The Board reviewed an “Executive Summary of Access to Excellence 2009 to Present,” as well as a number of other reports directly tied to this initiative. These reports highlighted accomplishments to date and ongoing efforts to implement this strategic plan. A question arose as to the status of Access to Excellence given our current fiscal challenges. It was the consensus of the Board members that financial concerns should not interfere with our ongoing pursuit of the goals of “access” and “excellence” that are at the heart of this initiative.

Related to “access,” another report offered specifics by academic year of impaction on all CSU campuses. For 2012-13 four campuses will be totally impacted in all majors (Fullerton, San Diego, San Jose, San Luis Obispo), an additional 12 will be impacted for first time freshmen and 11 for upper division transfers.

The majority of the retreat focused upon the funding shortfalls faced by the system and brainstorming possible strategies for addressing these challenges. Chancellor Reed reported that the “trigger” will be pulled and that the system will experience another $100 million cut this year. The unknown is whether this will be a one-time or a permanent cut. He also outlined the particulars of the next request that will be made of the legislature and the governor where they will be asked to reinvest in the CSU. This request will include funding requests for the following:

- 3% across the board compensation increase for faculty and staff
- Graduation initiative
- Technology
- Instructional equipment
- Mandatory costs
- Deferred maintenance
- Enrollment growth

There was discussion of a $500/year tuition increase if the requested funding is not received, and strategizing as to whether a tuition increase should be included as a part of the funding request.
It was noted that the state funding versus student fee percentages used to be 70/30, and now are 55/45.

A concern was expressed that too often the Board finds itself in a reactive position, rather than assuming a more proactive stance. This is particularly apparent in responses to budgetary matters. It was decided that the Board would investigate a number of cost-saving strategies that might be adopted if the legislature and governor fail to provide the requested funding. For each strategy the amount of savings will be calculated to inform the discussions. These include exploring:

- Combining or centralizing some campus functions, such as technology, campus calendars (e.g. semesters/quarters), police, etc.
- Continued work on reducing time-to-degree
- Online initiatives
- Tuition structures: tiering based on size/demand, or by discipline; possible additional fees for “super seniors;” etc.
- Extended education opportunities
- Restructuring of financial aid, including review of unit ceiling for State University Grants, potential for offering greater assistance to students whose family income exceeds $70,000/year, etc.

Consultation will occur with faculty and other concerned constituencies in identifying, investigating and prioritizing the cost-saving proposals, with a goal of having a plan in place prior to the end of the spring term.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Cheyne