

Academic Senate CSU Chair John Tarjan's Report for November 2008

November 12, 2008

This report is a recap of the chair's activities since the last plenary. I will only highlight a few points in my report during the plenary. Please refer to previously distributed notes for more detail on meetings that I reference below.

1. External Communications

- a. The Executive Committee, on behalf of Academic Senate CSU, sent a note to the Chancellor congratulating him on the award recognizing his leadership in outreach to underrepresented student groups.

2. Transfer

- a. In response to Academic Senate CSU resolution AS-2866-08, Associate Vice Chancellor Keith Boyum and Mark McKellip from Academic Affairs, Mark Van Selst, Barbara Swerkes and I met with CCC leadership to discuss the LDTP and C-ID projects. All felt that it was a productive meeting and a greater understanding of the two segments' perspectives was reached. The group has developed a statement of common understanding regarding the LDTP project that has been signed by the Executive Vice Chancellor Reichard and Academic Senate CSU Chair, Tarjan and sent to the Community Colleges.
- b. I also had the opportunity to participate in a session on transfer at the ASCCC plenary last week and discuss the project with a number of faculty. I continue to believe that most of the misgivings expressed by CCC faculty and articulation officers can be addressed by improving communication.

3. **WASC:** Following in Past Chair Pasternack's footsteps, I am a member of the planning committee for the upcoming WASC Academic Resource Conference to be held in Hollywood from April 15-18. There is usually high participation from the CSU at this conference.

4. **Appointments:** The Executive Committee appointed faculty representatives to the following initiatives.

- a. The Learning Management Systems Futures Project
- b. The CCC C-ID Project (five disciplines)
- c. The search committee for the system EUD Dean
- d. The search committee for the Associate Vice Chancellor

5. **Technology:** The Academic Senate CSU Chair serves as co-chair of the Academic Technology Advisory Committee and on the Provost's Technology Steering Committee. A potential reorganization of technology advisory bodies to better facilitate decision-making and advice regarding academic technology is being discussed in several venues.

- a. I attended the first ever meeting of technology chairs from across the system. It was interesting to me how many interest and advice groups dealing with technology exist. All of the participants seemed to feel that regular information sharing and coordination meetings would be a good idea.

- b. PTSC and ATAC have both met.
 - i. There is great interest in facilitating the use of learning management systems. The head of BlackBoard North America gave a presentation to PTSC and was intensively questions by the members. There are two efforts supported by the system in this regard.
 - 1. The LMS Futures Project (with Academic Senate CSU representatives on the committee)
 - 2. Campus groups (several campuses) exploring the use of particular learning management systems. The first one formed around the use of Moodle.
 - ii. Transforming Course Design
 - 1. The second phase of the project is beginning with two additional disciplines to be included.
 - 2. In response to concerns expressed by CSU History Council members, Keith Boyum, CSU technical staff and I held a teleconference with interested history chairs during which we fielded questions about the project.
- c. The proposed systemwide Information Security Policy has attracted a lot of attention and interest. In response to a request for campus senate chairs, the deadline for campus comments has been extended to March 2nd of next year.

6. Career Technical Education: Senators Krabacher, Kaiser and I will be meeting for the first time as a CTE task force today. Senator Krabacher has been working closely with the administration and in Sacramento to make sure that Academic Senate CSU has up-to-date information on developments. As you may recall, I made a trip to Sacramento in the summer to lobby Senate Education Committee members to defeat a CTE bill that would have wrested some of our control over our admissions requirements.

7. Access to Excellence: The Executive Committee has been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the possibility of producing short papers to inform the implementation of Access to Excellence and the commitments made in the document.

8. Budget

- a. The Executive Committee and FGA have been working with Robert Turnage to facilitate the collection of stories illustrating the adverse impact of budget cuts on students and programs. These stories will be distilled into a system report due in January. It is hoped that they can also be a resource for Academic Senate CSU and system advocacy efforts this year.
- b. The Executive Committee is unfortunately once again planning for potential Academic Senate CSU budget reductions this year.

9. Other Functions as Chair

- a. The Academic Senate CSU chair attends the dinner for Board members and presidents in conjunction with the Board meeting. I attended by first dinner in September.
- b. Beginning with the Board meeting in May, the Academic Senate CSU has given a formal oral report to the Board during its meetings.
- c. On behalf of the faculty, I welcomed CCC and CSU participants at the Proficiency in the First Year Conference. It appears that the conference was a great success.

- d. Along with other segment senate leaders, the independent colleges association leader, a UC chancellor (George Blumenthal—a former UC senate chair), student leaders, and labor representatives, I attended a luncheon dealing with the Master Plan hosted by Chair Anthony Portantino and member Ira Luskin of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. One of the main themes emphasized was the need for predictability in funding and expectations. It was interesting to note that the UC representatives seemed more open than ever to rethink the two systems' roles in doctoral education.
- e. I attended CCC plenary session held last week. I was graciously received and feel that the time was well spent. I have extended an invitation to the ASCCC President and ASUC Chair to join us at a plenary this year.
- f. I have attended two meetings of CSSA and will attend the next monthly meeting this coming weekend. It will be interesting to see what the outcome of their special meeting with the Chancellor this Friday will be. It is hoped that more campuses will “return to the fold” and become full members of CSSA.
- g. I attended the Academic Council meeting in San Francisco last month.

10. ICAS

- a. Due to a regular rotation, our system is hosting ICAS meetings this year and I am serving as chair of the group.
- b. We met last just before our September plenary.
- c. Will meet next on December 2nd in San Francisco.
- d. A subcommittee is meeting to draft a white paper on transfer. It is hoped that this brief paper could be used to education policy makers on transfer and perhaps dispel some misconceptions. I am a member of this subcommittee.
- e. We are in the process of organizing the recently-authorized IGETC Standards Review Committee.