

ASCSU Chair's Report
Steven Filling
January 22, 2015

Greetings all, and welcome back. I hope that you had the best of holidays and that you return refreshed, relaxed and reinvigorated. The following report highlights activities since our last plenary in November

Academic Conference

As you're aware, our Academic Conference took place immediately following the November Board of Trustees meeting. A very sincere thank you to Vice Chair Miller for her leadership of the conference team and for her attention to the myriad details of making the conference a reality. Thank you also to the Conference Planning Team, ASCSU staff, and the Chancellors Office event planning team, whose work allowed the conference to take place, and to Chancellor White for funding the conference and for understanding the importance of developing relationships across stakeholder groups. Finally, we would be remiss if we did not thank conference attendees for finding time to attend the conference and engaging so fully in the discussion.

The Executive Committee and the Conference Planning Committee are currently engaged in review and analysis of conference surveys and will be providing a report to the ASCSU when that process is complete. As you're aware, Chancellor White agreed to provide funding for the Conference for three years, and we will be moving forward with initial planning for the next conference.

Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee

Please join me in thanking Erick Eschker for taking on the responsibilities of FGA Vice Chair. Senator Browne is on sabbatical this term and we are appreciative of Erick's willingness to step in.

CSU Sustainable Financial Model Task Force

The CSU Sustainable Financial Model Task Force, which includes Trustee Stepanek and myself, continues its work. Recent agenda items include a review of financial aid in the CSU, campus budget principles and resource allocation models. The Task Force is in the process of establishing work groups that will focus on revenue generation, budget allocation, enrollment management and communications. The Task Force is charged with consulting with CSU constituency groups including the ASCSU and anticipates meeting its charge of proposing a sustainable plan to the Chancellor in April 2015. Senators should anticipate presentation of the Task Force's work at our March plenary.

Campus Chairs Council

The Campus Senate Chairs Council met in December. There was considerable discussion of the 120/180 unit cap implementation/exception process and it was clear that the process was not uniform across campuses. Campus chairs also shared information on initial efforts to develop policy for awards of assigned time for exceptional levels of service to students that was a part of the new collective bargaining agreement. ASCSU facilitated a teleconference with CFA bargaining team leadership for campus chairs in early January and the chairs from Fullerton and Sonoma shared the policies developed and implemented on their campuses. The group will meet again in February.

Legislative Update

Building on last year's efforts to expand ASCSU conversations with legislators and policy makers, we have been continuing our work in Sacramento. As previously reported, Vice Chair Miller and I met with Assembly Higher Education Committee Senior Consultant Laura Metune and Speaker Atkins' staff member Monica Henestroza in early December. The conversation focused on performance measures and we were invited to provide suggestions concerning alternative/additional performance measures that might provide a more nuanced and informative perspective on CSU outcomes. It was clear that augmenting resources allocated to the CSU continues to be an issue in policy discussions. The Executive Committee is discussing performance measures and would welcome insights from the standing committees and senators.

FGA Chair Krabacher, Legislative Specialist Swartz and I were in Sacramento on 12 and 13 January for visits with legislative staff and with governmental relations staff from CFA and CSSA. We will be returning to Sacramento in February for conversations with legislators and staff in pursuit of further developing ASCSU's visibility with legislators and gathering information on pending legislation impacting the CSU. Senator Krabacher will be representing ASCSU on the CSU Budget Advocacy Group and will work with FGA to ensure that we all have opportunities to engage in advocacy for funding the CSU.

Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates

The Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates [ICAS] is composed of the Executive Committees of the Academic Senates of the three segments. This year CSU is chairing the Council. ICAS typically meets bimonthly during the academic year. At our December meeting our CCC colleagues invited CSU and UC participation in a conversation about upper division General Education, an area of interest given the recently signed into law CCC baccalaureate degree pilot program.

California Open Educational Resources Council

ICAS is charged by statute with oversight of the California Open Educational Resources Council [CA-OER]. CA-OER Director Kathy Harris, a San Jose State faculty member, visited our December meeting to provide information about the Council's activities and proposed budget for the second year of the project. The group is charged with identifying high quality free and low-cost educational resources and advocating expanded use of those resources by faculty in the three segments of higher education in California. Additional information on CA-OER efforts can be found in the December issue of the Faculty to Faculty newsletter

[http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Newsletter/December_2014/CAOERC.shtml] and on the award-winning website, Cool4Ed.org.

Academic Council

The Academic Council, composed of Provosts from the campuses, met on 15 January. There was conversation about continuing efforts to encourage and fund research and scholarly activity [RSCA], and about ways of capturing data on outcomes. It is likely that CSU will be developing uniform forms for reporting funded RSCA outcomes. The Council also discussed enrollment management and EVC Smith reported that all campuses desire authorization for additional enrollment growth. Based on preliminary data CSU denied entry to around thirty thousand CSU qualified students last year, as has been the case in recent years when the state has chosen not to fund enrollment growth. The Council met twice in closed session to discuss implementation of campus-based equity programs.

Campaign for the Future of Higher Education

The Campaign for the Future of Higher Education held its eighth national conference 16-18 January in Manhattan Beach. CFA is a founding member of the Campaign and provided funding for the Chair's attendance at the conference. Sessions focused on the increasing privatization of higher education, on performance measures and performance-based funding models, on shared governance practice across the nation, and on building partnerships with higher education stakeholders in the community.

CCC Baccalaureate Programs

On Wednesday, 12 January the Chancellor received notification of proposed baccalaureate programs from the CCC Chancellor. That notification consisted of program title, the campus offering the program and a 2-3 sentence description. The CCC communication requested a response from the CSU by close of business Friday 14 January. Midday on Friday the Chancellor received the program proposals as submitted by the CCC campuses. I have previously shared Chancellor White's letter to CCC Chancellor Harris stating that CSU would provide a response by the end of February.

At the January CCC Board of Governors meeting this week 15 baccalaureate degree program proposals were "conditionally approved." While it is unclear precisely what "conditionally approved" signifies, there is explicit mention of further consultation with CSU. Chancellor White has asked the Executive Committee to work with AVC Mallon and Chief of Staff Walton to develop a process for informed and thoughtful review by faculty and administration. We will be finalizing that process and sending a formal notification out in the next few days.

As always, please feel free to contact me via email [sfilling@mac.com] or phone [209.988.8256] if you have questions, concerns or suggestions on any of these issues.