

Academic Senator

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Message from the Chair Marshelle Thobaben (Humboldt)

mt1@humboldt.edu

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



In Memory of Paul Persons

It is with great sadness that I write my column in memory of our beloved colleague Academic Senator Paul Persons. Paul died from an apparent heart attack at his hotel on Jan. 17, 2007 while attending an Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) meeting in Long Beach. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Briggs, also a Chico professor, and the couple's two children, Ben and Teresa.

Paul served on the ASCSU since 2003 and had been elected by his colleagues as an at large member of this year's Executive Committee. In addition to serving on the Executive Committee, he was a member of the Faculty Affairs Committee from 2004-2006. He also served on numerous statewide committees including Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC), Admissions Advisory Council, and The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS). Additionally, he represented the ASCSU at meetings of the Alumni Council, California State Student Association (CSSA), and The California Faculty Association (CFA).

During the past few months, Paul was instrumental in establishing the CSU Advisory Sustainability Subcommittee on Education and Research. Its purpose is to create curricular recommendations and service learning opportunities not only to educate CSU students, but also to better utilize student and faculty interest in sustainability. His goal was to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum statewide.

Paul had taught for 27 years in the Political Science Department at CSU Chico and was chair of the CSU Chico Academic Senate from 2000-2002. He was a long-standing advisor for legal studies students, and those in the Pre-Law program, and at Chico's Community Legal Information Center (CLIC). He had worked in this Center since 1979 as the supervising attorney for interns in the worker's rights, county jail law project, and environmental advocates programs. He was named CSU Chico's Outstanding Academic Adviser in 1998.

A service to honor Paul was held on January 20, 2007 at the Chico Memorial Union Auditorium. Among the nearly 900 family members, friends and colleagues in attendance were many ASCSU Senators.

Those wishing to contribute to a fund in memory of Paul should send donations to the Paul Persons Memorial Fund, o/o University Development and Advancement, Chico State University, Chico, CA 95929-0155. These funds will go toward a scholarship in his name or efforts to promote sustainability policies.

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PLENARY SUMMARY

Full Minutes:

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

FUTURE DATES

February 9	Interim Comm. Mtgs.
March 7-8	Senate Comm. Mtgs.
March 8-9	Plenary
March 12	Executive Comm. Mtg.
March 13-14	Board of Trustees

Message from the Chair (Continued)

Paul Persons will be greatly missed as a friend and a colleague. He will be remembered as a person whose integrity, values, judgment and wonderful sense of humor added greatly to our work in the ASCSU. He could always be counted on for well-reasoned counsel delivered with a kind, soft-spoken style.



REPORTS

Faculty Trustee

Craig Smith (Long Beach) crsmith@csulb.edu

Faculty Trustee Summaries:

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

On January 23-24, 2007, the Board of Trustees met. My full report is on the Academic Senate's web page and the Board's agenda, reports, and resolutions at www.calstate.edu/BOT. In this space, I want to highlight just a few major issues from the meeting.



First, Lt. Governor John Garamandi joined the Board replacing Cruz Bustamante. The Lt. Governor dissented on the vote to approve a 4% raise for campus presidents.

Second, the audit reform for the CSU has proved very effective in term of compliance.

Third, the Academic Senate's resolution on the need for a contract for faculty was presented to the board by ASCSU Chair Marshelle Thobaben. The resolution resonated not only with board members but CSSA members present who also commented on unprofessional behavior in the collective bargaining process.

Fourth, in compliance with legislation passed in Sacramento, the Board revised Title 5 with regard to 1) education about, and prevention of sexual violence and 2) hazing in the student conduct code.

Fifth, we reviewed our state legislative agenda and its context in Sacramento. There are 33 completely new legislators in Sacramento. Among others, the Speaker and the Senator Pro Tem are termed out in 2008. Jack Scott will be in his last term and is again head of the Education Committee in the Senate; the Vice Chair is Mike Wyland from San Diego. Anthony Portantino (La Canada) is chair of the Assembly Higher Education; Shirley Horton (Chula Vista) is vice chair. The Board adopted a statement of legislative principles to guide our staff in terms which legislation we should consider for support, amendment or defeat. These principles focus on academic affairs, internal governance in the system, collective bargaining, budget process, and our role in teaching preparation. Initiatives include increased funding of \$77 million for Cal Grant B (the neediest students), support for a revenue bond program, and a non-resident military waiver extension.

With regard to the governor's budget, the legislative analyst's office believes that the revenue projections are optimistic. The budget provides the CSU with a base budget increase of 4% or \$109 million, funding for enrollment growth of 2.5% (\$65 million), and a cut of \$7 million in outreach programs, which we believe will be restored. The CSU budget assumes a fee revenue increase of \$252 per student to provide a \$98 million supplement to balance the CSU budget, of which one-third is set aside for state university scholarships. Our total budget is \$4.4 billion.

We also reviewed our federal agenda, which we will pursue during "educational" visits on March 28th to key congressional offices. We need to get the new Higher Education Act reauthorized, which includes Pell Grants, intervention programs, service learning programs, math and science teachers, and applied research. The Act has been extended to June 30, 2007.

Faculty Trustee (cont.)

Since earmarks are no longer acceptable, a whole slew of proposed programs from last year that were approved in the House for the CSU are not in play. The House did pass legislation that would cut student loan interest in half. The \$1 million Strategic Language Initiative has been approved in the House and Senate and Conference Committee. We will now try to move it to the president's desk.

Due to the 2006 election, the State of California has more clout in the Congress than any other state. However, limited revenue, the filibuster, the presidential veto and other factors make the likelihood of new spending appropriations unlikely.

Trustee Linscheid reported on the disposition of the issue regarding CSU links to Eastern Mediterranean University in Cypress. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to academic freedom and providing secure learning areas for our students.

- I will travel to Monterey Bay on January 25-26 and be involved in the campus conversation at Dominguez Hills.

The meeting of the Board was adjourned in honor of Paul Persons.

Executive Committee

Barry Pasternack (Fullerton), Vice-Chair

bpasternack@fullerton.com

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

As you are probably aware, the CSU has embarked on a strategic planning effort to succeed Cornerstones called Access to Excellence. Details on this Trustee initiative can be found at: http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System_Strategic_Planning/MtgsEvents.shtml



During the months of January, February, and March conversational meetings will be held on each campus so that all stakeholders of the CSU will have the opportunity to give input into this planning process. In January three meetings were held – Channel Island on the 19th, San Diego on the 26th, and Los Angeles on the 30th. A calendar of meeting dates for all campuses can be found at: http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System_Strategic_Planning/

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

For each of the campus conversations a Trustee member of the Access to Excellence Steering Committee as well as a member of the CSU Academic Affairs division will be in attendance. Members of the ASCSU Executive Committee (who are members of the Steering Committee) will be in attendance not only at the meeting on their home campus, but will also attend a meeting at another campus. Chair Thobaben will attend the meeting at San Francisco State, Vice Chair Pasternack will attend the meeting at CSU Dominguez Hills, and At-Large member Reichman will attend the meeting at Sonoma State.

While the campus conversations should be structured around the six domains developed by the Steering Committee, the conversations should be less about what is currently happening on the campus and more about what are seen as critical issues facing the CSU over the next decade. Following the San Diego meeting, Fred Hornbeck, Chair of the campus Senate at San Diego and a member of the Statewide Academic Senate reported “It was successful and useful way beyond my most enthusiastic expectations (someone less reserved might say “wildest dreams”)”.

The Steering Committee will convene in early April to distil the input obtained from the campus meetings. This will be followed by a systemwide summit on April 24th and 25th in Newport Beach. Here campus teams will have an opportunity to give further feedback on the issues raised during the individual campus conversations. These inputs will then be used to develop a first draft of the Strategic Planning document.

Reports (continued)

Academic Affairs (AA)

Darlene Yee-Melichar (San Francisco), Chair

dyee@sfsu.edu

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

The Academic Affairs Committee met with Mary Cheng (East Bay), Chair of the CSU Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI), Wayne Dick (Long Beach) and Mark Turner (Chancellor’s Office). The goal of the ATI is to provide equal access to all students to the extent possible/feasible. There are federal and state mandates that campuses and the system need to address; EO 926 addresses these issues. We should make changes not only to respond to mandates, but also to better serve our students. The ATI has three priorities: web accessibility; instructional materials accessibility; and procurement of accessible electronic and information technology. ATI timelines for planned activities, and potential actions that could be required were shared with us:



Web and Electronic IT

By 2009, all administrative web-based user interfaces will be brought into compliance with law.

By 2012, all campus websites will be brought into compliance.

Every campus will develop a plan endorsed by the President and Academic Senate to assure compliance.

The system and campus will take necessary actions to facilitate access during the transition.

Instructional Materials

Each campus will develop a plan to assure equal access to students.

Each campus will develop a plan to produce and utilize accessible instructional materials.

All instructional materials used for teaching courses shall be developed/identified with sufficient lead-time to allow conversion to accessible materials.

Each campus academic senate will develop a policy for the approval of new instructional technologies.

Faculty authors will be encouraged to request that their publishers produce and distribute their materials in an accessible format.

Procurement

Each campus will develop a plan approved by the President and Academic Senate which will require the purchase of accessible products whenever possible.

Each campus will develop a plan approved by the President and Academic Senate which would force departments to bear the cost of purchasing materials that result in costs to accommodate student access.

The faculty will give preference to the purchase of accessible materials.

A committee workgroup composed of Tapie Rohm (San Bernardino) and Steven Stepanek (Northridge) was assigned to work on a resolution on this topic.

A resolution on “Support for Carnegie’s New Community Engagement Classification” commending newly classified campuses and urging other campuses to seek this elective classification was approved by the Academic Affairs Committee. This resolution is dedicated to our esteemed colleague, Dr. Paul T. Persons, Member-At-Large of the Executive Committee and Professor of Political Science and Statewide Senator from CSU Chico in honor of his conscientious contributions in support of community engagement, and dedication to shared governance.

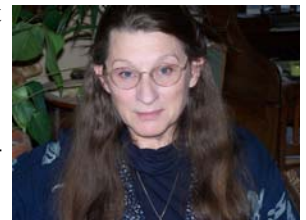
Faculty Affairs (FA)

Bernadette Cheyne (Humboldt), Chair

bmc3@humboldt.edu

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

Two matters of special interest to the Faculty Affairs Committee at this time include gauging faculty satisfaction in the CSU and review of a document prepared by Faculty Trustee Craig Smith entitled “Workload Re-allocation: A Special Report to CSU Senate Chairs.”



Faculty Affairs (FA) (Continued)

We consider faculty satisfaction a very important issue, and believe it particularly important to gain a more in-depth assessment of how CSU faculty perceive their employment, what they find particularly satisfying about their jobs, and what special concerns they may have. The Committee currently is brainstorming strategies on how to acquire meaningful and useful information.

Faculty Trustee Craig Smith has prepared a document that offers a number of intriguing suggestions regarding how faculty workload might be re-allocated in order to provide more support for faculty to engage in scholarship and creative activities. The Committee looks forward to meeting with Trustee Smith to discuss his ideas in more depth and, potentially, to offering a resolution for consideration by the Academic Senate CSU.

Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA)

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

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

The focus of the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee over the next months will be on advocacy for additional resources for the CSU. Related to this is our recent resolution on enhanced funding for graduate education. Our legislative advocacy agenda will be set in the context of CSU as the economic engine for the state as well as a key factor in enhancing the quality of life for all Californians. The nine recommendations in the 21st Century report will be carried forward into the present and the theme will be the crucial “unmet needs” of the CSU that must be addressed to provide excellence and access to California citizens.



The recommendations to be pursued at the legislative and governor level are as follows: (1) Recalculate the marginal-cost formula to better reflect the reality of the costs of education; (2) Implement ACR-73 by addressing the need to hire additional tenure-track faculty while also establishing incentives to attract new faculty members of the highest quality such as housing subsidies or subsidized housing, moving expenses and research start-up funds; (3) Provide funding to augment substantially CSU library collections, both print and electronic, and increase library staffing; (4) Provide funding to allow CSU faculty salaries to achieve parity with comparison institutions and thus to allow CSU to remain competitive with other institutions in securing quality faculty members; (4) Provide funding to improve the current CSU plant and to remedy insufficiencies due to delayed maintenance while also pursuing bond issues to allow expansion of facilities; (5) provide funding to increase the number of secretarial/clerical staff and technical staff who provide services to students and faculty. These unmet needs constitute obstacles for CSU in its provision of a high quality education to an increasing number of students.

Teacher Education & K-12 Relations (TEKR)

Mark O'Shea (Monterey Bay), Chair

mark_oshea@csumb.edu

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

As the 2006-2007 academic year progresses, TEKR is focusing its attention on two areas of concern for teacher educators and all university members who are concerned about the quality and purposes of public education. No Child Left Behind is scheduled for re-authorization by the congress. While well intended, the federal law has numerous flaws, particularly with regard to regulations pertaining to highly qualified teachers, state curriculum standards, and their assessment through annual high-stakes testing. These regulations affect our teacher credential programs and students seeking to become teachers. Additionally, TEKR is concerned about statewide implementation of No Child Left Behind in California with respect to pre-service and in-service teacher education. Our State Board of Education may be placing too much emphasis on the textbook adoption and utilization process as a means for improving student academic achievement. From the student perspective, teacher knowledge and skills are far more important than curriculum resources for their learning. TEKR is looking into ways to facilitate efforts statewide to assure teacher success in standards-based classrooms. Finally, TEKR is interested to know how the CSU system-wide evaluation of teacher preparation is progressing and the role of faculty in the evaluation design, the determination of teacher education program quality indicators, and the measures taken to assure continuing program improvement.



RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Full Text of Resolutions:

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

Resource Needs for High-Quality, Independent Ed.D. Programs in the California State University (CSU) (AS-2773-06/FGA/AA Rev)

The ASCSU reaffirms and restates our concern for adequate support for the independent Ed.D. programs in the CSU.

Request for a Task Force to Study California State University (CSU) Student Fee Policy (AS-2774-06/AA Rev)

The ASCSU requests that the Chancellor's Office, undertake a study of CSU Student Fee Policy to determine what changes would result in a better allocation of state resources to facilitate graduation efforts and student success.

Principles to Guide the Application of the Transfer CSU (TCSU) Numbering System for California State University (CSU) Systemwide Articulation (AS-2776-06/AA Rev)

Individual community college courses receiving a Transfer CSU (TCSU) associated with a Lower Division Transfer.

Response to SB 1543 (Alarcon): High School Curriculum; High School Coursework Requirements (AS-2777-06/AA/TEKR Rev)

The ASCSU urges the Chancellor's Office/Academic Senate CSU to move quickly in establishing a systemwide faculty task force to address issues raised by SB1543.

Support of the a-g Curriculum as California's Primary High School Graduation Course Requirements (AS-2778-06/AA/TEKR Rev)

The ASCSU is in support of the a-g curriculum as California's primary pathway to high school graduation.

Library Resource Needs for All Undergraduate & Graduate Programs (AS-2779-06/FGA Rev)

The ASCSU reaffirm its concerns about lagging funds for library resources.

Recognition and Support of Faculty Service in Governance (AS-2781-06/FA Rev)

The ASCSU affirms its commitment and appreciation for faculty who engage in shared governance as part of their faculty service activities.

Importance of Settling the Contract Between the CSU and CFA (AS-2782-07/FA)

The ASCSU reaffirms the role of the academy as a venue for creative, thoughtful & respective discourse where conflicting perspectives can be debated & reasonable compromises reached.