

ASCSU  
March, 2014 Plenary Report

**Steven Stepanek – CSU Faculty Trustee:** BOT bestowed upon Bernadette Cheyne the title of Trustee Emeritus and it was announced that she accepted the appointment to the California Art Institutes Board for 3 years. BOT also recognized 4 faculty members with awards in technology and innovation.

Trustee Stepanek has focused on working with the Chancellor and ASCSU on the 120/180 unit in Engineering discussion. Trustee Stepanek and Diana Guerin, Chair of ASCSU met with the Chancellor on March 4, 2014; the CO agreed to include the ASCSU Chair on distribution lists of academic policy lists and to work towards re-establishing system-wide discipline councils.

**CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White:** The Chancellor noted that he joined the ASCSU Executive Committee and other faculty leaders in meeting with the legislators in Sacramento. It was suggested that the Chancellor also encourage campus presidents to work with faculty to engage in local lobbying.

**Wang Family Excellence Awards** —The Chancellor, along with few trustees, recently met with Mr. Stanley Wang, Trustee Emeritus, who has decided to resurrect the Wang Family Excellence Awards and fund them into perpetuity.

**Title 5 120/180 unit limits** —Chancellor White noted that if there are compelling reasons, driven by maintaining program quality and integrity, that a group of programs in a discipline across campuses be given a blanket exception to the unit limits, then such a blanket exceptions may be considered. However, there needs to be a strong, well-reasoned case made by those disciplines for him to go beyond the BOT's directive to limit programs to 120/180 units. Senators on the floor made some comments about the complex relationships among ABET accreditation, General Education, and SB1440 and the need for administration to work collaboratively with faculty to make it possible to get to 120 (or some other reasonable level of units) without sacrificing quality.

**Student Success Fees** —Chancellor White explained that Success Fees have been around for awhile. If things are done within policy, and if they are approved through proper processes on campuses, he will be supportive of such fees. Nonetheless, the policy itself merits some further frank investigation. He feels, in some respects, that this is a cry from campuses and students for more access to faculty and programs because the state is not paying its fair share. Many students are getting zero support from the state. Another consideration is the issue of campus autonomy that needs to be respected—a higher fee on one campus takes nothing away from a campus that has lower or no fees. White further noted that he has not seen any evidence that a success fee resulting in the state reducing its support. It was suggested that we take the advice of a previous ASCSU resolution to form a task force on student fees and tuition.

**Trustee Hauck** —The Chancellor noted that two former faculty trustees and the former Trustee Stanley Wang expressed their deepest respect for the late Trustee Hauck. In memory of Trustee Hauck, Chancellor White shared some of his thoughts.

**Beverly Young – Assistant Vice Chancellor, Teacher Education & Public School Programs:** AVC Young discussed Common Core State Standards as being on track in the state--moving training of teachers to a CCSS standards-based pedagogy. CSU is rolling out six regional meetings for its Teacher Ed Faculty across the state to address the Common Core. She noted that CCSS is not without opposition;

however, most teachers in California are still positive about the adoption of Common Core. Two CSU representatives (one faculty, one representative in Sacramento) were asked by Dept. of Ed to author the new language arts framework, and it is currently under review.

Smarter Balanced – beginning this Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8th and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will begin the beta testing of the Smarter Balanced Assessment throughout the state. California is participating at 100% level; testing will commence in March and conclude in June, 2014. Since this is a pilot test, no students or families will receive the test results. Rather, the results will be used for establishing the ALDs (Achievement Level Descriptors) this summer. Once the ALDs are drafted, the cut scores will be determined for college readiness. Though it is unlikely there will be a universal agreement, nationwide, about cut scores. Smarter Balanced is a totally technology-based assessment system.

The Bechtel Foundation has awarded \$3 million for teacher education innovation in the CSU.

**Mary Ellen Petrisko – President, WASC Senior:** Dr. Petrisko stressed that accreditation is about quality assurance, not ‘ensurance’. She explained that WASC partners with faculty to assure institutional and external constituencies that we are actually doing what we think we are doing. The Federal Higher Education Act is re-emphasizing the role of accreditation in assuring student success (not only in terms of graduation rates and employment statistics, but also in assessing student learning.)

**Andrew Martinez – CSU Senior Legislative Advocate, University Relation and Advancement:**

Many bills were introduced with our bills before the Feb 20 deadline, this clouds the estimated timelines for our bills. Current bills of interest to higher education include a) The CSU Trustee Bill appears to have a strong support and will go to consent, and b) the UC Bill allowing underage enology students to taste wine. Martinez also emphasized the importance of the additional \$95 million budget ask in support of the CSU to enable increased access to more students.

**Agatha Gucyski – CSSA Liaison Report:** Ms. Gucyski discussed the \$4 voluntary student participation fee to support CSSA. She also provided information about some of the bills and initiatives CCSS is supporting.

**William Blishcke – CSU ERFA Liaison:** ERFA newsletter, specifically the March edition, has had approximately 50 hits per day. They continue to work with newer campuses to set up ERFA chapters, and are reviewing applicants for ERFA liaison to ASCSU. Chair of Health Benefits committee has been appointed.

**Andy Merrifield – CFA Liaison Report:**

Merrifield concurred with Chancellor’s observation that lobbying together was a positive step forward for the CSU. CFA is determined to see that the legislature is asked to sufficiently fund higher education. Bargaining has opened – there is an aggressive bargaining schedule. Both sides understand the need to make changes to the CBA, despite differences on the substance of the changes. Issues of concern include compensation and intellectual property rights with respect to online education.

**Talar Alexanian – CSU Student Trustee:** Trustee Alexanian is in her first year as Trustee and cannot yet vote. She will continue touring campuses this year. She has been involved in advocacy on behalf of the CSU in Washington DC and in Sacramento. Issues concerning the pipelines from CCC to CSU, and K-12 to CCC and CSU are among her priorities. She is also passionate about service learning.

She noted that she supports additional resources being used to hire tenure track faculty and advising personnel. She discussed bottleneck courses and online education. She pointed out that the lack of faculty and funding for faculty hires are among the top reasons for bottlenecks. While she recognizes the inherent value in some types of online learning, she does not see it as a panacea.

When asked about her views on student success fees, she stated that she has not yet taken a position. She does recognize that each campus is unique. She is strongly in favor of the \$4 CSSA student participation fee. When asked about Course Match, she explained how some of her classmates benefited from the program. She believes that not many students are aware of Course Match and that better communication could help promote it.

When Senate Chair Guerin asked for tips on how ASCSU could be more effective in working with the BOT, Trustee Alexanian noted that the new Trustees face a great challenge in getting up to speed with the breadth of knowledge needed to perform their duties. Trustee Alexanian suggested that having more faculty attend the BOT meetings would be helpful.

#### **Ephraim Smith - CSU Executive Vice Chancellor, Chief Academic Officer:**

CCC Pathways – Recent CCC report suggests good progress, but not really a guarantee if CSUs are all closed for admission. A great deal of money has been spent marketing it to high school students but not many students know about it. Students complain about not being able to get classes at CCC & CSUs; students want registration guarantee.

Early Start – will be examining whether Early Start will increase the number of credit bearing courses and reduce remediation costs. The real test, according to Smith, will be in year 6 of implementation when we can ascertain if it increased graduation rates.

Course match – Smith noted that Eric Forbes will be in charge of developing a system that can verify whether pre-requisites are satisfied.

Bottleneck study – AA reviewed the study and is pleased with it. Seems to show what we intuitively believe about student behavior. Lots of course redesign institutes are being rolled out; curriculum is faculty purview. Hiring of faculty, however, will be contingent on lots of things.

120/180 limit – Goal is to improve graduation. He promised to provide ASCSU a spreadsheet with all the programs and their status after all the campus waiver applications have been received.

#### **The following resolutions were passed at the March Plenary:**

- 1. Recommendation on the Eligibility of Lecturers for Emeritus Status**      [AS-3157-13/FA \(Rev\)](#)  
*Supports inclusion of lecturers in all campus emeritus policies.*
- 2. Selection of Faculty Representatives in Shared Governance**      [AS-3160-14/EX/FA \(Rev\)](#)  
*Requesting adherence to AAUP Statement re: shared governance.*
- 3. Using Common Core Standards in CSU Admission Requirements**      [AS-3161-14/APEP \(Rev\)](#)  
*for Mathematics and Other Disciplines -- Urging CSU to adopt CCSS language in admission & prerequisite requirements.*

- 4. Facilitation of Communication Between the ASCSU and Faculty** [AS-3162-14/FA \(Rev\)](#)  
*Urging campus presidents/provosts to authorize independent access to the campus-all faculty email distribution lists to the campus senate chair; requests campus senate chairs disseminate ASCSU resolutions promptly; urges campus senates to include report from ASCSU senators as standing item on agenda.*
- 5. Concerns Regarding Proposed Legislation Authorizing Community College Baccalaureate Degrees** [AS-3163-14/AA \(Rev\)](#)  
*Expresses concern about the legislation; suggests criteria for such proposals include a cost/benefit analysis, consultation with CSU and UC and provision of resources to CSU or UC to offer/expand degrees, assessment of resources to support students.*
- 6. In Support of Ethnic Studies** [AS-3164-14/AA/FA \(Rev\)](#)  
*Commends Chancellor White for convening task force and instituting a moratorium on changes to Ethnic Studies programs; urges support for such programs; encourages academic merit and societal value of such programs be considered; commends Legislature for ACR 71 (2013).*
- 7. 2014 Legislative Advocacy Positions of the Academic Senate** [AS-3165-14/FGA](#)  
*of the California State University – adopts positions on various CA State Legislature bills as of March 21, 2014.*
- 8. Commendation in Memory of CSU Trustee William Hauck** [AS-3170-14/EX](#)  
*Mourns passing of Trustee Hauck; acknowledges his achievements; extends condolences.*

The following resolutions are in need of campus feedback before May 2014 Plenary vote. Please review and email your concerns/comments directly to the contact persons noted (You may review the actual draft resolutions by clicking on the dropbox link Heidi sent you in April 16<sup>th</sup> email):

- 1. Creation of California State University Discipline Councils** [AS-3167-14/APEP](#)  
*Urging Chancellor's Office to facilitate formation of academic discipline councils to facilitate intra-and inter-system efforts such as transfer degrees. Contact Chair Andreas Gebauer at [agebauer@csub.edu](mailto:agebauer@csub.edu)*
- 2. Commendation in Honor of Trustee A. Robert Linscheid** [AS-3168-14/EX](#)  
*Recognizing Trustee Linscheid's service to the CSU. Contact Chair Diana Guerin at [dguerin@calstate.edu](mailto:dguerin@calstate.edu).*
- 3. Advice Regarding Unit Limit Exception Requests** [AS-3166-14/AA](#)  
*Encouraging further discussion and states specific concerns on the handling of program requests to exceed 120/180 unit minimum for BA/BS degrees; suggests suspension of current procedures. Contact Chair Christine Miller at [cmiller@csus.edu](mailto:cmiller@csus.edu).*
- 4. Designation and Compilation of Online Course Modalities** [AS-3169-14/AA](#)  
*Recommends use of 4 instructional modality designations throughout the CSU; ranging from face-to-face traditional to remote online. Contact Chair Christine Miller at [cmiller@csus.edu](mailto:cmiller@csus.edu).*
- 5. Recommendations Regarding Changes to Title 5, Section 40510, The Master's Degree** [AS-3171-14/AA](#)  
*supports proposed language and unit percentage change. Contact Chair Christine Miller at [cmiller@csus.edu](mailto:cmiller@csus.edu).*

- 6. In Support of AB 2324 (Williams) Pertaining to CSU Faculty Trustee** **AS-3172-14/EX**  
*Thanking BOT for including AB 2324, which provides for faculty trustee holdover appointment on CSU Legislative Program; expresses appreciation to Assessment Member Williams; requests members of the CSU community to register support for AB 2324. Contact Chair Diana Guerin at [dguerin@calstate.edu](mailto:dguerin@calstate.edu).*
- 7. Eligibility Status for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Awards** **AS-3173-14/FA**  
*Encourages campuses to allow eligibility of faculty of all ranks for such awards. Contact Chair Manzar Foroohar at [mforooha@calpoly.edu](mailto:mforooha@calpoly.edu).*
- 8. ASCSU Calendar of 2014-15 Meetings** **AS-3174-14/EX**  
*Recommends calendar for 2014-15 ASCSU meetings. Contact Chair Diana Guerin at [dguerin@calstate.edu](mailto:dguerin@calstate.edu).*

*Respectfully submitted by Sandra B. Chong, Shane Frehlich, and Adam Swenson*