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ASCSU CHAIR'S REPORT
Board of Trustees
July 14, 2021

Thank you Chair Kimbell and good morning to you all. I hope that everyone one is well and staying healthy. It is an honor to offer this report to the CSU Board of Trustees on behalf of the dedicated senators of the Academic Senate CSU. My name is Robert Keith Collins, PhD. I have the honor of serving as the 2021-2022 Chair of the Academic Senate of the California State University. I am also a professor of American Indian Studies in the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University.

“Peace cannot exist without justice, justice cannot exist without fairness, fairness cannot exist without development, development cannot exist without democracy, democracy cannot exist without respect for the identity and worth of cultures and peoples - Rigoberta Menchu.”

When Quiche Mayan social reform activist, human rights worker, and 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu shared these words, her goals were not only to bring attention Native American rights but also the need for ethnocultural reconciliation, which, by definition, is the process of public acknowledgement of racial and social injustices. Menchu’s assertions map directly to the concerns of the respected first stewards and caretakers of the lands that comprise the location upon which our communities of higher learning reside and the goal of “Enabling Belonging in the CSU” that will guide ASCSU efforts in the 2021-22 academic year. If we allow Menchu’s words to serve as a maxim, then it is through our continued common unity, with attention to respect for the identity and worth of cultures and peoples of our CSU community, especially our faculty who enable student success, that our students – representing the 23 different definitions of success that define of our campuses – will embody the informed citizenry necessary to convey this powerful maxim, as a way of life, into the academy, infrastructure, and workforce of the State of California. Their success, as seen in our graduates that make up our CSU Alumni Council, remind all

CSU
Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel
Islands
Chico
Dominguez

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime
Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis
Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

that education is a vehicle for allowing all to be included and enabling all within society to belong.

It is this spirit of enabling belonging that guides our planning for the 2021-22 academic year. The ASCSU serves as the official voice of the faculty in matters of systemwide concern and provides avenues for faculty to participate in collegial forms of shared governance, which is grounded in academic traditions recognized by California law.

This year, we will continue our dedication to equity, diversity, and inclusivity through another diversity training, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of At-Large Senator to the Executive Committee Nola Butler-Byrd, who joins me remotely, and our Ad Hoc Committee on the Advancement of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the ASCSU, preceding our September plenary. As a reminder our 2021-22 ASCSU Executive Committee includes the following senators:

ASCSU 2021-2022 Executive Committee

- ▶ Chair: Robert Keith Collins, PhD (San Francisco)
- ▶ Vice-Chair: Beth Steffel, PhD (San Bernardino)
- ▶ Secretary: Thomas Norman, PhD (Dominguez Hills)
- ▶ Member-at-Large #1: Nola Butler Byrd, PhD (San Diego)
- ▶ Member-at-Large #2: David Speak, PhD (Pomona)
- ▶ Immediate Past Chair: *

It is an honor to report that our newly appointed ASCSU Standing Committee Chairs, that comprise our ASCSU Extended Executive Committee, are represented by the following ASCSU Senators:

- ▶ Academic Affairs – Senator Simon Rodan (San José)
- ▶ Academic Preparations and Educational Programs – Senator Rick Ford (Chico)
- ▶ Faculty Affairs - Senator Irene Matz (Fullerton)
- ▶ Fiscal and Governmental Affairs – Senator Betsy Boyd (Chico)

In September, I will have the honor of welcoming one of the most diverse senate bodies since the 1963 founding of the ASCSU. Functioning as a consultative body on systemwide matters related to academics, academic personnel, faculty success, and professional development, this inclusive team of senators, elected by their colleagues at the twenty-three individual universities comprising the CSU, will – as per our mission – advance the principles of academic freedom and freedom of inquiry that promotes academic excellence in the CSU, recommend policies to the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor on systemwide academic, professional, and academic personnel matters, serve as the official voice of the faculty of The California State University on curricular

matters of systemwide concern, and serve as the primary consultative body on the academic implications of systemwide fiscal decisions (see <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/Pages/about-the-Senate.aspx>). Three major areas of discussion and engagement will be advising, mental health and faculty diversity. All past and forthcoming ASCSU resolutions, senator information, and White Papers that can serve as resources for stakeholders can be accessed via the [ASCSU website](#).

Activities and Meetings

The 2021-22 ASCSU will begin its work in September 2021. Acting on behalf of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) during the summer, the ASCSU Executive Committee met by Zoom on July 7, 2021. Central in this meeting was approval and discussion of the ASCSU Standing Committee and Systemwide Committee Rosters and brainstorming on our upcoming ASCSU/CO Retreat on enabling belonging in the CSU, (August 25, 2021). The ASCSU Executive Committee continues active consultation with Interim Executive Vice Chancellor Wood and Assistant Vice Chancellor/Chancellor's ASCSU ex-officio representative Van Cleve on best practices in collaboration and effective communication to pass on to incoming Executive Vice Chancellor Alva.

Executive Vice Chancellor Alva, congratulations, we look forward to welcoming and working with you during our ASCSU plenaries. The ASCSU Executive Committee also discussed and explored strategies for how the senate might begin legislative advocacy early this fall, in order to better serve as a resource on curricular matters to the CSU and in Sacramento.

Also of central concern, the ASCSU Executive Committees of 2020-21 and 2021-22 have shared with legislators and stakeholders our oppose position on AB 927 and oppose unless amended positions on AB 928. The ASCSU also met with legislators and their staff regarding these concerns and offered amendments to the legislation. As members of ICAS (Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates), which consists of the Academic Senate leadership from each of the three segments of California's public higher education (California Community Colleges [CCC], CSU, and the University of California [UC]). ICAS meets jointly to address matters of academic importance to all three segments, we support the current oppose position to AB 928. As the outgoing ICAS Chair, I have also shared this position on behalf of all three segments of higher education in the State of California. The rationale behind this opposition to AB 928 is that the proposed oversight board reproduces the work ICAS, the Intersegmental Curriculum Workgroup (ICW), Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Standards Sub-committee, the Chancellor's General Education Advisory

Committee (GEAC), and other established intersegmental committees currently enabling transfer efficiency, the formation of the legislation occurred with limited faculty consultation on the curricular matters to be impacted by the legislation, and barriers to students success and transfer efficiency that a common pathway between the CSU and UC seeks to remedy will be exacerbated without adequate student supports for advising.

It is important to note that currently transfer students have a pathway to admissions in both the CSU and UC that does not add to their unit load: The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). The CSU transfer pathway is for those students that know they want to attend the CSU. Without amendment, with particular attention to UC constitutional autonomy, could not the unique functions of IGETC and CSU transfer be obscured? Let us all ponder this question, as the faculty in all three segments have done, especially the ASCSU. CSU transfer is indelibly linked to the associated Golden four requirements that enables the CSU mission of access, our distinction from the UC, and the twenty-three different interpretations of success that occur within our system, as faculty produce graduates according to the aims and values of their respective campus communities and cultures.

In closing, the ASCSU Executive Committee will meet again on behalf of the ASCSU on July 27, 2021. Central in our meeting will be the planning of our ASCSU/CO Leadership Retreat on the tentative theme of “Enabling Belonging in the CSU.” The goal of this retreat is to strategize on collaborations necessary to enable faculty and student belonging and well-being in the CSU, in the face of COVID-19, and with particular attention to the Graduation Initiative 2025 pillars of student engagement and well-being. Let us come together to strategize on the enabling components necessary to empower graduates to carry forward Menchu’s maxim of understanding that an informed citizenry, like “...democracy cannot exist without respect for the identity and worth of cultures and peoples.” Chair Kimbell, this concludes my report, I thank you all for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions that you all may have.