

## **Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) Chair's Report**

September 12, 2017 to October 31, 2017

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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

#### **September**

- California State Student Association in Fullerton
- Board of Trustees meeting in Long Beach
- Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates in Sacramento
- Webcast on Executive Orders (virtual)

#### **October**

- Interim meeting with Chancellor White in Long Beach
- Discipline faculty consultation meeting (virtual)
- Graduation Initiative Symposium in Long Beach
- Academic Council in Long Beach
- Campus Senate Chairs' Council in Long Beach
- ASCSU interim (virtual)
- California State Student Association in Sonoma (cancelled due to fires)
- Advocacy training in San Jose
- Northridge campus senate meeting at CSUN
- Meeting with CSSA President in Sacramento
- General Education Task Force in Sacramento
- Evaluation of Alumni Trustee (virtual)

#### **Upcoming**

- Board of Trustees in Long Beach
- Meeting with legislative specialist in Sacramento
- California State Student Association in San Luis Obispo

### **Upcoming (Cont'd)**

- Academic Council in San Francisco
- Campus senate chairs in Long Beach
- ASCSU interim (virtual)
- Interim meeting with Chancellor White in Long Beach
- Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates in Sacramento
- General Education Task Force in Long Beach
- Academic Council in Sacramento
- Alumni Council (virtual)

### Key Issues

#### **Senate Functioning**

A quick reminder, Senators: if you asked ASCSU Staff to arrange hotel reservations for you for any meetings this year, and if you find you need to make changes to a reservation, please do so yourselves. You should have received from the hotel a confirmation number for your reservation; our staff does not have access to that information, so you are in the best position to make adjustments to your booking.

#### **Responses to Executive Orders**

If you've been following your email, you've seen messages by me and others announcing that senates on campus after campus have approved resolutions in response to Executive Orders 1100 (revised) and 1110. So far, nineteen campus senates have passed resolutions, and three more will be acted upon this month. As I understand it, the final campus of the 23 simply has not had an opportunity to consider whether to take up a resolution. Most of the resolutions passed so far can be found here:

<http://www.csueastbay.edu/faculty/senate/files/docs/senate-committee/17-18/docs/resolutions-regarding-executive-orders.html>

Each one of the 22 resolutions developed is critical rather than laudatory of the Executive Orders. Critiques range from process to content to timeline. Process arguments are situated in observations about shared governance issues; content arguments take issue with specific changes and restrictions in the Executive Orders; and timeline arguments acknowledge the overly ambitious (perhaps impossible) timetable for change.

Taken as a whole, these resolutions illustrate that faculty are fulfilling their professional responsibility as stewards of the curriculum, while they simultaneously seek to maintain the unique culture and character of their individual campus as manifest in its curriculum. Faculty are looking for, and in some cases finding, ways to meet system mandates while modifying curricula that took years of thoughtful planning, all in the space of weeks or a few quick months, and all the while doing their most important job: providing a high-quality educational experience that changes students' lives.

The fact that ASCSU as well as nearly every one of the campus senates in the CSU has passed a resolution critical of the Executive Orders should not go unnoticed. Indeed, such a united voice among faculty deserves to be highlighted. More importantly, the conditions under which faculty were compelled to be critical should be addressed to forestall their reoccurrence.

The conditions to which I refer are rooted in problems with shared governance and consultation. As noted earlier, both the ASCSU resolution as well as campus voices highlight concerns with shared

governance processes. Therefore, the Executive Committee will offer at this plenary meeting a resolution on “Shared Governance and Consultation in the CSU.” That resolution recommends adoption of a short “Statement on Shared Governance and Consultation in the California State University,” as well as a more lengthy companion document, “Principles of Consultation with Faculty.” The Executive Committee is *not* seeking a waiver of our first reading rules for this resolution or its associated documents. The Executive Committee will be discussing these materials with standing committee chairs on Wednesday morning, and the documents themselves will be sent electronically under separate cover soon after release of this report.

### **Graduation Initiative Symposium**

As you know, Graduation Initiative 2025 is rooted in improving student success . . . whatever that means. What “student success” means was the subject of my remarks to those assembled at the Graduation Initiative Symposium earlier this month. I would like to see us (by which I mean faculty generally, and ASCSU specifically) engage the topic of how to define student success, most especially because I think it’s important that such a definition not become shorthand for “graduation rates.” I only had 8 minutes to scratch the surface of this topic, but if I’d had more time I would have developed an argument that defining student success has implications for social justice. Since “student success” is the frame for the Graduation Initiative, it’s vital to have a clearly defined sense of what we mean when we use those words. You can see my remarks here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1140&v=svvMTR8ktjU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1140&v=svvMTR8ktjU)

Respectfully submitted,

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