

## ASCSU Chair's Report

Steven Filling  
September 2, 2014

### Welcome to 2014-15

I hope your summer was reinvigorating and rewarding!

We will continue to have a three day plenary in September. Standing Committees will meet from 11:00-5:00 on Wednesday, and again from 1:00-5:00 on Thursday. This expanded Standing Committee schedule is in direct response to comments from last year's committee chairs and members noting that they felt that some discussions were truncated because of time constraints.

Our plenary will convene Thursday from 8:00 to noon. Chancellor White will visit at 9:00, we will elect a Faculty Trustee Candidate Selection Committee at 10:00, and Eric Forbes will join us at 11:00. We will also be hearing liaison reports as time allows. New senators will have an orientation session from 1:00-3:00 on Thursday and then have time to visit one or more of the standing committees before our social at 5:15. The social will be hosted by the Executive Committee.

The plenary will reconvene at 8 am Friday morning. Sharon Tanabe [of the search firm Storbeck Pimentel & Associates] will join us at 9:00 for a discussion of the Executive Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs and Student Services position and search, Ephraim Smith will join us at 10:00, and State University Dean Sheila Thomas will join us at 11:00 for an update on Cal State Online.

Please be sure that you are registered for the Academic Conference in November [immediately following the Board of Trustees meeting]. Campus Presidents have been asked to cover travel and lodging expense for the Conference.

### ASCSU Social Fund

On Thursday evening from 5:15-6:30 of each plenary week, the ASCSU has a tradition of hosting a social for senators and Chancellor's Office staff/liaisons. Please remember to bring your contribution of \$35 [cash please] to fund our five socials this year. Executive Committee

#### 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

Members-At-Large Praveen Soni and Julie Chisholm will be collecting your contributions at our September plenary - please make their lives easier by seeking them out and giving them your contribution.

### **Executive Committee Members**

While the ASCSU Chair is a 12-month position, the other Executive Committee offices are not and ASCSU does not have funding to compensate Executive Committee members for their work over the summer. I deeply appreciate their commitment and willingness to participate in numerous conference calls and two in-person retreats as well as devoting significant time to dealing with ASCSU issues. Please join me in thanking Vice Chair Chris Miller, Secretary Susan Gubernat and Members-At-Large Julie Chisholm and Praveen Soni as well as Immediate Past Chair Diana Guerin, for their service over the summer.

### **Executive Committee Work in Summer**

1. Completed standing and systemwide committee assignments
2. Prepared and sent letters of support for legislation ASCSU took positions of support on.
3. Met with Chancellor White and his Cabinet prior to the July BoT meeting.
4. Worked with standing committee chairs to develop draft priorities for 2014-15 and shared same with Chancellor White and CSUCO standing committee liaisons.
5. Continued preparation for the Academic Conference to be held 13 & 14 November at the Long Beach Hilton.

### **ASCSU Chair Summer Activities**

1. Testified at Assembly and Senate hearings on bills ASCSU took positions on, visited numerous state legislator and legislative committee consultants' offices to discuss pending legislation and issues of interest to the ASCSU.
2. Attended a plethora of meetings, including the WICHE Convening on Transfer Passports, CSSA Board meetings, AAUP Summer Institute, CFA Board meetings, Academic Council meetings, System Budget meetings, and the July Board of Trustees meeting.
3. Met multiple times with Chancellor White and/or his staff on the Academic Conference and other issues.
4. Attended the Chico Academic Senate retreat to explore mechanisms for better two-way communication between ASCSU and campus senates.

### **Systemwide Search Committees**

Senator Manzar Foroohar and I will be serving on the search committee for the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer. The first meeting is scheduled for 25 September.

### **Legislative Update**

The faculty trustee bill [AB 2324] has been approved by the legislature and is at the Governor's desk.

AB 2153 language was amended into AB 2610, which was not passed out of committee [Appropriations] and is now dead.

Our legislative analyst will be preparing an end of legislative session report with information on all bills ASCSU took positions on.

### **Priorities for 2014-15**

As noted in Chair Guerin's Report of September 2013, multiple ASCSU resolutions passed in recent years request early consultation and involvement in system-wide initiatives, and for the last two years ASCSU has identified improving internal communications as an important priority. In pursuit of addressing those continuing concerns, the Executive Committee again invited CSUCO Academic Affairs leadership, standing committee chairs, Faculty Trustee Stepanek and CSSA leaders to join us for a discussion of our respective priorities for the coming year. The meeting was held 9 August.

Please review and discuss these priorities in your committees. We obviously cannot know beforehand all of the issues and challenges which will require our attention this year, however we believe that these statements of priorities highlight at least some of the things we will need to address. Our intent was and is to leverage collaboration and genuine consultation to more effectively deal with the challenges the CSU faces.

### **Response to Resolutions from the May Plenary**

You can view the responses to most of the resolutions passed at the May plenary at [http://calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/co\\_response/documents/CO\\_Responses\\_June2014.pdf](http://calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/co_response/documents/CO_Responses_June2014.pdf)

We are pleased to note the invitation to further dialogue in responses to some of them. The Executive Committee discussed possible paths forward to that dialogue, and will be asking the originating committees to continue that work this fall. We received no CO response to the following resolutions, despite requesting a response on multiple occasions:

AS-3175-14/FGA Formation of a Task Force to Assess the Role of Student Success Fees Across California State University (CSU) Campuses

AS-3178-14/EX Request for Annual Progress Reports on Access to Excellence Strategic Plan Through 2018

Should you have any questions or comments about these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact me. My mobile number is 209.988.8256.

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### **Chancellor Timothy White**

- Reverse the downward trend in tenure-track appointments
- Improve graduation rates in the next decade, stressing target mechanisms to get there (“more students to the degree, high quality, faster”)
- Foster the appropriate use of technology, not only to insure access but also to insure quality in the learning environment
- Better access to high-quality data; improvements in the infrastructure providing the data
- Improve communications, internally and externally; improve video presence, getting the right people together at lower costs
- Finalize the work on exceptions on 120/180 unit exceptions this fall
- Anticipate the findings of the Ethnic Studies task force, due this fall, and engage in discussion with senate and other academic leaders on the issues to be raised
- Look forward to the success of the Academic Conference, funding it reasonably
- Make progress in the area of financial aid
- Identify resources for academic facilities
- Dust off the system’s strategic plan to see if it still is providing the proper direction for the system and for campuses; modernize A2E since it may not prove to be the necessary guidepost for the future
- Find room in the budget this year to provide more system-wide funding for faculty research (RSCA)

#### **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

## Academic Affairs Priorities

### Executive Vice Chancellor Ephraim Smith

- Student success: a six-year endeavor with Ed Trust with a goal of 54% (hoping to do even better in 2015 by coming in at 55.8%, a significant improvement). The national average of comprehensive universities is 46% so the CSU is ahead of other systems
- Campaign for College Opportunity: African-Americans graduate at a rate 1 of 5; the CSU has never been below 35%. We are at 45% among under-represented minorities vs. 46% for ALL students. "Boats are rising." What new initiatives can be aimed at closing the gap? Pilots this summer will focus on the relationship between Early Start and freshman year.
- SB 1440: Associate degree for transfer: will wait until fall registration time before information is available. How many have come to the CSU? What does it mean for the state of California? The hope is that the TMCs will pay dividends, especially in insuring that no extraneous sophomore courses are taken toward a degree.
- Bottlenecks: through Course Match, offering more online courses. Though not required by SB 386, the deans in Extended Ed listed 700 such courses in summer session. By fall 2015 all online courses, that is, 3,000 courses are supposed to be available and the hope is that this might help sustain majors such as Geology and Modern Languages as well as help people graduate.
- 29,000 enrollees in Early Start this year vs. 22,000 last year. Will start tracking student success after completing Early Start.
- The 120/180-unit exception report is being finished for the Chancellor by Assistant Vice Chancellor Mallon.
- A website developed directing people in applying for the 50 million dollars set aside for the innovation grants, as well as conference calls planned for applicants' information.
- Work to progress on Smarter Balance and related transition from EAP.
- SUGs limited at 15% vs. 33% (as is now the case).
- Attention to rankings in Teacher Education.

## Academic Affairs Priorities

### Assistant Vice Chancellor Chris Mallon

- All exceptions to the 120-180 unit limit will be given to the Chancellor by the end of September. Not very many programs in the CSU are over 120-180 units.

### Senior Director Ken O'Donnell

- Further work on high-impact practices such as the Compass project
- GE transfer curriculum
- Improving transfer pathways for those who start out in career education
- STEM: Center for Community Engagement to evaluate benefits of service learning for STEM majors. Achievement gaps are severe and students “bleed out.” Explore how to help with degree production.
- VISTA volunteers (15) getting placed in STEM departments in colleges throughout system
- The Helmsley Charitable Trust’s grant focusing on intervention with summer students, the goal being to invest students in their own success to help with persistence and grad rates. Another RFP will be promoted in the fall.

### Assistant Vice Chancellor Eric Forbes

- E-advisor Projects: how to get tools into the hands of those who can use them well: support tools, such as College Scheduler that can relieve students of self-inflicted bottlenecks, now at 21 campuses; easy to install and reports about it have been positive.
- Degree Audit as a primary tool for advisement on all campuses. Eleven campuses are not set up yet; there have been consultants on campuses to help with doing so this summer. Two campuses are going to develop a planning tool to set up a path/roadmap for multiple terms going forward—beneficial particularly for department chairs in planning course sections.
- Early Warning Systems: used to contact students needing intervention. Hope to explore more of such tools, tailoring them to student needs.
- Predictive analytics: another important advisory tool to determine which courses are making a difference; if students succeed in such a course, what is their chance of earning a degree?

Forbes concluded by saying that there are more of such projects than there are resources to invest in them.

## **Academic Affairs Priorities**

### **Assistant Vice Chancellor Beverly Young**

- Educator Preparation and K-12: transition from STAR to CASP assessment (part of Smarter Balance) of student performance. Will make recommendations about scores that will define readiness in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Note: the whole country is now using the CSU's model. Will continue to work with the English and Math Councils and EPT/ELM committees.
- Common core and new science standards: not so controversial in CA, which has been ahead of most states in its standards-based
- Educator Prep: first 3 M of 15 M Bechtel Grant for improvement of Teacher Education. Is working with deans and faculty on RFPs to make awards to campuses. Hoping for funds to go out in January.
- National Accreditation for Teachers; currently 19 programs are nationally accredited. (Some campuses will not participate. There are districts and superintendents who don't care about national accreditation so may not participate. More may be opting out in the future).

**CSSA Tentative Priorities for 2014-15**

*CSSA Policy Agenda will be adopted between September and October, 2014*

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**University Affairs**

- Continue collaborating with Academic Senate and Academic Affairs on student success and other special initiatives: efforts in advising, reviewing program areas such as Ethnic Studies and Extended Ed, etc.
- Promote the CSU's affordable learning solutions through the use of academic technology
- Coordinate additional student involvement at BOT meetings and on systemwide committees
- Finish effort to stabilize and create a more independent CSSA by changing our funding model
- Comprehensive strategic planning effort to follow

**State Advocacy**

- Coordinate statewide voter registration campaign
- Continue advocating for support to address CSU's critical access and quality needs
- Improve and expand Cal Grant programs

**Federal Advocacy**

- Conduct two delegation trips this year
- Provide student testimonials on value of Pell program / advocate for its maintenance
- Gather DC area alumni in ongoing effort to build that network of support



## ASCSU Draft Priorities

### Executive Committee

- Develop and promote meaningful measures (“metrics”) that effectively and accurately reflect CSU efforts to provide a quality education, including those used to report on Access to Excellence outcomes
- Establish a framework for effective and impactful communication with stakeholders, both external and internal to the CSU
- Improve our understanding of the budgetary implications of decisions and recommendations, both for the ASCSU and the system as a whole
- Organize, co-host, and evaluate the effectiveness of the Academic Conference
- Coordinate the efforts of this year’s Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates (ICAS)

### Academic Affairs

To collaborate with the Chancellor’s Office to improve academic quality and to consider alternate paths to degrees at the California State University by:

- Examining the viability of competency based assessment;
- Developing effective policies designed to facilitate cross campus enrollment, including CourseMatch;
- Exploring the viability of various means of assessing the General Education requirement in critical thinking; and
- Discussing the role of Community Colleges in contributing to majors within the CSU.

### Academic Preparation and Educational Programs

- Strengthen/build collaborative relationships with internal and external constituencies with common interests, e.g., colleges and schools of education, other segments (UC, CC), pre-K-12, math and English councils, CO staff, other ASCSU committees, etc.
- Monitor and appropriately act upon relevant internal and external initiatives & legislation with implications for APEP's charge, e.g., teacher preparation, accountability measures, Common Core, Smarter Balance, college readiness, remediation, etc.
- Foster access and success for historically marginalized and/or at-risk populations

### Faculty Affairs

- Work toward drafting a comprehensive system-wide policy on Academic Freedom
- Revisit CSU policy on intellectual property issues especially in relationship to online delivery

### **ASCSU Draft Priorities**

- Advocate for the expansion of tenure-track positions to meet the growing need for access to a quality education and insuring shared governance
- Advocate for increased system-wide support for faculty research and creative activities

### **Fiscal and Government Affairs**

- Monitor proposed legislation of interest regularly throughout the year and recommend positions when appropriate
- Encourage local campus engagement in legislative matters to include an active interface with higher education issues during the campaign season
- Build and strengthen ties with the LAO, the state Department of Finance and other segments of interest including CSSA, statewide academic senates of the UC and CCC, ERFA and CFA
- Understand and monitor the CSU budget with respect to sources and uses of funds