

*Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU)*  
401 Golden Shore, Suite 243  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

**Catherine Nelson, Chair**  
Tel 707-664-3963 or 562-951-4014  
E-mail: nelsonca@sonoma.edu

[www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate](http://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate)

## **ACADEMIC SENATE CSU CHAIR'S REPORT, MAY 2020**

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all doing well, staying safe and making time to stay connected with family and friends. You are part of over 27,000 faculty who have stepped up to deliver the academic mission of the CSU in difficult and challenging times. Please take time to celebrate that. This report covers major developments since our March Plenary.

### **May Plenary**

As you know, the May Plenary and elections for 2020-2021 Officers will be virtual. We will follow our usual practice of Wednesday May 6 committee meetings and Thursday May 7 and Friday morning May 8 meetings of the whole body. Friday afternoon from 1:00-3:00pm will be the organizational meeting for the 2020-2021 ASCSU when we introduce new Senators and elect Officers for next year. A more detailed guide for the plenary and elections will be sent out tomorrow.

### **ASCSU 2020-21 Budget**

EVC Blanchard and AVC Van Cleve have notified the Executive Committee that at this point we can expect a budget cut in the neighborhood of 2 ½ - 3% for 2020-2021. Ex Com is working with ASCSU Director Tracy Butler to evaluate our resource needs in that context. While we understand the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the CSU budget, we also need to make sure that the ASCSU is funded at a sufficient level to ensure that systemwide shared governance can function effectively in the coming year.

### **SAT/ACT**

The CSU recently announced its decision to suspend the use of the SAT/ACT as an entrance requirement for admissions during the Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 admissions cycles, and move to a-g GPA and supplemental criteria as the basis for admissions decisions for that time frame. The Executive Committee, joined by APEP Chair Sue Holl and Vice Chair Rick Ford consulted with the Chancellor's Office prior to that decision. Much of our feedback was focused on the impact of the change on applicants/transfers from first generation, low income and underserved populations and the nature of the supplemental criteria as they would benefit those same students. We

ultimately agreed that the standardized tests, and thus the current CSU eligibility index, should not be used to determine CSU eligibility for Fall 2021. We also agreed with the proposal to replace the eligibility index with a 2.5 a-g GPA, with special emphasis on the importance of supplementary criteria and admissions exceptions to admit students with a 2.0-2.499 a-g GPA. Finally, we recommended that the CSU not automatically revert back to the current eligibility index for Fall 2022 admissions. Rather, we urged the CO to use Fall 2021 admissions data to revisit how CSU eligibility should be determined for Fall 2022 and beyond.

### **Ethnic Studies**

The Chancellor's Office plans to take proposed Title 5 language regarding an ethnic studies and social justice requirement to the Board of Trustees in May as an information item (a first reading). The item would then go forward as an action item (a second reading) in July. The Executive Committee talked to EVC Blanchard, AVC Wrynn and AVC Van Cleve about the proposal on Wednesday April 22. We were joined on a second Wednesday April 29 conversation by Academic Affairs (AA) Chair Susan Schlievert, AA Vice Chair Janet Millar, General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) Chair Mark Van Selst and Nathan Evans, Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser, Academic and Student Affairs. We made it clear in both meetings that the discussion was only to provide feedback, not for the Executive Committee to decide about how to respond to the CO's proposed requirement on the Senate's behalf. That decision needs to be made by the ASCSU as a whole. The CO invited the ASCSU to participate in the presentation of the item to the BOT. We made clear that our answer would depend upon what happens at the Senate Plenary next week.

The April 22 conversation was about areas of agreement and disagreement between the ASCSU (AS 3403 and 3420) and the CO (EVC Blanchard's March 17, 2020 mem ). The CO identified points of agreement about the requirement, including a 3-unit lower division course in GE, a campus option to implement an upper division reflective component, the implementation of the requirement using campus curricular approval processes and a start date of Fall 2023. Areas of disagreement they identified were the title and the role of learning objectives in Title 5 language. The CO argued that learning objectives are not included in Title 5 descriptions of GE areas/units, so they should not be included for this requirement. From the CO perspective, campuses should develop their own learning objectives. Their working title for the requirement is Ethnic Studies and Social Justice. Feedback from Executive Committee members focused on the appropriateness of Social Justice in the title, the degree of campus autonomy in implementation, the fiscal impact of the requirement, the need to revise Associate Degrees of Transfer, consistent implementation of the requirement throughout the system and the timing of the proposal before the BOT.

As of the Wednesday 4/29 conversation, the CO did not have specific proposed language

drafted yet, but it would be included in Title 5, Section 40405.1 CSU General Education - Breadth Requirements,\* and within that framework, in the 39 lower division units of the CSU GE Breadth Requirement. Reflecting the character of other language in Section 40405.1 of Title 5, the proposed language will be “barebones.” More specific elements of the requirement would be included in a mandatory revision to EO 1100.

We anticipate that the elements of the requirement will include:

- Title: Ethnic Studies and Social Justice
- a 3-unit lower division course GE requirement
- a campus option for an upper division reflective requirement
- implementation in the 2023-2024 academic year
- implementation of the requirement through campus shared governance processes
- campus development of learning objectives

The first four bullet points will likely be the focus of the draft Title 5 language. Final language will be included in the BOT May Meeting agenda which should be out late Friday, 5/1.

Feedback included the need to assess the implications of the requirement for SB 1440 provisions, the question of an overlay, revisions to EO 1100, the need to consult the ASCSU and the Ethnic Studies Council in revising EO 1100, the impact of the requirement on Community Colleges, double counting and the inclusion of the learning objectives in AS 3403 as best practices when EO 1100 is revised.

\*Title 5 CSU GE Breadth Requirement is here:

[https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I306405C07D8511E29091E6B951DDF6CE?viewTtype=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextD ata=\(sc.Default\)&bhcp=1](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I306405C07D8511E29091E6B951DDF6CE?viewTtype=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextD ata=(sc.Default)&bhcp=1)

### **Conclusion**

This is my last report to you as ASCSU Chair. It has been a privilege to serve in that capacity the last two years. I look forward to working with the new Chair and Executive Committee in the transition to 2020-2021.

Best,  
Catherine