April 23, 2012

Dr. James Postma, Chair
Academic Senate, CSU
The California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA  90802-4210

Dear Dr. Postma:

RE: March 15-16, 2012, Senate Resolutions

Thank you for forwarding the resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate of the California State University at its March 15-16, 2012, meeting. We are pleased to provide the responses below:

1) **AS-3052-12/APEP (Rev): Action in Response to Education Code Section 66205.8 Regarding the Applicability of High School Career Technical Education Courses Towards CSU Eligibility**  Approved Unanimously

The CSU thanks the Senate for their recommendation to the CSU Board of Trustees to adopt the joint UC/CSU criteria and processes as provided in the ASCSU’s “policy recommendation” and rationale regarding the applicability of high school Career Technical Education (CTE) courses as consideration for CSU eligibility as per Education Code section 66205.8. As a result of the Senate’s action, the CSU has drafted language that conforms to the recommended Senate policy which is currently with the UC where it must be approved through an interagency agreement. Once that process is complete, Title V language must be drafted and approved by the Board of Trustees. This process is moving forward but a timeline cannot be established because we do not know how long it will take the UC to review the material and develop an MOU.
2) **AS-3053-12/FGA (Rev): Managing Enrollment During the Current Budget Crisis**

Approved

The CSU recognizes its critical role in providing all students with a quality, affordable education and appreciates the Senate’s recognition of, and support for, this important mission. Given the current and persistent state budget constraints levied against public higher education, the CSU leadership continues to advocate in Sacramento and elsewhere to ensure that the CSU is properly funded. The campus presidents and administrators are carefully planning and managing enrollments to provide a high-quality, affordable education to all CSU students.

3) **AS-3054-12/FGA/FA (Rev): Implementation of Access to Excellence CSU Strategic Plan Commitment 2: Plan for Faculty Turnover and Invest in Faculty Excellence**

Approved Unanimously

Thank you for your commendation and support of the faculty compensation policy approved by the Board of Trustees at its January 23-25, 2012 meeting. The CSU recognizes its commitment to and investment in faculty excellence as outlined in the CSU’s *Access to Excellence* Strategic Plan (commitment 2) and highly values the importance of recruiting, retaining and fairly compensating faculty throughout the system. The Senate is asking the Board to develop a comprehensive multi-year plan, a timeline for carrying out the plan and annual reporting to be published on the *Access to Excellence* website. Considering the current state of the budget, this resolution is not workable in its current form. Although the BoT agrees that fairly compensating faculty is extremely important, planning for and establishing timelines to address faculty compensation is nearly impossible. After losing approximately a third of our general fund budget since 2007, and facing the possibility of additional cuts, many of our institutions are relying on one-time dollars to survive. Until California begins to support higher education with an appropriate, consistent, and fair budget, our ability to plan and provide timelines will not be meaningful. There are many changes occurring in the academy nationally, which make comparisons difficult.

4) **AS-3055-12/FGA (Rev): Opposition to AB 1561 (R. Hernandez), SB 952 (Alquist) and SB 967 (Yee) Executive and Administrative Compensation**

Approved

The CSU recognizes and appreciates the Senate’s support in opposing AB 1561, SB 952, and SB 967 regarding executive and administrative compensation. The CSU concurs with the ASCSU’s rationale “that CSU personnel issues are matters involving internal operations and are thus, properly, the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, including issues of compensation.” As of this date, there are five compensation bills that are still active and we hope that they will be amended or defeated.
5) AS-3058-12/FA (Rev): Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights Pertaining to Sponsored Research  Approved

The CSU strongly supports academic freedom as it pertains to faculty research and their scholarly endeavors and supports the Senate in their efforts to safeguard the rights of faculty to engage in independent research and the dissemination of that research.

6) AS-3059-12/EX (Rev): Endorsement of the January 2012 Online Education White Paper  Approved Unanimously

The CSU appreciates and thanks the Senate for their collaboration and endorsement of the Online Education White Paper. As the CSU explores expanded utilization of online educational strategies, the input and collaboration of the faculty will be of continued, critical importance to the successful development of future online programs.

7) AS-3066-12/FGA: Opposition to AB 970 (Fong) – Systemwide Fees  Approved

The CSU recognizes and appreciates the Senate’s support in opposing AB 970 (Fong), which would require the Board of Trustees to adopt a tuition fee increase 11 months prior to its implementation and consultation with recognized statewide student associations and the community at large before doing so. The proposed measure would additionally prohibit the use of “tuition” and instead mandate system fees only be referenced as “systemwide fees” or “fees.” The CSU concurs with the ASCSU’s rationale that labeling systemwide charges as fees is highly problematic. Furthermore, in order to offset persistent and severe budget cuts to public higher education, the CSU recognizes the importance of maintaining a level of flexibility to adjust tuition as necessary to mitigate increasingly uncertain state support. The CSU has drafted and proposed amendments to this bill which are currently being reviewed.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ronald E. Vogel
Associate Vice Chancellor

REV/mk
c: Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor
   Dr. Ephraim P. Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
   Dr. Benjamin F. Quillian, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
   Mr. Garrett P. Ashley, Vice Chancellor, University Relations and Advancement
   Ms. Gail E. Brooks, Vice Chancellor, Human Resources