



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

Plenary
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We have incredible opportunities before us in the CSU, and given that it is an election year, the stakes could not be higher for education in the United States and for the CSU. We are seeing attacks on higher education across the nation, systematic dismantling of academic freedom, banning of books, banning DEI, and a disruption of the establishments of an educated society. These constitute a loss of rights for which our country's veterans sacrificed so that we might sit here in this venue today. Our students face challenges we never experienced in our lifetimes, fear of non-acceptance into our nation, food and housing insecurity, looming financial obligations, and a lens on the world formed by living through a pandemic in the early years of their lives.

It is now more than ever that we need to strengthen shared governance and demonstrate the relevance of faculty in the co-governance of our institutions. My vision is to enact change in the ASCSU that will elevate its presence and role in Shared Governance.

Below are priorities and activities since I assumed office:

Advocate and reinforce the rights of faculty in Shared Governance

Letter to and response from the Maritime Interim President that affirmed the rights of faculty voice in the proposed integration of Maritime and SLO
Transition the ASCSU's work into being more action-oriented
Communication specialist appointments – assist with documentation and promotion of ASCSU work

Improve transparency and internal functioning of the ASCSU operations

Technology updates - DropBox to SharePoint, ASCSU Office 365 account
Communications updates - Appointment letter process, Systemwide Committee Organizers notification and meeting request messaging, Travel letters
Transparency - For the first time, ASCSU senators can see agendas, minutes, and supporting documents for every committee, including the archives

Foster Relationships - Show up, be engaged, have hard conversations if needed, and listen

CSSA - Our students are central to the work we do in the CSU. I've been in attendance and reported to each CSSA meeting and was honored to serve on an interview panel at CSUnity and made connections with student leaders across the CSU

Alumni Council - Interviewed as a panelist at August council meeting

CFA - Report at Fall Kick-Off

Meetings with Board of Trustees Chair Clarke and Vice Chair Arambula re: Board interactions with ASCSU, role of non-board members (seating and speaking rights), addressing sentiment that Shared Governance is Shared Death

Juneteenth

Year of Engagement - June ExCom meeting with Deloitte

ASCSU-CO Leadership Summit in August - This year, the summit was held in person with about 20 people, including ASCSU Executive Committee, the Chairs of Standing Committees, and select administrators from the CO. Conversations centered on three sessions: 1) Identifying major issues we face in the upcoming year(s), 2) examples of successful partnerships and collaborations/best forms of participation and collaboration / communication practices important for successful collaboration, and 3) setting expectations - what roles do we have in solving identified issues / envisioning our work together on solutions

Exec Committee summer meetings

1:1 meetings with CO administrators, faculty trustee, students, and others

Foster and facilitate an inclusive, diverse, and equity-minded ASCSU

Committee and specialist appointments

Conversations with Board of Trustees, Chair Clarke (see above)

Legislative Advocacy

Endorsement of the Reparations Task Force Report

Legislative Specialists – Federal, State, Budget

Nursing bills - opposition letters and veto requests

State Budget

To share in these priorities are an ever committed team of Executive Committee members, Leadership of standing committees, Specialists, and ALL of you. Our strength is that we come to you from different areas of the world and our lived experiences are as diverse as our professional training and the locations of our campuses which span north and south, inland and coastal, rural and urban. We have each served at our respective campuses in the highest levels of shared governance and we are fiercely committed to our students and to delivering the best possible education that the CSU can provide. We are engaged with the legislature both at state and federal levels. We stand ready and engaged for the future of the CSU, the state of California, and the emerging political landscape before us. We will do the work, side-by-side and hand-in-hand as we meet the challenges and transform the CSU for the betterment of our students and society.