

## **ASCSU Chair John Tarjan's Report for May 2009**

September 3, 2009

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. Copies of these notes can be obtained from ASCSU staff.

### **1. Budget**

- a. The Executive Committee is disappointed with the severity of cuts in the ASCSU budget. We will continue to make the case for adequate funding to carry out our function of shared governance.
- b. Budget Reduction Plan
  - i. The Executive Committee reluctantly implemented the following plan to meet an emergency shortfall in the ASCSU budget. Luckily we were able to rely heavily on the written advice provided by the Senate in our deliberations.
  - ii. Assigned time will continue for all senators other than those having not yet completed a full year's term. Senators receiving assigned time were asked to serve on two additional committees. A handful of senators have agreed to serve on more than two committees.
  - iii. Reduced assigned time for standing committee chairs and Executive Committee members with an attempt to reduce the number of other committee assignments they are asked to fulfill.
  - iv. Two-day plenary sessions in the fall term, with a review and planning for January and March after the November plenary. The May plenary will be a three-day plenary.
  - v. Experimentation with virtual interim meetings to take the place of lost committee time during plenary sessions and normal interim meetings. Standing committee chairs have been asked to plan at least three two hour virtual meetings between plenary sessions to accomplish committee business.
  - vi. Continued efforts to control travel expenses on the part of all.

### **2. ASCSU Office Transition**

- a. The interim reclassifications of staff have been made permanent this summer. Tracy Butler will have the title of ASCSU Program Director. She and Sharon Van Steenwyk deserve kudos for their work during the summer, juggling furloughs and vacations and assuring that the office functions smoothly. With the continued assistance of Yvonne Benavides during the plenary sessions, we hope to continue the high level of staff support to ASCSU. Please continue to work through your committee chairs and with Tracy to ensure that necessary work can be efficiently planned for.

### **3. Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)**

- a. The group last met on September 1 at UCOP. Harry Powell, a pathologist from UCSD, is the new chair. The group formed two task forces to focus on important issues with the following ASCSU representatives.
  - i. Advocacy—Bernadette Cheyne and John Tarjan (chair)
  - ii. Master Plan –Diana Guerin and Barbara Swerkes

- b. There is considerable interest (especially on the part of the UC) in e-texts, open electronic resources, and distance education.
- c. We are in the process of bringing a statement of expected mathematics competency for incoming freshman to ASCSU. We hope to develop one for the sciences during this year.

#### **4. Appointments**

- a. The Executive Committee appointed individuals to approximately 60 committees, task forces, etc. during the summer.

#### **5. Liaison with CO Administration**

- a. A weekly telephone call between the Chair and Executive Vice Chancellor has been initiated. This has been a valuable tool for keeping lines of communication open.

#### **6. Other Functions as Chair**

- a. A subset of the Executive Committee, including the Chair, attended both the special and regular July Board of Trustees meetings. The Chair gave a report at the regular meeting.
- b. The members of the Executive Committee continue to share liaison responsibilities. I attended CSSA meetings in June and August and the CFA board meeting in June. There is considerable interest by CSSA leadership to work with ASCSU on advocacy and policy recommendations. Textbook affordability and fees are two issues of particular interest to the students.
- c. I continue to participate in Academic Council meetings. I attended the June retreat. Beginning with the August meeting and continuing throughout the year, most of the meetings will be virtual to save on travel costs.
- d. A Systemwide Budget Advisory Committee Meeting was held in August. I shared the ICAS advocacy brochure from last year and the fact that ICAS and ASCSU stressed workforce in our messaging.
- e. The Chair continues to function during the summer in a variety of roles including as a member of the Facilities Naming Committee and Hearst Scholars Committee.