

## ASCSU Chair Thobaben's Report for ASCSU November 2006 Plenary

The Academic Year is well under way, and I commend senators and standing committees for their vigorous engagement with a variety of tasks and issues.

A special "thanks" to Associate Vice Chancellor Keith Boyum, Conference Coordinator Trudy Hernandez, the ASCSU Executive Committee and ASCSU Executive Director Ann Peacock for organizing the excellent CSU *Campus Practices for Student Success Conference* on October 19-20, 2006. A deep appreciation is extended to the Academic Senators who presented and facilitated sessions at the conference.

The ASCSU Executive Committee met with Board of Trustees Chair Achtenberg on September 20, 2005 to discuss the "Access to Excellence" strategic planning process. On October 16, 2006, we attended the first meeting of the Steering Committee in Long Beach. At this meeting the group developed questions in six broad issue domains considered basic to the issues of "Access to Excellence." The plan is for each university to consider these questions—along with any other issues the campus deems to be important to the University's future. The resulting advice and feedback will serve as the basis for proposals that will then be brought to a CSU-wide "issue summit" in the spring of 2007, preliminary to development of a first draft of the "Access to Excellence" plan. The web site for the Board of Trustees strategic planning process is at [http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System\\_Strategic\\_Planning/AccessToExcellence.shtml](http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System_Strategic_Planning/AccessToExcellence.shtml)

The ASCSU Executive Committee appointed faculty to serve on two new CSU committees: the CSU Sustainability Advisory Subcommittee on Education and Research and the CSU International Planning Group. The ASCSU Executive Committee also made recommendations to the Chancellor of potential faculty to serve on the "Access to Excellence" Steering Committee.

The Executive Committee minutes are posted on the Academic Senate web page <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/Executive/index.shtml>.

What follows is a list of Senate-related activities the Executive Committee has been involved with over the past two months, including some highlights from the meetings.

**Academic Council (AC) [CSU Council of campus Provosts/Vice-Presidents for Academic Affairs]:** I represented ASCSU at the October 18-19 meeting. The primary item presented for discussion by Executive Vice Chancellor Gary Reichard was the "Access To Excellence" strategic planning process. The goal of the discussion was to prepare provosts to take a strong role in the campus planning conversations that will constitute the heart of the planning exercise. The Academic Council's Graduate

*Education Paper*, which has been reviewed by the ASCSU AA Committee, was approved by the AC and will be referred to the ASCSU for further consideration.

Executive Vice Chancellor Gary Reichard introduced **Beth Ambos, the Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Initiatives and Partnerships**. In coordination with the Executive Vice Chancellor Gary Reichard and Academic Affairs staff, Beth will be providing support for the CSU system research and sponsored programs efforts, initiatives related to economic and workforce development, and curriculum and research activities.

**Special Session: Academic Council/ASCSU Executive Committee/Campus Senate Chairs:** We met as a group on October 19. Discussed at this meeting was the Board of Trustees “Access to Excellence” strategic planning process. The purpose was to emphasize that discussions must begin at the campus level to ensure that the process leading to the next CSU strategic plan will be broadly inclusive and involve dialogue among—and outreach to—the multiple constituencies that define the University and its mission.

Also at this meeting Assistant Vice Chancellor Lorie Roth led a discussion on the *Assessments of the Baccalaureate*. The group discussed possible assessment approaches, such as The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA); the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE); and the Information Competency Test (ICT). Mary Cheng, Wayne Dick and Associate Vice Chancellor Boyum highlighted elements of the *Access to Information Tech Coded Memorandum*, and the mandates in law that require the actions referenced. Three campuses, CSU Fullerton, CSU Los Angeles, and CSU San Bernardino, have been required by the Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Education, to take specified actions that will result in assurance of timely provision of learning materials to persons with disabilities.

**Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC):** ATAC is co-chaired by CSU Los Angeles Provost Herman Lujan, Chair of the Provost Technology Steering Committee (PTSC), and me. Senators Benavides, Buckley, Kegley, Pasternack, Persons, and Thobaben attended the October 4 meeting in San Francisco. Senator Buckley sent an extensive report to the Senate regarding the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting include a review and assessment by Glenda Morgan, Director, Academic Technology Initiatives, of the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) project that sponsored course redesign efforts at 50 colleges and universities around the nation. Her review provided a realistic context for considering similar efforts within the CSU. A subcommittee, chaired by Joe Grimes (CSU FDC representative, administrator from Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo) together with Rod Hersberger (COLD representative from CSU Bakersfield), Senator Bob Buckley and Wayne Veres (ITAC representative and CIO for CSU San Marcos) was formed to draft recommendations based on her research. Their recommendations will be presented at the next meeting. Another subcommittee consisting of Senators Benavides, Buckley (chair),

and Pasternack together with Wayne Veres will develop policy recommendations for on-line degree programs to be considered at the next meeting.

Ron Purser from the Department of Management at San Francisco State University discussed his work in developing and implementing a project to facilitate the integration of on-line modules from MERLOT into courses in programs throughout the CSU system. The intent is to make possible the diffusion of teaching innovation and pedagogies using the concept of “teaching commons.”

**ATI Technical Assistance Workshop:** Senators Bob Buckley, Paul Persons, and Darlene Yee-Melichar attended the *ATI Technical Assistance Workshop* on October 30 and 31. Information about the workshop is available at [www.calstate.edu/accessibility](http://www.calstate.edu/accessibility).

**Board of Trustees:** The Board of Trustees met on September 19-20, 2006. Trustee Craig Smith’s reports of the meeting are available on the Academic Senate web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/Executive/index.shtml>. An on-line meeting of the Steering Committee for the “Access to Excellence” strategic planning process was held November 1-3, 2006. The next Board meeting is November 14–15.

**Campus Actions to Facilitate Graduation (CAFG):** I participated in three *CSU’s Facilitating Graduation Initiative’s* [CAFG] campus visits with former Faculty Trustee Kathy Kaiser, Senator Ted Anagnoson and Senator and former Faculty Trustee Harold Goldwhite as the facilitators. It is impressive to see what various campuses are doing to facilitate students’ graduation with a quality education in a timely fashion.

**Campus Senate Chairs:** The Executive Committee met with the campus senate chairs on October 19. Vice Chair Pasternack helped facilitate the campus senate chairs meeting while I attended the Academic Council meeting. The campus senate chairs were oriented to the ASCSU and discussed various campus issues as well as possible agenda items for the upcoming year.

**CFA:** Member-at-large Paul Persons attended the CFA Board meeting on October 20, 2006 in Sacramento, which entailed a lengthy discussion on bargaining. Senator Persons updated the Board on ASCSU activities. The CFA web page is available at <http://www.calfac.org/>

**California State Student Association (CSSA):** Vice Chair Barry Pasternack attended the CSSA Board meeting at Fullerton on September 15-17. He sent an extensive report of the meeting to the ASCSU. Patrick Lenz gave an excellent presentation on the proposed CSU budget. Both Senator Pasternack and David Backues, CSSA student liaison to ASCSU, gave reports on the ASCSU Plenary. CSSA received a \$30,000 grant to assist in student registration efforts. Students from southern campuses were encouraged to attend a rally/press conference on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Dominguez Hills in support of AB 2813. Member-at large Paul Persons attended the October 14 meeting in Chico. He provided an update on current ASCSU activities and stressed the importance

of student participation on the "Access to Excellence" steering committee. He commended CSSA for their efforts to register voters and get out the vote.

**Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS):** The next meeting is scheduled for December 6. The ICAS agenda and minutes are available at <http://www.academicssenate.cc.ca.us/icas/Meetings.html>

**The Intersegmental Coordinating Committee (ICC):** I attended the ICC Executive Committee on October 25 in Sacramento. ICC, the programmatic arm of the Education Round Table, is composed of administrators, faculty, and student representatives from all sectors of education. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the impending meeting of the California Education Round Table scheduled for Monday, December 11th in Los Angeles.

**Legislation:** John Travis, CFA President, and I sent a letter via email to all faculty encouraging “us” to vote yes on Proposition 1D, the \$10.42 billion education bond on the November ballot. It will provide \$690 million for California State University classrooms, laboratories, libraries and infrastructure.

**Naming Facilities Review Panel:** Executive Director Ann Peacock is the executive committee's designee to review all proposals to the Board of Trustees to name campus buildings and to report any concerns she has to me.

**Provosts' Technology Steering Committee (PTSC):** I attended the PTSC meeting on October 18 at LAX, which are chaired by Provost Herman Lujan, CSULA. The main discussed were Online Degree Programs, Academic Transformation Project, Digital Marketplace, and CMS services for Academic Affairs.

As always, your support, comments, and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Marshelle Thobaben, Chair  
Academic Senate CSU