

Senate Chair's Report – November 2011

The Senate's Budget

At this point in the fiscal year, our projections of the Senate's expenditures are following our projections, but that means that our efforts to minimize travel expenses by switching our interim meetings to virtual mode and other (disruptive) efforts have only succeeded in accommodating the inflating costs of airline tickets and other travel items. These projections still leave us significantly short of the budget needed to cover spring assigned-time allocations, so I am working with Vice Chancellor Vogel and Executive Vice Chancellor Smith on a resolution. I am aware that it is past time for faculty to commit to spring teaching schedules, but I/we do not have a clear path forward at this stage to maintain Senate functionality.

The Online Initiative

I noted in my last report the general goals of this latest entry in the CSU series of "Initiatives" (Graduation, Early Start, STAR Act, presidential compensation (plus,) ...) that have been announced to the Senate and the System with the expectation that "shared governance" would subsequently occur. The On-line Initiative has a new version of un-shared governance in that the Initiative was announced, funds were committed, consultants hired, an executive director search commenced and is likely to conclude with the bare minimum of communication to faculty in general and the Senate in particular. What has been communicated (from the consultant's report) is a wide array of possible formats for the System efforts, many of which have significant potential for disruption, including threats to faculty positions, to the fiscal health of departments, to the integrity of our curriculum, and to currently-existing, quality on-line programs in the CSU. I know that this mild rant does not sufficiently convey some Senator's outrage at the situation, but I am committed to demonstrating that the Senate knows how to share governance. I find it more and more difficult to maintain that goal, especially when the "party line" (see <http://its.calstate.edu/onlinelearning/>) indicates that the Initiative "...has followed a broad-based, consultative process" as it was developed to this stage. I have brought, and will continue to bring these significant shortcomings to the attention of the Chancellor, the Board, and the Technology Steering Committee. These messages have resulted in the session with President Welty that is scheduled for tomorrow during the plenary and a webinar Q & A session on November 16.

The STAR Act (aka SB 1440)

Progress on the implementation of the STAR Act continues with CSU campuses responding to the first set of 16 Transfer Model Curricula (see <http://www.c-id.net/>) and another 16 in various stages of development. Most of the first set have received a "Yes, similar" designation from

CSU campuses and for those that were not deemed similar, evaluations are underway to determine whether a "similar" designation is possible. It looks like those determinations could be finished by the end of the (calendar) year and that the new set of TMCs that emerge from the second set of 16 will also go to our campuses for "similar" determination by that time.

The Senate's Golden Anniversary

As noted previously, Senator Tarjan has been asked to organize an appropriate celebration of the Senate's 50th anniversary next year. Several former colleagues from CSU-ERFA (the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association) have agreed to join the effort. John would like a couple of Senators to join the planning effort. If you are interested, please let me know of your willingness.

The Early Start Initiative

My September report on the Early Start Initiative is still current. English and math faculty on our campuses are working hard to accommodate the Board's requirements for the initiative while Eric Forbes, his staff, and campus staff work to make the admission/enrollment processes as smooth as possible for students. APEP was to meet on Wednesday with Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi to hear about assessment plans for the project and I will leave it to their report for that outline.

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