

ASCSU Chair's Report
March to May Plenary 2017
Christine M. Miller

It has been my privilege to represent the Academic Senate of the California State University between our last plenary meeting and the present one. I offer the following listing of my activities followed by summary and commentary on key issues that arose during that time.

Meetings and Activities

March, post-plenary

- Interim “agenda setting” meeting with Chancellor White and cabinet
- Board of Trustees meeting in Long Beach
- Tenure Density Task Force (virtual)
- General Education Task Force in Long Beach
- Assembly Higher Education committee hearing on AB 394 (Medina) in Sacramento

April

- CSU governmental relations reception aboard the Golden Bear in Sacramento
- Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates Lobby Day in Sacramento
- CSU LA Senate and Executive Committee
- CSU Alumni Reception in Washington, D.C.
- CSU Capitol Hill Day in Washington, D.C.
- Long Beach Senate and Executive Committee
- CSU Budget Advocacy Group
- Humboldt Senate and Executive Committee
- ASCSU Legislative Advocacy Day
- Outstanding Alumni awards dinner in Sacramento
- Campus Senate Chair's Council meeting in Long Beach
- ASCSU virtual interim
- Senate Judiciary committee hearing on SB 677 (Moorlach) in Sacramento
- Assembly Budget Subcommittee II hearing in Sacramento

May, pre-plenary

- Interview with Larry Gordon, *EdSource*, on Academic Preparation (virtual)
- East Bay Senate and Executive Committee in Hayward
- General Education Task Force in Long Beach
- System Budget Advisory Committee in Long Beach

Upcoming

- Board of Trustees in Long Beach
- General Education Task Force in Hayward
- Meetings known at this time for 2017-18 ASCSU Chair, who assumes position June 1
 - Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates in Sacramento
 - Statistics Pathway meeting in Sacramento
 - CSSA meeting in Monterey Bay
 - Intersegmental Coordinating Committee in Sacramento
 - Board of Trustees in Long Beach
 - Systemwide Budget Advocacy Committee in Long Beach

Key Issues

General Education

GE Task Force Co-Chair Ullman and I have convened the Task Force twice now. The first meeting featured review of its charge, general timeline and goals, as well as a discussion of shared governance and the curriculum. The second meeting engaged participants in consideration of why GE matters in the 21st century; more specifically, members considered what should be the goals of general education for CSU graduates, and a clustering of those goals to determine if themes emerged. The Task Force also considered the relationships between these overarching goals and the Association of American Colleges and Universities' LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise) Essential Learning Outcomes, the Lumina Foundation's Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP), WASC (Western Association of Colleges and Universities' Senior College and University Commission) core competencies, and Executive Order 1100, which addresses CSU GE policies. The next meeting of the Task Force will take place at CSU East Bay in June, and will look more specifically at CSU campus GE programs.

Quantitative Reasoning

The Quantitative Reasoning Task Force (QRTF) recommendations continue along their implementation path. I have forwarded to you the response of the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges to the QRTF report. ASCSU Committees as well as the Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) remain involved in advising the Chancellor's Office, and presumably the Center for the Advancement of Instruction in Quantitative Reasoning Co-Director search will conclude soon so that the person selected can begin at the end of the month.

There has also been quite a bit of discussion related to statistics pathways offered on a pilot basis by some community colleges. It's a long and complicated story which doesn't lend itself to summary in 2-3 sentences. Perhaps it will suffice to say that the issues have been discussed robustly over the last few months in GEAC, and the ASCSU Chair will participate in an upcoming meeting that includes representatives from the CSU and CCC Chancellor's Office, the CSU and CCC Academic Senates, and the California Acceleration Project.

Tenure Density

The Tenure Density Task Force report was due March 1. The Task Force determined that it needed more time to do justice to the issue, but it has not met since March 24 to complete the work, nor has an updated draft been circulated to its members for review.

Intellectual Property

The CSU draft policy was circulated more than two months ago, and campuses have been providing their reactions to both the policy and the consultation process. The prevailing opinion among campuses seems to be coalescing around the view that the resolution and "white paper" produced by the Academic Senate at San Jose State University is an outstanding response to the request for consultation on the proposed policy.

Academic Preparation

ASCSU has been monitoring developments in academic preparation all year, and it's clear that changes in academic preparation are proceeding apace. One indicator is the publication of "Academic Preparation Frequently Asked Questions" on the Graduation Initiative website. Another is published reports in *EdSource*. These sources took faculty by surprise, and generated many questions. ASCSU committees (Executive, Academic Preparation and Education Programs, Academic Affairs) provided feedback to the Chancellor's Office on these sources.

In addition, a Coded Memorandum by EVC Blanchard was distributed today, circulating a draft of an Executive Order relating to issues surrounding academic preparation. Feedback on the draft EO must be submitted within the month. Most certainly, ASCSU committees will be reviewing the draft.

Graduation Initiative

The Chancellor's Office is convening "workgroups" to consider issues surrounding six "pillars" of the Graduation Initiative. ASCSU was asked to nominate members to serve on each. The Executive Committee selected the following senators in the six areas:

David Barsky, Academic Preparation

Praveen Soni, Financial Aid

Jodie Ullman, Data-Driven Decision Making

Mark Van Selst, Administrative Barriers

Catherine Nelson, Enrollment Management

Mark Hoven Stohs, Student Engagement and Well Being

EVC Blanchard has acknowledged these nominees and has indicated that the Senate will be notified once final membership for each of the workgroups has been finalized.

Legislative Advocacy

I have been quite active in the Capitol building in the past few weeks, advocating formally during ICAS, ASCSU and CSU Lobby Days, and testifying during hearings on various bills. I also attended CSU Capitol Hill Day in Washington, D.C., and Chancellor White has ensured that the ASCSU Chair automatically will be included in invitations to participate in Hill Day in the future.

The key “talking point” for Hill Day was advocacy for the reestablishment of year-round Pell grants. Happily, year-round Pell grants are included in the FY 2017 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which funds the federal government through September 30, 2017. It is expected that the Department of Education will offer year-round Pell grants in time for students to use them during Summer Session 2018. The omnibus bill also provides funding for a cost-of-living increase in the maximum Pell Grant for 2017-2018. The maximum grant is projected to rise by \$105, from \$5,815 to \$5,920.

The meeting rooms and offices of the state and federal capitol are not the only places I enjoy advocating for the mission of the CSU, and representing the role of the Senate in fulfilling that mission. I consider it a privilege to discuss with anyone who will listen the ways in which the Senate promotes academic quality and student success. Thank you for this opportunity to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine M. Miller