor's Ex-officio representative to the Senate, Leo Van Cleve
- Virtual preparation meeting with ICAS Chairs
- Virtual meeting with CSU Stakeholders Advisory Committee (bi-weekly)
- Virtual meeting with CSU System Budget Advisory Committee
- Virtual meeting CSU Graduation Initiative (GI) 2025 Advisory Committee
- Virtual meeting with U.C. Academic Senates Chair and Vice Chair on ACT/SAT, dual admissions, Ethnic Studies, legislative advocacy, AB 928, and the California Community Colleges (CCC) budget ask to bring faculty together to discuss transfer efficiency

UPCOMING MARCH ACTIVITIES

- Preparing for virtual April 2021 ICAS meeting.
- Virtual meeting CSU Admissions Advisory Council, Ad Hoc Extended Work Group to Examine the Role of Standardized Testing, Academic Year 2020-2021
- Virtual meeting with CFA Board of Directors
- Virtual meeting with CSSA (At-Large Senator Speak)
- Virtual meeting CSU Alumni Council
- Virtual meeting CSU Board of Trustees
- Virtual meeting with the CSU GI 2025 Advisory Committee
- Virtual meeting with the CSU Quantitative Reasoning Steering Committee
- Virtual meeting with CSU Stakeholders Advisory Committee
- Virtual meeting with CSU System Budget Advisory Committee
- Virtual meeting with U.C. Academic Senates Chair and Vice Chair on ACT/SAT, legislative advocacy, dual admissions, and Ethnic Studies

- Virtual meeting with Elisha Smith Arrillaga, Executive Director of The Education Trust – West to continue discussions of the implications that the new CSU Quantitative Reasoning Requirement may have on underserved K-12 students
- Virtual meeting with Jeanice Warden (Principal Consultant for the Assembly Committee on Higher Education)
- Virtual meeting with U.C. Academic Senates Chair and Vice Chair on ACT/SAT, dual admissions, Ethnic Studies, legislative advocacy, AB 928, and CCC budget ask to bring faculty together to discuss transfer efficiency

KEY ISSUES

AB 928: THE STUDENT TRANSFER ACHIEVEMENT REFORM ACT OF 2021

On March 4, 2021, Vice Chair Yee-Melichar and I met with Ms. Ellen Greene – Legislative Director: Office of Assembly Member Marc Berman to discuss the draft language of AB 928, potential ICAS concerns about AB 928, and best practices for obtaining ASCSU feedback. Central in this discussion were the following three areas:

- Intersegmental Implementation Committee: This entity would serve as a state committee charged with Associate Degree for Transfer oversight.
- Consolidation of CSU and UC general education pathways into one pathway from CCC.
- Automatic ADT pathway placement at CCC.

The ASCSU Executive and Extended Executive Committees, especially the Standing Committee Chairs of our Academic Preparation and Educational Programs (APEP) and Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA) committees, have been asked to pay attention to this legislation and how it can lend to legislative intrusion into matters of curriculum, which is the purview of the ASCSU. All ASCSU Senators will be asked to provide feedback that will be shared with Ms. Greene and Assembly Member Berman at the April ICAS meeting. For more information please email me. A copy of the proposed legislation can be found using the following link:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB928

AB 1460 IMPLEMENTATION

Since our January 2020 plenary, and as liaison from the Executive Committee to the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies (CSUCES), I continue to maintain regular communication with CSUCES Chair Monteiro. Central in these conversations are strategies for maintaining effective communication between the ASCSU and advising needs of students in Ethnic Studies post-implementation. Recently conversations reveal the following concerns:

- The CSUCES is finishing their constitution and will hold leadership elections soon.
- The CSUCES is concerned that implementation is moving too quickly on campuses.
- The CSUCES is concerned that CSU Ethnic Studies faculty are not being included in campus-based implementation practices or being told how implementation of the requirement will look.
- The CSUCES is concerned that the Social Justice components of the CCC's curriculum will overshadow the Ethnic Studies in their curricula and lend to inconsistencies between CCC and CSU faculty expectations for the requirement.
- The CSUCES met with Chancellor Castro and is looking forward to continued communications with the ASCSU.

It is my sincere hope that communication will continue throughout the year and supplement the communications that occur between the Academic Affairs and the CSUCES to ensure disciplinary perspectives inform ASCSU efforts.

In a similar vein, I have maintained regular communication with Executive Vice Chancellor Loren Blanchard and Assistant Vice Chancellor Leo Van Cleve and campus senate chairs to ensure robust faculty input on the CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement draft policy. This practice will continue with Interim Executive Vice Chancellor Wood. Central in these discussions have been the ongoing importance of explaining the similarities and differences between ASCSU and Chancellor's Office (CO) purviews. These discussions have also included Chancellor's Office explanations of their purview and rationales behind the implementation of the new requirement.

The ASCSU Executive Committee will continue to map strategies for consultation on the implementation of AB 1460 and consult with Executive Vice Chancellor Loren Blanchard and Assistant Vice Chancellor Leo Van Cleve. These consultations continue to engage the ways in which the ASCSU is taking an active role in faculty consultation on curricular impacts caused by the implementation of AB 1460, best practices needed to ensure successful implementation and minimize campus curricular disruption, and ensure that campuses are able to implement the requirement according to their respective aims, missions, and values.

CALIFORNIA STATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (CSSA)

On March 6, 2021, I attended the CSSA plenary and presented the ASCSU Liaison Report to the CSSA during the Board of Directors segment of their plenary. Areas of potential concerns and/or collaboration included but were not limited to the following: preparation for their California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS) and a week-long legislative advocacy remote training session and meetings with legislators

and staffers for the State of California (see https://calstatestudents.org/documents-5/#_agendas), preparation of a “Fossil Fuel Resolution” and a “Revised Resolution on Reforming University Police Departments (UPD) Systemwide. The CSSA will hold a special meeting on March 18, 2021 to continue discuss and perfection of the resolutions. The CSSA also heard a presentation of student research from Ms. Kaur (San Jose State University) on “The Problem with Online Proctoring.” With the permissions of Ms. Kaur, CSSA Chair Vincente, and President Khuraibet, the link to this presentation has been shared the ASCSU. Please join me in sending good wishes to President Khuraibet as she deftly navigates power and water shortages in Texas while leading the CSSA.

CSU STAKEHOLDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On February 17, 2021 I attended the CSU Stakeholder Advisory Committee. This committee now meets bi-weekly. Committee members heard a report and update from Assistant Vice Chancellor Storm on budget advocacy. The discussion centered on the following:

1. The Governor’s Press Release suggests that the \$299 million will be restored. These one-time funds may also, if signed as part of the budget, be reoccurring; however, we must stay vigilant until the May revise and the final signing of the budget. One time funding does not guarantee reoccurring funding.
2. There seems to be agreement within the legislature for early action on the restoration portion of the CSU budget, which means that action can be taken as early as Monday, February 22, 2021.
3. Discussion about the CSU budget and advocacy will continue until mid-June.
4. It is important to continue pushing for more one-time funding through legislative advocacy, especially in the areas of GI 2025, deferred maintenance, etc.
5. It is important to express our gratitude for the restoration funding, while continuing to push for more. This push should address specifics regarding the good that the restored funding is doing for the CSU. Lande Ajose, Assemblymember Medina, Pro Tem Atkins, etc. all made such requests about specifics and exactly how the funds will be used (i.e. advising, etc.).
6. Chancellor Castro and campuses presidents have met and/or will continue to meet with the Caucuses (e.g. Black, Latino, Women’s, etc.).
7. Senator Leyva has raised and stressed the question regarding why the CSU does not have stable recurring funding and must visit every year to ask for funding. (Note: It is important for the ASCSU to meet with her.).
8. An economic impact report on the contributions of the CSU to the State of California is forthcoming.
9. It is important to remember that we are not done with budget advocacy until the budget is signed.

CSU SUMMER ARTS DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The ASCSU Executive Committee as members has recommended Senator Susan Schlievert (CSU Fresno) as CSU representative to the CSU Summer Arts Director Search Committee and Senator Elizabeth Sussman (CSU Northridge) as the alternate.

GI 2025 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On March 3, 2021, the CSU GI 2025 Advisory Committee met. This committee will provide recommendations to the chancellor and the Chancellor's Senior Leadership Council on (1) implementing universal adoption of strategies with demonstrated efficacy in improving student retention and graduation; (2) establishing campus-based metrics that would assist with accountability and allocation of GI 2025 legislative funding; (3) determining viable strategies to more aggressively close equity gaps, with targeted campus-by-campus analysis and adaptation; and (4) disseminating and reviewing progress reports for the system and campuses to guide future areas of focus.

INTERSEGMENTAL COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC SENATES (ICAS)

On March 2-3, 2021 I had the honor of convening the ICAS Leg Day meeting. This joint meeting of the Academic Senate leadership from the three segments (i.e., California Community Colleges [CCC], California State University [CSU], and University of California [UC]) of public higher education in the State of California engaged in conversations with the following legislators:

- Ellen Greene – Legislative Director: Office of Assembly Member Marc Berman
- Senator John Laird – Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #1 (Education) & Dante Golden – Legislative Aide
- Joey Freeman – Chief Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary; Lande Ajose – Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor; Emily Patterson – Legislative Assistant
- Dominick Correy - District Representative, Office of Senator Portantino
- Senator Richard Pan – Senate Education Committee
- Edwin Kirby – District Director & Davon Thomas – Legislative Aide
- Jeanice Warden-Washington – Chief Consultant, Kevin Powers – Senior Consultant, & Ellen Cesaretti-Monroy – Associate Consultant, Assembly Higher Education Committee
- Assembly Member Jose Medina – Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee

The conversations included discussion and presentation of the following ICAS priorities:

- Resource supports: Faculty in all three segments have – and continue to – enable student success, even in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic. ICAS will continue to work with legislative partners to identify effective levels of resources needed to meet the high expectations placed on California's public higher education

system, as each segment seeks to ensure student academic success, meet students' basic needs, and meet our state's workforce demands.

- Faculty Diversity and Professional Development: Faculty in all three segments remain committed to the recruitment and retention of colleagues who reflect the diversity of the student populations we serve. This reflection includes, but is not limited to, ethnicity, gender, race, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, and formerly incarcerated, first-generation, and veteran statuses.
- Formerly Incarcerated Student Success: Faculty in all three segments are committed to reducing barriers to success faced by formerly incarcerated students. Their success is evident in the low recidivism rates and high graduation rates. ICAS actively examines the pathways necessary for students to make the transition from incarcerated to A.A., B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.
- Further Reducing Barriers to Student Transfer: Faculty in all three segments continue to collaborate on and enable the streamlining of student transfer from the California Community College system to the California State University and the University of California systems.
- Mental Health: Faculty in all three segments are committed to the mental health and well-being of students and faculty, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic, as faculty success is indelibly linked to student success.

ICAS will continue to work on the following related to segmental priorities:

CSU: Intersegmental collaborations related to how to further reduce barriers to student transfer, mental health and faculty and student success during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and formerly incarcerated student success. As an initiative, ICAS will also collectively work develop joint position statements on the following:

1. Further Reducing Barriers to Students Transfer
2. Support Necessary to Decrease Faculty Burn-out
3. Formerly Incarcerated Student Success
4. Cultural Competence to Reduce Barriers to Learning

UC: Working with Incarcerated or Formerly Incarcerated Students was discussed. Central in this discussion was the potential for ICAS endorsement and transfer pathways for incarcerated students. A debrief from the UC Regents Session was provided. Academic integrity concerns related to Chegg and K-12 Prep issues were also discussed.

CCC: Articulation and CCC Course Outlines and Faculty Discipline Review Groups (FDRG) Requirements for Course Identification Numbering System (C-ID). Central in these discussions was the need for greater CSU faculty participation in the process and how to enable more effective communication between the segments on transfer. The

CCC also invited guests, Darla Cooper, Executive Director and Alyssa Nguyen, Director of Research & Evaluation from the Research and Planning Group to discuss the barrier to transfer found in their studies of student experiences. Updates on the Community College Baccalaureate and associated legislation, IGETC Standards Subcommittee Membership and ESL students in higher education were also provided.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST OFFICE (LAO) FEEDBACK

Lisa Qing and Jason Constanturos from the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) extended their gratitude to the ASCSU for the comprehensive feedback on the Governor's Budget. This feedback and associated data will enable understanding of faculty perspectives on the limitations, impacts, and strengths of expecting the CSU to increase the share of courses by 10%, expecting the CSU to create a dual admissions policy with the CCC, and additional funds for faculty professional development during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This concludes my report for the March 2021 plenary. Please feel free to email me questions at rcollins@calstate.edu. It is an honor to serve you all and I look forward to the great works that we continue to accomplish together.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Keith Collins, PhD