



**Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU)**  
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## **ASCSU Chair's Report**

Plenary

November 14, 2024

As we reflect on the challenges and opportunities that have marked the last year, it is crucial to acknowledge the unwavering resilience and dedication of faculty across the California State University system. In the face of shifting political landscapes and the uncertainty surrounding the next presidential term, we remain committed to the core mission of the CSU: advancing student success, promoting academic excellence, and ensuring equitable access to higher education. Our collective resolve as faculty is to persevere, adapt, and contribute to the continued strength and growth of the CSU in the coming years.

This year, I have the privilege of engaging in several key CSU initiatives shaping the future of the system. One of these is the *Year of Engagement Student Success Initiative Steering Committee*, with Vice Chair Swenson and coordinated by Deloitte consulting firm. Similarly, I was appointed by Chancellor Garcia to serve as the faculty representative on the *Strategic Plan for the CSU Steering Committee*, coordinated by SOVA, where I am participating in shaping the long-term vision and priorities of the system, helping to develop strategies that address academic excellence, workforce preparation, and the CSU's role in serving an increasingly diverse student population. I have arranged for the entire ASCSU to engage in a listening session with the SOVA team during the plenary to ensure faculty representatives from all campuses are represented in the work.

Additionally, I am serving on the *Strategic Enrollment Management Advisory Council* with Immediate past Chair Steffel. Here we hope to refine strategies for improving enrollment management across the system. This work remains focused on ensuring equitable access to higher education and improving retention and graduation rates. These initiatives are aligned with our commitment to student success, and through these councils, we have been able to refine CSU's enrollment strategies to meet future needs.

Upon learning about the next *Affordability Summit* and the *Graduation Initiative 2025*, I requested invitations for the Executive Committee and we collectively participated in both the events. This initiative began in 2009 and sought to reduce achievement gaps and increase graduation rates, particularly among underrepresented and first-generation students. At the summit, we collaborated with faculty, students, staff, and administrators, to explore ways to make education more affordable while simultaneously providing the necessary support systems to ensure student success.

A critical part of my work this year also involved engagement with various workgroups and councils that address broad issues facing the CSU. For example, I convened the first meeting in October of the *Council of Campus Senate Chairs*, a forum for shared governance that promotes dialogue between campuses on academic affairs. The Executive Committee continues to represent the ASCSU through our involvement with the *Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)* where we collaborate with the University of California (UC) and California Community Colleges (CCC) systems on Cal-GETC (California

General Education Transfer Curriculum; created by ICAS per AB 928) and its standards. Additionally, through my participation in the *California Faculty Association (CFA)*, I worked on advancing faculty rights and improving conditions for academic personnel throughout the system.

Other significant contributions this year include reports and participation in the *Academic Advisory Council (Provost's Council)*, where we discussed academic policies impacting teaching, research, and student success across the CSU. Through the *General Education Chairs Council*, I worked on advancing discussions around General Education (GE) reforms to ensure that CSU students have a broad, inclusive, and flexible curriculum. I also participated in the *Some College, No Degree Working Group*, which focused on addressing the barriers faced by students who have attended college but have not completed their degrees. This work is essential in supporting students and increasing completion rates across the system.

In addition to these policy and programmatic initiatives, I participated in a faculty panel at the *Strategic Transfer Summit at UC Merced*, where representatives from CSU, UC, and California Community Colleges collaborated on improving the transfer process and expanding transfer pathways. Our own Secretary Hamilton and the Chancellor's Office, Marci Sanchez also presented at the summit. These efforts aim to increase collaboration across systems of Higher Education to reduce barriers and create a seamless transition for students moving between institutions. I am and will be participating search committees that are critical to CSU leadership, including an appointment by Chancellor Garcia to the *Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (EVC)* search committee, which has just begun its work. Similarly, I will serve with Immediate Past Chair Steffel on the search committee for the *ASCSU Office Program Manager*, helping to select a candidate who will provide crucial support to the Academic Senate and its governance structure.