

Academic Senator

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Message from the Chair Marshelle Thobaben (Humboldt)

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Chair's Reports:
http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Chairs_Reports/



Our universities have been working diligently to remove barriers to students achieving their degree, at the same time ensuring that they have a quality experience and a quality degree.

As I mentioned a year ago in the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) newsletter, in 2003, the CSU Board of Trustees adopted a graduation initiative with three parts: improving student preparation to begin college, strengthening the transfer process, and helping enrolled student's progress toward the degree. This Campus Actions to Facilitate Graduation (CAFG) project involved the following major tasks (Facilitating Graduation Coded memo available at <http://www.calstate.edu/acadAff/codedmemos/AA-2005-21.pdf>):

In December 2005, all universities submitted written reports that summarized their progress in facilitating student achievement of the baccalaureate degree.

During 2005-2007, campuses will have visits from Campus Peer Review Visitation Teams. These teams, consisting of faculty and administrators from across the system,

will review campus policies and outcomes pertaining to student achievement of the baccalaureate. The team will interview campus faculty, department chairs, students, administrators, and staff who are involved in the different aspects of facilitating graduation. A meeting with the campus President, Senate Chair and other key leaders caps the meeting at the end of the day. This project has been a cooperative effort between the Academic Senate CSU and Academic Affairs in the Chancellor's Office.

During 2005-2007, campus Presidents will report to the Board of Trustees on the success of their campus in facilitating student achievement of the baccalaureate degree.

On October 19-20, 2006 the Chancellor's Office and the ASCSU co-sponsored the Campus Practices for Student Success Conference. This conference allowed campuses to showcase their best practices to removing barriers to allow students to achieve a quality experience and a quality degree. The conference brochure is available at <http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/studentuccess/>

The Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) Executive Committee met with Board of Trustees Chair Achtenberg on September 20, 2005 to discuss the "Access to Excellence" strategic planning process. This is a successor planning process to the Cornerstones efforts initiated a decade ago. On October 16, 2006, we attended the first meeting of the Steering Committee in Long Beach. At this

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PLENARY SUMMARY

Full Minutes:

<http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Minutes/>

FUTURE DATES

- December 7** Campus Senate Chairs Mtg.
- December 8** Interim Comm. Mtgs.
- December 18**
Faculty Trustee Nominee materials due in Academic Senate office
- January 17-18** Senate Comm. Mtgs.
- January 18-19** Plenary

Message from the Chair (Continued)

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 and System’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. Following this summit a preliminary first draft of the “Access to Excellence” plan will be developed. The web site for the Board of Trustees strategic planning process is at http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System_Strategic_Planning/AccessToExcellence.shtml

I encourage you to review the Academic Senate CSU’s web site. Information about the ASCSU, previous newsletters, faculty trustee’s reports, etc. can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/>



*My best wishes to you
and your families
for a wonderful holiday season*

Marshelle



Message from Executive Vice Chancellor Gary Reichard, Academic Affairs

Moving Forward with the Access to Excellence Planning Process

The CSU planning initiative to develop a strategic plan to succeed Cornerstones is now under full sail. This initiative, titled Access to Excellence, was formally approved by the CSU Board of Trustees in September, and is scheduled to produce a draft plan for presentation to the Board by May of 2008.



As reported in Chair Marshelle Thobaben’s column, six issue domains consistent with the themes “access” and “excellence”—as well as a number of questions within each—have been developed to help to shape the individual campus conversations that will be the all-important first stage of the process. These domains and questions were formulated by the steering committee at its first meeting on October 16, then revised at a combined meeting of the ASCSU Executive Committee, campus Provosts, and campus Academic Senate Chairs three days later. Suggestions from that meeting were considered and the domains and questions were finalized in an “electronic messaging” exercise involving the full steering committee on Nov. 1-3. The final list of domains and issues has recently been sent to all CSU presidents, with copies to campus Senate Chairs, Provosts, and ASI presidents in preparation for the scheduling of the campus conversations. This final list is available online at the URL referenced below.

Presidents have been asked to ensure that these conversations include faculty, students, staff, administrators, alumni/ae, and—as possible community supporters and advisors—and that they take place between now and early March. It is hoped that campus Academic Senate and Associated Students leadership will be involved in their planning and implementation. Two or three members of the steering committee will attend each campus conversation, and the results of each will be forwarded to the steering committee to be used in shaping the agenda of the next major event in the planning process—a system-wide summit to be held in April 2007. A first draft of the Access to Excellence plan will be developed from the conversation at the system-wide summit.

To encourage broad participation, a dedicated web site has been established to keep faculty, staff, students, and other interested stakeholders well informed about the process as it unfolds. Included on the site, in addition to the domains and questions, are: the membership of the steering committee; a timetable for the process; and a number of relevant and significant readings, to which additional pieces can be added along the way. The address is:

http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System_Strategic_Planning/index.shtml

General Education Advisory Committee

John Tarjan, Bakersfield http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/Academic_Affairs/index.shtml

The General Education Advisory Committee met on November 7th.

We had a presentation on civic engagement and service learning by Gerald Eisman from SFSU who is currently heading up civic engagement efforts for the Chancellor's Office.



The committee considered potential guidelines for the granting of GE credit for AP examinations. Several recommendations were made to the administration. There is an ongoing effort to align CSU and UC guidelines. CSU discipline faculties are being consulted as the guidelines are developed.

We continue to discuss the campus survey on the structure of general education and potential revisions to EO 595 which established the current GE program over 20 years ago. In light of the ongoing systemwide "Access to Excellence" strategic planning efforts, it was decided to form a working group to develop a document that contains both potential changes suggested by the campus survey and broader conceptual issues which might inform a revisioning of general education in the CSU. After approval by the entire committee, this document would be shared with both the steering committee and campuses for their consideration as they engage in strategic planning.

While AB 2168, which would have mandated a common GE package across systems was defeated in the Senate Higher Education Committee, it called attention to the differences in requirements faced by students transferring from to the CSU and University of California. ICAS has the issue of further alignment of GE-Breadth and IGETC on their December agenda. The committee awaits their advice.

After lengthy discussion, it was decided that no further action is warranted in regard to flexibility in completion of GE requirements prior to transfer, often known as the "SciGETC" initiative.

The committee considered a requirement that all GE courses be taught in English. Based upon input from the Academic Affairs Committee, it is likely that instruction in English will be encouraged for all but foreign language and literature courses and required only in Area A courses.

REPORTS

Faculty Trustee

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Faculty Trustee Summaries:

http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Faculty_Trustee/index.shtml

On November 14 and 15, the Board of Trustees met and you can see my full report on the Academic Senate's web page and the Board's agenda reports at www.calstate.edu/BOT. Here I want to highlight just a few major issues from the meeting. First, the Board finalized its budget proposal asking for a good deal beyond the compact. My amendment to move funding of ACR 73 up in the priorities was voted down. However, other priorities were included and requests beyond the compact are substantial.



Second, the Board finalized its work on the transition program for CSU executives. New amendments further strengthened the program in terms of narrowing its applicability, increasing its accountability and ensuring its transparency. The Chancellors was asked to renegotiated grandfather executives into the new Transfer II program. All of this resulted from the work of the Statewide Academic Senate's resolution regarding examination of executive compensation.

Third, the Board reviewed progress on the initiative for strategic planning. Past successes were reviewed, as were persistent needs. There was a report of the October 16th meeting of the Steering Committee of which the executive committee and I are members. Also, the meeting with campus provosts was reviewed and the domains for investigation will be sent to the campuses with a request that their reports come back to the steering committee by March of 2007.

On the 15th, I spoke to the rally of the CFA stressing the need for closing the salary and workload gaps, attending to the needs of department chairs, and allowing campuses to preserve their unique strengths and qualities.

Reports (continued)

Executive Committee

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Committee website: <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/Executive/index.shtml>

During the past two months your Executive Committee has been actively engaged in attending system wide meetings as well as helping to fill positions for various systemwide committees. On October 16, 2006 we participated in the inaugural meeting of the CSU Trustees Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Later on that week we met with campus senate chairs at their meeting, met with provosts and senate chairs to discuss the strategic planning initiative as well as a number of other system wide issues, and helped facilitate the CSU Campus Practices for Student Success Conference. On November 8 and 9 we attended the ASCSU standing committee meetings as well as the Plenary and on November 14 and 15 we attended the Board of Trustees meeting.



We made recommendations of faculty to serve on a new planning group to look at international education in the CSU; a sustainability subcommittee; an Ed.D proposal review panel; a task force on adds, drops, withdrawals, and repeats; an ad hoc committee to give advice to the General Education Advisory Committee on treatment of history courses and AP exams in general education; and a task force looking into textbook pricing. We also appointed faculty to attend an ATI Technical Assistance Workshop held in October and gave advice to the Chancellor's Office on the possible establishment of a College Counseling Corps

Academic Affairs (AA)

Darlene Yee-Melichar (San Francisco), Chair

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Committee website: http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/Academic_Affairs/index.shtml

The Academic Affairs Committee was successful with two resolutions at the Senate Plenary. The resolutions on Laboratory Science Requirement for Freshman Admission (jointly with TEKR) and *Fulfilling the Principles of Cornerstones in the New Strategic Plan* (jointly with FGA) passed unanimously. Five additional resolutions were proposed in first reading; these included the following:



- *Resource Needs for High Quality, Independent EdD Programs in the CSU;*
- *A Student Fee Policy that Supports Educational Outcomes;*
- *Principles to Guide the Application of the TCSU Numbering System for California State University (CSU) System wide Articulation;*
- *Response to SB 1543 (Alarcon): High School Curriculum; High School Coursework Requirements; and*
- *Support of the a-g Curriculum as California's Primary High School Graduation Course Requirements.*

After productive consultation and thorough deliberation with our colleagues on other committees, several of these resolutions were jointly sponsored with FGA (#1 above) and TEKR (#4 and #5 above). We appreciated the opportunity to collaborate and work together on these important resolutions.

AA heard liaison reports from our colleagues on several system wide committees and task forces, and we thank them for their helpful information updates. We also would like to thank Dr. Keith Boyum, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Dr. Christine Hanson, Interim Dean, Academic Program Planning for meeting with us and sharing academic news updates from the Chancellor's Office on:

- The "Access to Excellence" strategic planning effort;
- The provosts white paper on graduate education;
- The status of independent EdD degree proposals;

Academic Affairs (Continued)

- Access to Information Technology by disabled persons;
- New Assistant Vice Chancellor in Academic Affairs (Dr. Beth Ambos, formerly of CSU Long Beach, will take an AVC for Research Initiatives and Partnerships);
- Campus Actions to Facilitate Graduation-- CSU Campus Practices for Student Success Conference— next steps on this initiative;
- LDTP updates;
- “Academic Transformation” as discussed by ATAC; and
- Provosts plan to discuss and develop a framework on research.

The AA will continue to address the following issues at our next meeting on December 8: GE courses and on-line education; remediation; and alternatives to FTEs based-funding.

Faculty Affairs (FA)

Bernadette Cheyne (Humboldt), Chair

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Committee website: http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/Faculty_Affairs/index.shtml



At the November plenary, Faculty Affairs co-sponsored two resolutions with Fiscal and Governmental Affairs that advocated additional funding to meet numerous unmet needs in the CSU. One dealt in more general terms with a long list of priorities that had been identified in a 2001 report titled *The California State University at the Beginning of the 21st Century: Meeting the Needs of the People of California*. The other specifically addressed implementation of Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) No. 73, passed in September 2001, which urged the CSU Trustees, the ASCSU and the CFA to develop jointly a plan to raise the percentage of tenured and tenure-track faculty to at least 75 percent and to improve faculty diversity while retaining currently employed lecturer faculty. Both resolutions passed unanimously and will be available to the Trustees when they discuss the 2007-2008 CSU budget at their November 14-15 meeting.

At the same meeting the Board of Trustees, at the request of an individual Trustee, is scheduled to discuss that Trustee’s concerns regarding a proposed CSU international exchange program in Cyprus. In response, Faculty Affairs introduced a resolution *Supporting Academic Freedom for CSU International Exchange and Study-Abroad Programs*, which passed unanimously and also will be available to the Trustees at their upcoming meeting.

A FAC resolution encouraging recognition of faculty service in governance had its first reading, and the committee intends to address the issue of service more broadly in the future. We also are investigating system-wide hiring practices for academic MPP positions, faculty rights related to the audio/video taping of class sessions, strategies for gauging faculty satisfaction and faculty privacy issues related to the PATRIOT Act. We anticipate offering resolutions related to some or all of these matters at the January plenary.

Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA)

Jackie Kegley (Bakersfield), Chair jkegley@csub.edu

Committee website: <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/fga/index.shtml>

In November the committee developed a resolution on aggressively pursuing funding for the continuing budget challenges and unmet needs in the CSU budget proposal. This was unanimously approved at the Senate Plenary session and sent to Chancellor Reed and the Board of Trustees.



The committee also co-sponsored several resolutions: (1) Academic Affairs, non-implemented Cornerstones principles and (2), Faculty Affairs, on ACR 73.

Fiscal and Governmental Affairs met jointly with Academic Affairs Committee at our November meeting to work out a combined resolution on resources for the independent doctorate, including library support. The committee had a telephone discussion with Patrick Lenz concerning the budget and how the CSU computes SSI’s in the budget. FGA continues its discussion of developing a process whereby FGA and the Senate can actively participate in the legislative agenda for the CSU.

Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA)

(Continued)

In January, the committee hopes to have updates from Karen Zamarripa on changes in Sacramento and possible legislative issues and discussions with Patrick Lenz on budget matters after the January budget submission from the Governor.

The Chair and two members of FGA committee plan a December visit with legislative staff to discuss possible legislative issues. As the Legislature begins its sessions, FGA will begin its close legislation-watch in order to determine needed Senate action and lobbying.

Teacher Education & K-12 Relations (TEKR)

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Committee website: <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/committees/TEKR/index.shtml>

TEKR was pleased to co-sponsor three resolutions with Academic Affairs: *Laboratory Science Requirement for Freshman Admission, a Response to SB 1543 (Alarcon) on High School course requirements for CSU admission*, and a resolution in support for the a-g Curriculum as California’s High School graduation course requirements.



Dr. Joan Bissell briefed TEKR members on progress being made system wide in the recruitment and preparation of future Math and Science Teachers. Additional funds and incentives have been made available through competitive grants that bode well for recruiting these teachers for areas where they are sorely needed. As the new strategic plan unfolds, TEKR members are interested in examining the extent to which K-12 students can be properly counseled, advised, and prepared for successful matriculation to CSU campuses. Moreover, TEKR will be looking into indicators of success of the EAP program, and how campuses across the system are responding to this promising initiative.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Laboratory Science Requirement for Freshman Admission (AS-2769-06/AA/TEKR)

The Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) recommends that the CSU version of the high school course preparation pattern be revised.

Fulfilling the Principles of Cornerstones in the New Strategic Plan (AS-2771-06/AA/FGA)

The Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) Access and Excellence Steering Comm. and the Access to Excellence Campus Rev. Groups gives highest priority to principles 4, 6, and 8.

Advocating for Additional Funding for CSU Budget Challenges & Unmet Needs (AS-2772-06/FGA/FA)

The Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) strongly affirms its concern for the 07-08 Budget Challenges.

Monitoring & Supporting Progress in the Implementation (AS-2780-06/FA)

The Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) strongly affirms its commitment to the principles contained in Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) No. 73.

Supporting Academic Freedom for CSU International Exchange & Study-Abroad Programs (AS-2782-06/FA)

The Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) strongly supports the academic freedom of its faculty in developing and implementing international exchange and study-abroad programs.