



The Academic Senate met last week.



We passed a commendation honoring the contributions of Faculty Trustee Bernadette Cheyne. Here we see her with Faculty Trustee Emeritus Harold Goldwhite, Trustee Emerita Kathy Kaiser, and Trustee Steven Stepanek.

January 2014 Action Items

- Recommendation to Amend Title 5 to Re-establish Appropriate Unit Limits for Engineering Degrees
- Reinstatement of Faculty Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities ("RSCA") Fund
- Recommendations Related to Nursing Preparation

We unanimously approved three resolutions.

The first is particularly relevant to the Board. The Academic Senate unanimously endorsed this resolution, which asks the Board to re-establish an exception on unit limits specifically for engineering in Title 5, as existed in the past, and currently exists for other CSU bachelor degrees, such as the Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Music. Rather than the current 120 unit limit, this resolution encourages a maximum of 132 semester units, which is reduced from the maximum of 140 semester units previously stated in the Title 5 exception.

Attached to this resolution are several letters of support from engineering departments, some of whom have consulted with their community advisory boards, who also oppose the 120/180 limit.

In sum, the Academic Senate concludes unanimously that current unit limits may significantly impact the academic quality of engineering programs, the integrity and goals of general education programs, the pathway to developing the transfer associates degree, the portability of degrees for transfer, and is concerned about its impact on accreditation.

The second resolution supports reinstatement of the RSCA fund. After inconsistent funding during the budget cutbacks in recent years, \$2.4 million of new, one-time funding was set aside for RSCA in August 2013. In addition to the societal benefit of our faculty's RSCA activities, working with faculty on RSCA is a high-impact educational practice

linked to student success.

The final resolution addresses important issues with respect to nursing degrees and programs.

Campus Consultation Under Way

- Selection of Faculty Representatives in Shared Governance
- Meeting Common Core Standards as CSU Admission Requirement
- Facilitation of Communication between ASCSU and Faculty
- Concerns Regarding a Community College Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program
- In Support of Ethnic Studies

As a preview to issues under discussion, these are items discussed by the Academic Senate last week. Through its first reading items, the Academic Senate initiates consultation on the following issues and may return with recommendations in March. I am happy to answer any questions, and thank you for this opportunity.



This concludes my report.