



**Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU)**

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**ASCSU Chair's Report**  
**September Plenary 2021**  
**September 2-3, 2021**

“Our expanding ethnic diversity of this century, a time when we will all be minorities, offers us an invitation to create a larger memory of who we are as Americans and to reaffirm our founding principle of equality. Let’s put aside fears of the disuniting of America and warnings of the clash of civilizations. As Langston Hughes sang, Let America be America, where equality is in the air we breathe.” – **Ronald Takaki**

Good morning everyone! Welcome to new senators and returning senators, it is great to see you all again. You all have been missed. Greetings from the lands of the Huichin, Ohlone in Richmond, CA. I hope that everyone one is well and staying healthy. It is an honor to represent and serve the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU). When former professor and colleague, Asian American and Ethnic Studies scholar Ronald Takaki made this statement, his goal was to engage the pulse of the belonging that mankind can achieve through common unity. While common unity is the platform that I ran on, it is through the principle of enabling belonging – the agency behind common unity – that I challenge all of us to let guide the experiment of curriculum maintenance through shared governance, as we carry forward this year. Let the principle of belonging, heard in the oral histories of the California Native first stewards upon whose lands our institutions of higher learning reside and whose peoples are now part of our professorate, as well as our students – both undergraduate and graduate – seeking self-discovery, self-determination, and social mobility, serve as a reminder of all that we as the curricular faculty enable through our own success in pursuit of the scholarship of teaching and learning. In this spirit of belonging, that it is also an honor to offer my first chair’s report to the 2021-2022 ASCSU plenary and present my efforts on behalf of the ASCSU since June 1, 2021. Two practices have shaped my approach to further promoting common unity and enabling belonging: effective communication and advocating for how faculty success enables student success. These efforts have included, but were not limited to the following:

**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

*Activities and Meetings*

- **June**
  - Concluded service on the CSU Search Committee for the next CSU Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.
  - Consulted with Assistant Vice Chancellor Van Cleve on strategies for monitoring the implementation of the CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement.
  - Consulted with Associate Director Simpson-Alisca, Undergraduate Transfer Programs and Policy on strategies for robust Ethnic Studies faculty participation in the Faculty Discipline Review Groups (FDRG) and Course Identification (C-ID) processes.
  - Consulted with Ms. Tracy on the June ICAS meeting and summer duties before transition to the new U.C. Chair.
  - Consulted with Ms. Simpson-Alisca, Undergraduate Transfer Programs and Policy on the FDRG committees in need of CSU faculty.
  - Continued contact and discussions with members of the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies, on AB 1460 implementation and best practices for consultation with the ASCSU through the Academic Affairs Standing Committee.
  - Continued consultation with Ms. Tracy on the Faculty Trustee next steps.
  - Continued service on the CSU Admissions Advisory Council, Ad Hoc Extended Work Group to Examine the Role of Standardized Testing, 2020-2021.
  - Continued service on the CSU Naming Review Committee.
  - Continued service on the CSU Quantitative Reasoning Steering Committee.
  - Continued Zoom meetings and consultation on best practices for effective communication with Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) Chairs. The following discussions continue: AB 927, AB 928, and AB 1111, how to bring faculty together to discuss ADTs and transfer, and addressing barriers to effective transfer through an intersegmental transfer working group. The need for greater student academic advising also continues to be discussed.
  - Met with Interim Executive Vice Chancellor Wood to discuss agenda settings and ASCSU and CO concerns.
  - Chaired the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) meeting on June 1, 2021. Central in meeting was the discussion and presentation of the following:
    - ~ Transfer: Central in this discussion was the question of whether or not transfer was broken. If transfer is broken, then what needs fixing. If not, then it is important to unite and challenge the narrative of its ineffective nature.
    - ~ Ethnic Studies: How do we enable intersegmental best practices and communication on the requirement?

- ~ AB 928 (Berman)
  - ~ ICAS position statements.
  - ~ Faculty Diversity within the segments and ACR 73.
  - ~ The following legislators and staffers met with ICAS:
    - Lark Park – Director, California Education Learning Lab.
  - Remotely attended the CSU Alumni Council meeting. Written report given due to conflict.
  - Remotely attended the California Faculty Association (CFA) meeting and presented an ASCSU Chair Liaison Report.
  - Remotely attended the bi-weekly CSU Stakeholders Budget Advisory Committee meeting.
  - Remotely attended the Graduation Initiative (GI) 2025 Advisory Committee.
- **July**
    - Attended the CSU Stakeholders Budget Advisory Committee meeting.
    - Consulted with AVC Van Cleve on strategies for monitoring the implementation of the CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement, especially concerns surrounding AB 928.
    - Consulted with Associate Director Simpson-Alisca, Undergraduate Transfer Programs and Policy on strategies for robust Ethnic Studies faculty participation in the FDRG and C-ID processes.
    - Consulted with Ms. Tracy on ICAS summer duties before transition to the new U.C. Chair of ICAS.
    - Consulted with Ms. Tracy on hy-flex (i.e., in-person and remote meeting options at senator convenience) meeting options for ASCSU plenary and ASCSU Standing Committees.
    - Continued contact and discussions with members of the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies, on AB 1460 implementation and best practices for consultation with the ASCSU through the Academic Affairs Standing Committee.
    - Continued consultation with Ms. Tracy on the Faculty Trustee next steps.
    - Continued service on the CSU Naming Review Committee.
    - Continued Zoom meetings and consultation on best practices for effective communication with Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) Chairs. The following discussions continue: AB 928, ACT/ SAT, the new CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement's impact on ADTs, and addressing barriers to effective transfer. The need for greater student academic advising continues to be a concern.
    - Met with Interim EVC Wood to discuss agenda setting and the possibility of regular meetings between the next EVC and the CSU Campus Senate Chairs. The possibility for regular agenda setting meetings with Chancellor Castro and

new EVC Alva was also discussed. The possibility for meetings with the CSU Campus Senate Chairs was also discussed.

- Met with Chancellor Castro to hear updates on the forthcoming vaccination policy.
  - Met with Dr. Lande Ajose about how the ASCSU and ICAS can serve as resources on improving faculty diversity.
  - Met with members of the CSU Alumni Council on starting discussions on how Alumni can serve as a resource in the classroom.
- **August**
    - Attended remote meeting and gave liaison report to the California Faculty Association (CFA) Board of Directors.
    - Attended remote meeting of the Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee.
    - Continued service on the CSU Naming Review Committee.
    - Continued remote contact and discussions with members of the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies, on practices for consultation with the ASCSU through the Academic Affairs Standing Committee.
    - Continued remote conversations with AVC Van Cleve on AB 928 and welcoming EVC Alva.
    - Continued remote meetings and consultation on best practices for effective communication with ICAS Chairs. The following are the tentative working discussion for the fall: AB 927, AB 928, the new CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement's impact on ADTs, and addressing barriers to effective transfer, and student advising.
    - Hosted the 2021 ASCSU-CO Retreat on "Enabling Belonging: Reducing Barriers to CSU Student Engagement, Success, and Wellness During the COVID-19 Pandemic".
    - Met remotely with the CFA Board and present ASCSU Chair Liaison Report.
    - Met remotely, along with the ASCSU Executive and Extended Executive Committees, for a meet and greet with EVC Alva.
    - Met remotely, along with the ASCSU Executive and Extended Executive Committees, for and meet and greet with new California State Student Association (CSSA) Liaison to the ASCSU, Ms. Ruelas, CSSA Executive Director Tran-Martin and CSSA Associate Director Christopher Woolett.
    - Met remotely with U.C. Senate Chair Mary Gauvain and Vice Chair Robert Horowitz to discuss strategies for moving forward with opposition to AB 928.
    - Will plan to meet remotely with California State Student Associate (CSSA) President Alferos to discuss strategies for effective messaging of ASCSU efforts to enable integrity in the implementation of the new CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement.

- Will plan to meet remotely for a joint ASCSU Executive and Extended Executive Committee meeting with the new CSSA Executive Leadership.
- Worked remotely with Legislative Specialist Schutte on tracking AB 927, AB 928, and AB 1111.
- Worked remotely with segment Senate Chairs on ICAS to send veto request letter to the governor.
- **Tentative September Activities**
  - Virtual September Board of Trustees meeting.
  - Virtual Agenda Setting meeting with Chancellor White, EVC Alva, and AVC Van Cleve.
  - Planning for remote CSU Campus Senate Chair's meeting in October.
  - Planning virtual campus visits.

It is my sincere hope that you all find the aforementioned principles of enabling belonging and common unity in all efforts that I have engaged. There are five areas of discussion that we should engage, which are as follows:

- Continue exploring faculty concerns regarding campus repopulation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Continue exploring how the ASCSU might we provide resources to the Chancellor's Office on matters of curriculum related to the four areas engaged during the ASCSU-CO Retreat on "Enabling Belonging: Reducing Barriers to CSU Student Engagement, Success, and Wellness During the COVID-19 Pandemic". The areas are as follows:
  - ~ Building a Culture of Belonging, Mental Health, and Well-Being: Demarginalizing Race, Gender, Class, and Ability in the CSU During the Pandemic.
  - ~ Academic Technology and Access to Enable Faculty and Student Belonging and Success
  - ~ Funding the CSU: Legislative Advocacy that Enables Faculty and Student Belonging and Success
  - ~ GI 2025: Enabling Belonging Through Expectations for Equitable Student Success
- Continue exploring how the ASCSU might we begin collaborating with the CSSA and Chancellor's Office in virtual legislative advocacy early this fall in order to improve our footprint in Sacramento.
- Continue exploring the impact of the shift to online teaching during the COVID-19 Pandemic and what implications this shift holds for what works and what doesn't work for online education in the CSU.
- Explore collaborative avenues for enhancing faculty diversity systemwide.

### ***Key Issues***

- **AB 927, AB 928, AB 1111**
  - There are three pieces of legislation that stand to impact the CSU curriculum if signed into law. They are as follows:
    - AB 927: AB-927 Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program.
      - ~ [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB927](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB927)
    - This proposed legislation, “would extend the operation of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program indefinitely. The bill would remove the requirements that the program consist of a maximum of 15 community college district programs and for a student to commence a program by the end of the 2022–23 academic year. The bill would require a community college district seeking approval to offer a baccalaureate degree program to provide evidence of unmet workforce needs to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, as provided. The bill would require, as part of the application and review process, the chancellor to ensure that a community college district is provided with 2 timelines in which to apply for a baccalaureate degree program and receive notice of approval or rejection, as specified, that only 15 baccalaureate degree programs are approved during each application period allowing for a total of 30 baccalaureate degree programs per academic year, that the total number of baccalaureate degree programs offered by a community college district does not exceed 25% of the total number of associate degree programs offered by the community college district, as specified, and that a minimum of 30 working days is taken to validate the submitted information and assess the workforce value of the proposed baccalaureate degree program, as specified. The bill would require the chancellor to consult with and seek feedback from the Chancellor of the California State *University*, the President of the University of *California, and the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities* on proposed baccalaureate degree programs, as specified. The bill would require a community college district to continue to offer an associate degree program in the same academic subject for which a baccalaureate degree program has been approved, unless the community college district has received approval from the chancellor to eliminate the associate degree program, as specified.”  
(Note: Italics indicated amended bill language.)
  - AB 928: AB-928 Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee.
    - ~ [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB928](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB928)

- Central in this bill is a legislation of an “Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee to serve as the primary entity charged with the oversight of the ADT. The bill would specify the committee’s membership. The bill would assign numerous duties to the committee, including the duty to establish timelines and reporting deadlines relating to reviews of transfer model curricula, and the duty to develop a comprehensive communications plan and guidance to inform students about the ADT pathway. The bill would also require the committee, on or before December 31, 2023, to provide the Legislature with recommendations on certain issues impeding the scaling of the ADT and streamlining transfer across segments for students.
- The bill would require the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates of the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, on or before May 31, 2023, to establish a singular lower division general education pathway that meets the academic requirements necessary for transfer admission to the California State University and the University of California, and would require, if the committee is unable to come to agreement on or before May 31, 2023, the respective administrative bodies of those segments to establish a singular lower division general education pathway that meets the academic requirements necessary for transfer admission to the California State University and the University of California by December 31, 2023. The bill would require the singular lower division general education pathway, commencing with the fall term of the 2025–26 academic year, to be the only lower division general education pathway used to determine eligibility and sufficient academic preparation for transfer into both segments, and to not lengthen the *time-to-degree or include more units than those required under the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum on July 1, 2021*. These requirements pertaining to the singular lower division general education pathway would apply to the University of California only if the regents adopt an appropriate resolution, as required by existing law.” (Note: Italics indicated amended bill language.)
- AB 1111: AB-1111 Postsecondary education: common course numbering system.
  - ~ [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1111](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1111)
- **This proposed legislation,** “would require the California Community Colleges, on or before July 1, *2024*, to adopt a common course numbering system for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses, and require each community college campus, on or before July 1,

*2024*, to incorporate common course numbers from the adopted system into its course catalog. The bill would require the common course numbering system to be student facing and ensure that comparable courses across all community colleges have the same course number. By requiring community college campuses to incorporate common course numbers in their catalogs, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.” (Note: Italics indicated amended bill language.)

- Although the ASCSU positions of “oppose unless amend and opposed” have been recorded and legislative advocacy engaged thanks to the work of FGA, with particular thanks to the deft summer advocacy of Legislative Specialist Schutte, these bill are still on track to become laws. Therefore, as ASCSU Chair, I have called on all ASCSU Standing Committee Chairs to work with their committees, and in collaboration, to exercise the full extent of their charges, and find avenues for getting out in front of this legislation. On behalf of the ASCSU Executive Committee, I humbly ask all of you, as current and future committee members, to ensure that avenues of communication with your campus colleagues and constituents remain open and all information received by the ASCSU shared with the utmost transparency, so that their feedback informs our work ahead.
- **ASCSU Budget**
  - The ASCSU have received it 2021-22 budget. Although requests for increases in our academic conference, travel budget and summer stipends for ASCSU Executive Committee members were funding, it is an honor to announce that the request for funding of first year senators was approved. Despite the shortfall, let us appreciate this investment into the work of the ASCSU. First year senators will receive 3 teaching unit of release in the spring. During this plenary, first year senators will attend orientation, be introduced to the charge and work of standing committees, and be encouraged to remotely visit standings committees during their interim meetings. Committee preference forms will be provides and committees assignments will be made prior to the November plenary.
- **CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement Implementation**
  - Now that new CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement is being implemented, the ASCSU Executive Committee will continue to monitor implementation. The new Chair of AA has been asked to reach out to the Chair Monteiro and the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies to continue effective communication on campus concerns that arise during implementation and course approval processes. The targeted and system wide call for Ethnic Studies FRDG participants received a robust response. Faculty that were not selected to serve on the FDRG were asked to participate in other areas of the C-ID

process. has continued mapping strategies for consultation on the implementation of AB 1460 and continued consultation with EVC Blanchard and AVC Van Cleve. Central in these consultations have been the importance of the ASCSU taking an active role in the faculty consultation on curricular impacts caused by the implementation of AB 1460 and best practices needed to ensure successful implementation and minimize campus curricular disruption.

- **ASCSU 2021-2022 Goals and Visions**

- The ASCSU Executive Committee and Chairs of each of the ASCSU Standing Committees, have established goals and visions for enabling belonging and maintaining common unity during the 2021-2022 academic year. These goals and visions were discussed and shared during the July 7, 2021 Extended Executive Committee meeting and will be shared with committee membership to guide their efforts and future resolutions. The goals and visions of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate of the California State University seek to enable and strengthen the following:
  - ~ Effective communication during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - ~ Faculty success to ensure student success
  - ~ Shared governance and reinforcement of ASCSU purview under HEERA
- These goals and visions were central in the creation of the theme for the 2021 ASCSU – CO Leadership Retreat.

- **2021 ASCSU – CO Leadership Retreat**

- On August 25, 2021, the ASCSU hosted the Fall 2021 ASCSU-CO Leadership Retreat: Enabling Belonging: Reducing Barriers to CSU Student Engagement, Success, and Wellness During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. This gathering leadership from the ASCSU, CSU Office of the Chancellor, California State Student Association (CSSA), CFA, CSUEU, and other stakeholders, engaged in conversations related to four breakout areas and produced a minimum of two recommendations for collaboration during the 2021-2022 academic year. The breakout areas were as follows:
- **Breakout #1**
  - ~ Breakout #1: Building a Culture of Belonging, Mental Health, and Well-Being: Demarginalizing Race, Gender, Class, and Ability in the CSU During the Pandemic. (ASCSU At-Large Senator Nola Butler Byrd/ Faculty Affairs Chair Irene Matz/ ASCSU Secretary Thomas Norman)

- **Breakout #2**
  - ~ Breakout #2: Academic Technology and Access to Enable Faculty and Student Belonging and Success (ASCSU Vice Chair Beth Steffel/ Academic Affairs Chair Simon Rodan)
- **Breakout #3**
  - ~ Breakout #3: Funding the CSU: Legislative Advocacy that Enables Faculty and Student Belonging and Success (ASCSU At-Large Senator David Speak / Fiscal and Government Affairs Chair Betsy Boyd)
- **Breakout #4**
  - ~ Breakout #4: GI 2025: Enabling Belonging Through Expectations for Equitable Student Success (Robert Keith Collins, ASCSU Chair/ Academic Preparation and Education Programs Chair Rick Ford/ Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee Chair Van Selst)
- This retreat produced in-depth conversations that all senators are encouraged to engage over the 2021-2022 academic year. If you all have found these breakout conversations of interest, then please do not hesitate to contact the breakout leader.

This concludes my first plenary report for 2021-2022. It would be a pleasure to answer any questions that you all may have. It is an honor to serve you all and I look forward to the great works that we accomplish together.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Keith Collins, PhD