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ACADEMIC SENATE CSU CHAIR'S REPORT
Board of Trustees
September 14-15, 2021

Thank you, Chair Kimbell, and good morning everyone! I hope that everyone is doing well, taking good care, 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 ASCSU. Greetings from the land of the Huichin, Ohlone in Richmond, CA.

“Our expanding ethnic diversity of this century, a time when we will all be minorities, offers us an invitation to create a larger memory of who we are as Americans and to reaffirm our founding principle of equality. Let’s put aside fears of the disuniting of America and warnings of the clash of civilizations. As Langston Hughes sang, Let America be America, where equality is in the air we breathe.” – Ronald Takaki

When Asian American and Ethnic Studies scholar Ronald Takaki made the aforementioned statement, his goal was to engage the pulse of the belonging that mankind can achieve through common unity. While common unity is the platform that I ran on for ASCSU Chair, it is through the principle of enabling belonging – the agency behind common unity – that I challenge all of us to let guide the experiment of curricula maintenance through shared governance this year. Let the principle of belonging, heard in the oral histories of the California Native first stewards, upon whose lands our institutions of higher learning reside, and whose peoples are now part of our professorate, and undergraduate and graduate student populations, serve as constant reminders to all, that faculty enable student success, through our own successes in pursuit of the scholarship of teaching and learning. It is in this spirit of belonging, that I offer my report on behalf of the 2021-2022 ASCSU, the most diverse academic senate since our founding in 1963. Two practices continue to shape ASCSU approaches to further promoting common unity and enabling belonging: effective communication and advocating for how faculty success enables student success. These efforts have included, but were not limited to the following:

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

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

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

Preceding our September 2-3, 2021 plenary, the ASCSU Executive Committee, in collaboration with our Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA) Committee, and Legislative Specialist, continued rigorous legislative advocacy. Central in these efforts remain particular concerns about “AB 927: Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program.” This legislation “would extend the operation of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program indefinitely...remove the requirements that the program consist of a maximum of 15 community college district programs...allowing for a total of 30 baccalaureate degree programs per academic year...” and “AB 928: Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee.” This legislation contains an oversight and policy recommending committee with only three faculty representatives from all three segments: California Community Colleges (CCC), California State University (CSU), and University of California (U.C.) and a singular lower division general education pathway used to determine eligibility to the CSU and U.C. It is important to note that a veto request for this legislation has been submitted by the ASCSU independently, and as members of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS), which represents the faculty of all three segments. This legislative intrusion is considered problematic for the following reasons:

1. Limited intersegmental faculty representation on the proposed body and input in discussions of college preparedness.
2. Redundancy in curricular discussions, as the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) is a group of Academic Senate leaders from each of the three segments of public higher education in California. It meets jointly to address matters of academic importance to all three segments. Central in these discussions for the past decade is transfer efficiency. It is important to remember that this decade initially began with much funding for faculty to meet on this process from many of the same entities sponsoring this legislation.
3. Given U.C. constitutional autonomy and their usage of IGETC, CSU Transfer - which makes the pedagogy received in the CSU uniquely salient in the faculty expectations of competency in the Golden Four - would be impacted.

It is important to note, that the faculty of the CSU remain committed to improving transfer efficiency; however, we all agree, despite 23 different interpretations of student success, that transfer is not broken, and has aided the address of equity gaps and social mobility evident in successes from our CSU alumni to the incredible diversity of the 2021 entering class, and our GI 2025 successes. Transfer continues to be underfunded and under sourced, particularly in the area of advising.

On August 25, 2021, the ASCSU hosted the Fall 2021 ASCSU-CO Leadership Retreat: “Enabling Belonging: Reducing Barriers to CSU Student Engagement, Success, and Wellness During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. This retreat opened with an illustrious introductory panel that offered insight into the relevant ways in which their roles can enable belonging for faculty, students, and administrators, and lend to the fulfillment of the Graduation Initiative (GI) 2025 pillar of “Student Engagement and Well-Being” (special thanks to Trustee Chair Kimbell, Faculty Trustee Sabalius, EVC Alva, and CSSA President Alferos). This gathering of leadership from the ASCSU, CSU Office of the Chancellor, California State Student Association (CSSA), CFA, CSUEU, and other stakeholders, also engaged in conversations related to the theme, and four critical breakout areas that produced a minimum of two recommendations for collaboration during the 2021-2022 academic year. The breakout areas were as follows:

Breakout #1

Building a Culture of Belonging, Mental Health, and Well-Being: Demarginalizing Race, Gender, Class, and Ability in the CSU During the Pandemic. (ASCSU At-Large Senator Nola Butler Byrd/ Faculty Affairs Chair Irene Matz/ ASCSU Secretary Thomas Norman)

Breakout #2

Academic Technology and Access to Enable Faculty and Student Belonging and Success (ASCSU Vice Chair Beth Steffel/ Academic Affairs Chair Simon Rodan)

Breakout #3

Funding the CSU: Legislative Advocacy that Enables Faculty and Student Belonging and Success (ASCSU At-Large Senator David Speak / Fiscal and Government Affairs Chair Betsy Boyd)

Breakout #4

Graduation Initiative (GI) 2025: Enabling Belonging Through Expectations for Equitable Student Success (Robert Keith Collins, ASCSU Chair/ Academic Preparation and Education Programs Chair Rick Ford/ Chancellor’s General Education Advisory Committee Chair Mark Van Selst)

This retreat produced in-depth conversations that all ASCSU senators have been encouraged to engage in over the 2021-2022 academic year in collaboration with their Chancellor’s Office (CO) Liaisons. If you all have found these breakout conversations of interest, then please do not hesitate to contact the breakout leaders.

During our plenary on September 2-3, 2021, the Academic Senate engaged in the second of a series of Moving Beyond Bias Trainings targeted at advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the ASCSU. The ASCSU also engaged in a robust agenda that included our first dialogue and meeting with new Executive Vice Chancellor Alva. This meeting was followed by dialogues and meetings with Chancellor Castro, our new CSSA liaison to the

ASCSU Moreno Ruelas, CSU Alumni Council liaison to the ASCSU Solache, recently re-appointed Faculty Trustee Sabalius, CFA President Toombs, and an invigorating budget presentation from AVC Storm. The ASCSU stands ready to continue collaborating in legislative advocacy with you all for an even better budget. These meetings were followed by the introduction of six resolutions and four commendations in first reading. One resolution was approved that appeared in first reading with a waiver request. Those approved included, but were not limited to the following:

1. AS-3501-21/FA

Request for Continued Accommodations and Flexibility in the Time of COVID-19

Approved

This resolution requests that the CSU Chancellor urge campus presidents to be flexible, compassionate, and accommodating in responding to evolving conditions due to the virulence and unpredictability of the COVID-19 Delta and other variants. The resolution also requests that all campuses permit individual faculty members and departments to modify curriculum and pedagogy (including modality of instruction) as needed to meet their particular emergent circumstances and constraints.

2. AS-3502-21/EX

Commendation for Interim Executive Vice Chancellor Fred Wood, Ph.D.

Approved by Acclamation

This resolution commended Dr. Wood for serving as Interim Executive Vice Chancellor during COVID-19, highlighting his leadership, open heartedness, kindness, and generosity during a time of significant change and many challenges.

3. AS-3504-21/EX

Commendation for Executive Vice Chancellor Sylvia A. Alva, Ph.D.

Approved by Acclamation

This resolution welcomed Dr. Sylvia Alva as the new CSU Executive Vice Chancellor and highlighted her knowledge, experience, and distinguished career and service to date in the CSU and the hope of establishing a mutually beneficial relationship with the ASCSU.

4. AS-3506-21/EX

Commendation for Associate Vice Chancellor Luoluo Hong, Ph.D.

Approved by Acclamation

This resolution commended Dr. Luoluo Hong for her years of distinguished service for the CSU, including her passion for education, health, and well-being; as well as her courageous leadership, mentorship, and advocacy for students and faculty.

5. AS-3508-21/EX/ Sonoma Delegation

Commendation for Senator Catherine Nelson

Approved by Acclamation

This resolution commended Senator Catherine Nelson for her many years of service in the CSU as a faculty member, leadership on the ASCSU, and thanked Dr. Nelson for her visionary leadership, diplomacy, defense of the ASCSU, passion for social justice, and sense of humor.

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST READING
CONSIDERATION:**

1. AS-3499-21/FA

Academic Freedom and Teaching Modality in the COVID-19 Pandemic

This resolution recognizes the challenges that campuses continue to deal with during the COVID-19 pandemic's contagious Delta and other variants. The resolution contends that given the complexity and fluidity of the pandemic, faculty members are in the best position to make quick decisions and maintain safety in the classroom. In order to avoid canceling classes, faculty should have the ad hoc flexibility to rapidly pivot face-to-face courses temporarily to virtual instruction during acute or dynamic transitory extenuating circumstances, such as sudden COVID19 spikes.

2. AS-3500-21/FA

Suspension of Mandatory Peer Observations of Instruction and Student Evaluations for Academic Year 2021-2022

This resolution is an extension of *AS-3450-20/FA Suspension of Mandatory Peer Observations of Instruction and Student Evaluations for Academic Year 2020-2021*, which was approved by the ASCSU in September 2020. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a large proportion of teaching within the CSU is being accomplished through virtual and/or asynchronous instruction from remote locations, including faculty members' homes.

3. AS-3503-21/APEP

Acknowledgment of Changes to Math Requirements in International Baccalaureate Program

This resolution highlights the need for a timely response to changes to the Math requirements in International Baccalaureate (IB) programs and reminds campuses that an individual CSU campus can go beyond the credit by examination list in awarding CSU General Education (GE) credit for area B4. The resolution requests input from the Mathematics Council and individual campus senates in updating the system-wide external exam credit list.

4. AS-3505-21/APEP

Support for CSU General Education (GE) System Office Review Standards for Area F (Ethnic Studies)

This resolution amplifies the imperative articulated in [AS-3460-20/AA Adopting the Amended Recommended Core Competencies for Ethnic Studies](#) that all courses, particularly those submitted for review by California Community Colleges (CCC) meet 3 of the 5 Ethnic Studies core competencies by supporting existing certification practices in the CSU General Education (GE) System Office Review Standards for Area F (Ethnic Studies).

5. AS-3507-21/APEP

Support for the “CSU Education Deans’ Statement in Support of Culturally Sustaining, Equity Driven, and Justice Focused Pedagogies”

The system-wide Deans of Colleges of Education have gone on record opposing restrictions on equity-minded pedagogy and content that have been occurring around the country. This resolution acknowledges and endorses the Deans’ statement.

In closing, it is important to note that, now that the new CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement is being implemented, the ASCSU will continue to monitor implementation. The new Chair of Academic Affairs (AA), Senator Rodan, has already reached out to the CSUCES Chair Monteiro and the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies (CSUCES) to continue effective communication on campus concerns that arise during implementation and course approval processes.

Thank you Chair Kimbell, this concludes my report. I thank you all for your attention and time and I am happy to answer any questions that you all may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Keith Collins, PhD