

Academic Senate CSU
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Chair's Report

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Happy New Year! Brief Announcements

- Campus nominations for faculty trustee were due last Friday.
- Our plenary guests this week will be Larry Schlereth and Gail Brooks (Common Management System update) and Ben Quillian (budget).
- Congratulations to John Tarjan, who became grandfather to Jackson Clinton since our last plenary.
- The ASCSU Executive Committee is considering forming a special committee on massive open online courses (MOOCs). More information to follow.
- The Governor's Task Force on Tolerance and Anti-Semitism Training has been removed from our committee list, as it is no longer in existence.
- A joint AA-ASCSU committee to advise the CSU Chancellor on the transition from the EAP to the Smarter Balanced assessment system is being formed. Members will be drawn from Math Council, English Council, and ASCSU.
- The launch of the Cal State Online student-facing website (www.calstateonline.com) was announced last week.

Meeting with Chancellor White

The ASCSU Executive Committee will have its first meeting with Chancellor White on January 16 from 11:00-11:30, and all available senators will meet with him from 11:30 to noon (Dumke). The priorities developed from our poll of committees in December, which fall into the general categories of improving the process of shared governance, investing in academic excellence, and achieving the CSU mission, have been forwarded to Chancellor White.

WASC Redesign

Our WASC Redesign Committee learned in early December that the WASC Commission approved the deletion of the guideline for CFR 2.2a at its November meeting. This guideline specifies that institutions have integrated 45 units of general

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

education into their curriculum, including at the upper division level. We were concerned about the removal of any guidelines setting normative expectations for institutions regarding curriculum. Our committee, joined by members of Executive Committee, had a conference call with Ralph Wolff and others on January 4th to discuss this. A compromise suggested during the call was to leave the guideline, but remove the reference to 45 units. Thus, in contrast to the currently proposed elimination of the entire guideline, we were asked if we could endorse the following:

GUIDELINE: The institution has a program of General Education that is integrated throughout the curriculum, including at the upper division level, ~~consisting of a minimum of 45 semester units (or the equivalent)~~, together with significant study in depth in a given area of knowledge (typically described in terms of a major).

We will be taking this up at our plenary this week; our Academic Affairs Committee has already drafted a resolution that it will discuss on Wednesday. ICAS unanimously voted to send a letter pertaining to this issue to WASC at our meeting last Friday.

ASCSU 50th Anniversary Event

We are marking the 50th Anniversary of the ASCSU during our plenary on March 14th from 12:00 noon to 6:30 pm. The agenda includes lunch, a panel of speakers, and break-out sessions. A reception will follow. We are (of course) focusing on shared governance, both now and in the future. Many thanks to all who have served on the planning of this event over the past year.

Amendment to ASCSU Constitution

Thirteen campuses have voted on the amendment on academic freedom as of 12/13/12 (12 approved, 1 disapproved). Results from three additional campuses are pending by mid-January. After we have approval from a majority of campuses and a majority of faculty, the item goes to the BOT. It has already been approved by General Counsel.

C-ID Course Reviewers Needed

I've been informed that additional faculty need to be recruited and appointed to serve as course reviewers for the intersegmental C-ID process. This is a web-based process that faculty complete on an as-needed basis. The criteria are that individuals be full-time (usually senior) tenure/tenure track faculty with previous significant curriculum and/or articulation experience (preferably with an intersegmental perspective), and have the support of a department chair/ASCSU campus senator. Faculty in the following areas are needed: Accounting, Administration of Justice, Anthropology, Art History, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Child Development, Communication Studies, Computer Science, Early Childhood Education, Economics, Elementary Education, Engineering, English, Geography, Geology, History, Information Technology/Systems, Journalism, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Music, Nursing, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Radio/TV/Film, Social Work, Spanish, Studio Arts, Theatre. If you are able to serve,

please contact me immediately. Barbara Swerkes, our past ASCSU colleague, is coordinating; she can be contacted at Barbara.swerkes@csun.edu. Shortly, a letter will be sent to provosts and campus senate chairs seeking nominations.

Recognizing Outstanding CSU Faculty

Based on a recommendation of our Faculty Affairs Committee, CO Communications staff are developing content to highlight the outstanding faculty from each of our universities on the system website. Faculty receiving campus wide awards have been identified by working through the academic senate chairs. Most campuses have one to five such awards, although the range is from 0 to 10. Tracy and I have met with the CO staff to discuss the concept, and we have a second meeting this week to look at preliminary designs.

SB 1052/SB 1053 Open Educational Resources/Digital Library

These bills were approved last fall. The goal is to reduce textbook costs by increasing the adoption of free and low-cost instructional materials housed in a digital library. The academic senate chairs of the three segments met with Senator Steinberg and his staff in December. We are currently discussing the framework for appointing three faculty from each segment to serve on a Council to implement the bill. The law makes available \$5 million, which can be accessed as matching funds become available to fund the project (none available as of now). Gerry Hanley is working closely with us and has provided critical support in identifying operational principles and developing a sustainable framework.

Meeting with Governor Brown

At the November BOT meeting, Governor Brown invited Trustee Cheyne, Glen Brodowsky, Lillian Taiz, and me to meet with him to explore ways that technology might be used to drive down the cost of higher education. We met with him for two hours at the end of December. We made him aware of the cost effectiveness of the CSU and explained to him that quality online education had student-faculty ratios similar to face-to-face, that we already have many online courses and degree programs, and that online programs are not suitable for many undergraduate students. He stated that the California budget will not allow a large restoration of funds to higher education, and we need to do more with less. We left him with [President Alexander's](#) data and recommendations. Governor Brown said he would see us at the next BOT meeting.

Academic Council

The Academic Council (provosts and AA leadership) met on 1/9 and 1/10. Topics included:

- SB 1440: The possibility of identifying “compatible” degrees for STAR was discussed.
- Data Center Services Initiative: CSU cyberinfrastructure strategy document was reviewed.

- Higher Education and California's Future: Researchers from the [PPIC](#) reviewed recent reports (*Californians and the Future* and *Defunding Higher Education*). (CSU and public higher education did well in the surveys.)
- Open Textbooks: SB 1052 was reviewed.
- MOOCs: A small committee will discuss the issue of MOOCs and awarding of credit.
- Smarter Balanced Update: Bev Young reported on the timeline for the Smarter Balanced assessment.

Please contact me for additional information on any of these topics.

Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)

ICAS met on 1/11/13. The major item of discussion was SB 1052. As mentioned earlier, ICAS unanimously agreed to send a letter to WASC on the proposed elimination of the guideline for CFR 2.2a. The Campaign for College Opportunity report ([Meeting Compliance, but Missing the Mark](#)) was discussed, and additional metrics were explored. I shared the ASCSU first reading item on the IGETC for STEM majors; our formal approval is required to add the sequence of courses to the IGETC Standards document. There is controversy about alternative math pathways (such as STATWAY) designed for students who do not plan to major in a STEM field. This will continue to be examined at ICAS. The Smarter Balanced assessment for 11th graders, which will lead to the phase out of EAP, was discussed. Finally, we briefly discussed MOOCs. The use of MOOCs as a resource to faculty to supplement their instruction and the possible conditions under which students could earn academic credit for MOOCs were discussed. (This was a very brief discussion.)

ASCSU needs to appoint three faculty to serve on a subgroup that will write the charge to update the [Science Competencies](#) statement. We have specifically been requested to recruit an earth sciences faculty member. Please let me know if you have a faculty colleague in earth sciences, physics, biology, or chemistry who might be interested in serving. We need to forward three names in the next few weeks.

Rebooting CA Higher Education: Leveraging Innovations in Online Education to Improve Cost Effectiveness and Increase Quality

At the December meeting with Senator Steinberg that I referenced earlier, the three chairs of the academic senates were invited to an event organized by [Twenty Million Minds](#). The event took place at UCLA on 1-8-13 and featured a number of providers, legislators, two students, university officials, and a faculty panel (senate chairs and union leaders) with the stated purpose of "raise awareness and discuss key issues regarding the potential for online education to lower the costs for higher education in California." From the CSU, the positive results of a flipped class in electric circuits were shared from SJSU.

The faculty panel met prior to the event to discuss talking points, such as that faculty are interested in teaching online and using technology, that we already have online

programs, that online programs are not effective for all students (particularly those served by CCC and CSU), that high-quality online programs are not cheaper, the magnitude of higher education cuts in the state budget, that our students may not have access to the technology needed for online instruction, and that important learning also takes place outside the classroom. At the end of the day, I think there was a lack of appreciation of the value of a liberal arts education, that a college education is more than job training, and how changes in instructional modes will influence the operation of the entire university (including scholarly/creative activities, service). Given that the tuition for CSU and cost per degree is among the most affordable in the nation, I believe we need to clarify for whom the organizers were seeking to lower the costs.