



The Academic Senate met on October 31 and November 1st.

Commendations

- Peter G. Mehas, Trustee
- Benjamin F. Quillian, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
- Robert Turnage, Assistant Vice Chancellor

The Academic Senate passed commendations honoring the contributions of Trustee Mehas, Executive Vice Chancellor Quillian, and Assistant Vice Chancellor Turnage.

Ensuring the Continuous Presence of a Faculty Trustee on the CSU Board of Trustees

- Thanks Chancellor White, members of the Board, and campus senates for efforts
- Empowers ASCSU leadership to work with the Chancellor's Office and the Board to seek legislation that will ensure the continuous presence of a Faculty Trustee on the Board

AS-3153-13/FGA/FA – Approved unanimously

The Faculty Trustee provides the Board with both expertise and a faculty perspective in areas of academic policy as well as matters of curricular and fiscal concern affecting the CSU. The presence of a Faculty Trustee also strengthens faculty confidence in the Board's actions. We thank Chancellor White, Board members, and campus senates for their efforts to secure an appointment.

In recent years, there have been lengthy intervals during which no Faculty Trustee was appointed. This resolution encourages the Academic Senate leadership to work with the Chancellor's Office and Board to remedy this problem through the legislative process this year.

**Concerns and Recommendations Regarding
Cal State Online Reorganization**

- Positive Direction
- Concerns
 - Shared governance
 - Lack of essential documents
- Recommendation
 - New Cal State Online System-wide Advisory Committee

AS-3152-13/AA/FA – Approved Unanimously

The week before our plenary, we learned of significant changes to Cal State Online. The direction of the re-envisioned Cal State Online is in line with recommendations previously made by the Academic Senate to make all online programs visible on the Cal State Online website (AS-3127-13).

The Academic Senate agrees with the organizational placement of Cal State Online in the Division of Academic Affairs, and views many of the other changes as positive. One example of a positive change is allowing the use of the learning management system in use at the campus rather than requiring faculty intellectual property to be housed on the Pearson platform.

The “Concerns” in this resolution are several, but I will mention just two. The first relates to shared governance. A long period of time elapsed between meetings of the Cal State Online Advisory Board, which is the venue of shared governance, during which several decisions were made absent faculty involvement.

Another major concern is the lack of written planning documents for the re-envisioned Cal State Online, such as a mission statement and organizational chart.

We recommend the establishment of a newly-configured Cal State Online Systemwide Advisory Committee once the essential documents have been prepared by the Cal State Online Advisory Board with

consultation from CSU stakeholders. I am pleased to report that a meeting has already taken place to discuss our concerns. We had a productive meeting on Monday afternoon this week.

**California State University Board of Trustees
Proposed 2014-15 Support Budget**

- Increase student access
- Augmentation for Student Success and Completion
 - Hire 500 tenure-track faculty
 - Scale up high-impact teaching practices

AS-3149-13/FGA – Approved Unanimously

The Academic Senate voted unanimously to support the proposed CSU 2014-15 Support Budget. The budget request focuses on increasing enrollment and student success. Eligible students should be able to access higher education to reach their full potential, and tens of thousands of students have been turned away from the CSU in recent years.

With the state budget stabilizing, the Academic Senate believes it is the time to begin investing in quality public education. We very much appreciate the Student Success and Completion initiatives. The first is especially critical, given that the ranks of tenure-track faculty have fallen declined over the past several years. The augmentation will provide support for recent initiatives encouraged by the governor and Legislature (online, transfer), which require resources to implement.

The week before our plenary meeting, you may have read the Sac Bee opinion editorial by Dick Ackerman and Mel Levine, both former legislators. They recognized California's higher education system as a vital economic engine for the state, and stated that no engine can run on fumes. They concluded: "The future for our students and our state's economy depends on the investments we make today in our higher education system. In their opinion, the governor and legislature should invest an additional \$250 million in the CSU. The Board's request of a \$237.6 million increase in state general funding is under their recommendation.

Statway

- Support for Extension of the Statway Curriculum Pilot Program as an Alternative for Establishing Proficiency in Quantitative Reasoning

AS-3147-13/AA/APEP – Approved Unanimously

Statway is a two-semester developmental pathway to successful completion of Area B4 of general education requirements. It is being evaluated in a pilot project involving six community colleges and six CSU campuses. This resolution extends the pilot project for two additional years. Student success in subsequent coursework is being monitored.

ASCSU Legislative Advocacy

- Legislative Advocacy Principles of the ASCSU
AS-3146-13/FGA – Approved
- Legislative Advocacy Guidelines for the ASCSU
AS-3148-13/FGA – Approved Without Dissent

The Academic Senate responds to legislation and meets with legislators and other government officials. We work with the academic senate leadership in the other segments, with students, and with the CSU Chancellor's Office. These resolutions provide a framework for the Academic Senate's activities.

Plenary Meeting Guests

- Faculty Trustee Steven Stepanek
- Trustee Douglas Faigin
- Chancellor Tim White
- Carol Geary Schneider, President AAC&U

The Academic Senate was pleased to see the appointment of Dr. Steven Stepanek as Faculty Trustee on October 25th. Although not a member of the Academic Senate, the Faculty Trustee attends all of our meetings to learn about the issues brought to the Academic Senate by the faculty elected from the 23 universities and to provide advice to the Senate from a Trustee's perspective. We congratulated and welcomed Faculty Trustee Stepanek to our plenary last week, and we are confident he will be an asset to the Board and a strong voice for academic quality.

The Academic Senate enjoyed a collegial conversation with Trustee Faigin. At his request, we discussed K-12 teacher preparation, bottleneck courses, and online education. I believe we had a productive meeting, and on behalf of the Academic Senate I thank Trustee Faigin for accepting our invitation. We extend an invitation to other members of the Board to visit with us at our remaining plenary meetings in January, March, and May.

Chancellor White took questions and comments from the senators on a range of topics. I know the senators, as the elected faculty representatives from the 23 institutions of the system, greatly appreciate the time to speak directly with Chancellor White. We hope it is possible for him to visit the faculty leaders at our three remaining plenary meetings.

Carol Geary Scheider, President of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, updated the senators on the organization's initiatives.

High-Impact Educational Practices

- First-year seminars and experiences
- Common intellectual experiences
- Learning communities
- Writing-intensive courses
- Collaborative assignments and projects
- Undergraduate research
- Diversity and global learning
- Service and community-based learning
- Internships
- Capstone courses and projects

In 2008, the Academic Senate supported the “Give Students a Compass” project, which focused on improving general education through the integration of high impact learning activities, which include learning communities, service learning, study abroad, student-faculty research, and senior culminating experiences. Senators were highly impressed with AAC&U’s initiatives.

This is the AAC&U’s list of high-impact learning activities that benefit students from a range of backgrounds. These activities are markers of academic quality. As you can see, these activities involve significant interaction with faculty.

Many of these practices are specified in the Board’s *Access to Excellence* strategic plan in Commitment 6 under the term “active learning.”

I thank Ken O’Donnell, Senior Director of Student Engagement, for making this visit possible.

We also met with several other administrators from CO Academic Affairs, and we much appreciate their time. This is an important opportunity for faculty to communicate directly with system leaders the campus viewpoint from those working directly with students and is critical for meaningful shared governance.

First Reading Items

- Reinstatement of Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Fund (AS-3156-13/FA)
- Recommendation to Amend Title 5 to Establish Appropriate Unit Limits for Engineering Degrees (AS-3158-13/AA)
- Recommendations on the Eligibility of Lecturers for Emeritus Status (AS-3157-13/FA)
- Recommendations Related to Nursing Preparation (AS-3154-13/AA)

Three new items were sent to campuses for consultation.

The first urges the Board and Chancellor to reinstate the Faculty Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity program as specified in Education Code. This program was funded annually from 1988 through 2008, and intermittently since. Recall that undergraduate research is a high-impact practice.

The second resolution recommends amending Title 5 to establish appropriate unit limits for engineering degrees. We have learned from faculty, deans, and provosts that engineering programs are having difficulty reducing to the 120/180 unit limits established last year while still meeting the learning outcomes required by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. This resolution requests that unit limits for engineering degrees be established at 132 semester units (198 quarter units) in separate statute from other Bachelor of Science degrees. Currently, the Bachelor of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and Bachelor of Music degrees have specifically defined exceptions to the 120/180 unit limit.

Over half of our faculty are lecturers (head count), and the third resolution encourages campuses include criteria for long-term lecturers to earn emeritus status in their policies.

The final resolution encourages clarification of Executive Order 1084 System-Wide Nursing Policy with respect to general education

requirements. It also encourages campuses to support “pre-nursing” students who are not admitted to nursing programs.



I would like to make a quick comment about course repetition and bottlenecks. At previous Board meetings, I believe I heard comments about students repeating courses to improve their grade point average. Executive Order 1037 states that undergraduate students may repeat courses only if they earned grades lower than a C.

This concludes my report.