

ASCSU Chair's Report  
January 2018  
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. I offer the following listing of my activities followed by summary and commentary on key issues that arose during that time.

Meetings and Activities

**December**

- ASCSU interim (virtual)
- Senate Select Committee on Student Success hearing in Santa Monica
- Meeting on shared governance with Chancellor White and others in Long Beach
- Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) in Sacramento
- General Education Task Force in Long Beach
- Wang Award selection committee (virtual)
- ICAS segment Chair legislative visits in Sacramento

**January**

- SB 85 Proposal Advisory Committee (virtual)
- Sustainable Financial Model Work Group in Long Beach
- Academic Council in Sacramento
- Executive Committee (virtual)
- Meeting on shared governance with Chancellor's Office personnel in Sacramento
- Tenure Density Task Force (virtual)
- CSU Budget Advocacy in Sacramento
- California Education Learning Lab discussion with LAO (virtual)
- ICAS Transfer Forum logistics (virtual)
- General Education Task Force in Sacramento

**Upcoming**

- Board of Trustees in Long Beach
- California State Student Association at Dominguez Hills
- ICAS Transfer Forum in Sacramento
- General Education Task Force meeting in Long Beach
- California Faculty Association Board Meeting in Sacramento

### **Upcoming (cont'd)**

- San Francisco State University Senate meeting
- Cal Maritime Senate meeting
- CSU Monterey Bay Senate meeting
- Council of Campus Senate Chairs in Long Beach
- Academic Council in Los Angeles
- General Education Task Force (location TBD)
- CSU Advocacy Day in Sacramento
- California State Student Association meeting in Sacramento

### Key Issues

#### **Shared Governance**

As I reported via email to ASCSU, the Executive Committee has had two two-hour meetings in accordance with the November plenary motion directing us to confer with the Chancellor and others in the administration regarding shared governance issues. The Committee met with Chancellor White, EVC Blanchard, and AVCs Minor, Mallon and Van Cleve on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, and with EVC Blanchard and AVCs Minor and Van Cleve (AVC Mallon was ill) on Thursday, January 11, 2018. The next two-hour meeting is slated for Thursday, February 8, 2018, and will not displace the regularly scheduled one-hour meeting between Chancellor White and the Executive Committee. We anticipate there will be additional shared governance meetings as well, probably one per month, until the current process is completed.

The December meeting afforded the opportunity to engage some of the general issues which necessitated the meetings in the first place. The January meeting moved the discussion to more concrete areas, such as the distinctions between collective bargaining and shared governance, and how the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA) should be interpreted in the context of traditions of shared governance articulated in documents such as those proffered by AAUP. As we continue these more specific discussions, we are on track to conclude this Spring, and it's likely there will be some sort of written outcome documenting the process (e.g., definition of terms, and/or articulation of ground rules for shared governance, and/or suggestions for improving processes/outcomes, and/or a bibliography of sources consulted). The Executive Committee will continue to provide updates as discussions progress. Personally, I will say I have been gratified by these discussions, and am confident progress has already been made in advancing the aims of the ASCSU to promote shared governance.

#### **Sustainable Financial Model Work Group**

You may recall that Chancellor White asked me to serve on an informal "work group" to discuss progress toward the recommendations in the 2016 Sustainable Financial Model Task Force (SFMTF) report. The first meeting of the "work group" occurred in December, and our second meeting took place on January 9, 2018. Situated in the context of the tuition increase proposal, those involved in the "work group" remain highly motivated to investigate all avenues which would avoid pursuing that option.

Although this “work group” reports to Chancellor White and has not engaged in voting or otherwise formalizing specific recommendations, I will tell you some of the topics we have discussed:

- The status of SFMTF recommendations
- State University Grants
- Cohort-based tuition models
- Retirement / pension issues
- Dedicated tax plans (e.g., oil severance, sales tax for services)

It is unclear whether future meetings of this “work group” will occur, although I requested that we have at least one more meeting, since our January meeting occurred prior to Governor Brown’s budget proposal announcement. Several others agreed with the request. Of course, I will keep you informed if/when there are additional meetings.

### **Advocacy**

Last week, Senator Krabacher and I represented ASCSU at a CSU Stakeholder’s meeting on budget advocacy held in the CSU Advocacy and State Relations offices in Sacramento. Participants were slated to be ASCSU, CSSA, CFA, and SEIU, although CSSA and ASCSU were the only ones present to discuss ways to partner with Chancellor’s Office advocacy efforts. We received a budget overview from Ryan Storm, we discussed each organization’s planned advocacy events, and we talked about CSU Advocacy Day, scheduled for March 7, 2018.

At CSU Advocacy Day, each campus will send a delegation who will visit legislators. Chancellor White will also participate, and his delegation will include the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the president of CSSA, me as ASCSU Chair, and a staff representative. New this year will be a reception at the end of the day which will offer the opportunity for informal networking and advocacy. AVC Chavira indicated that it would be great to have faculty at this reception, but our ASCSU budget precludes paying for senators just to attend this reception, so I encourage you to ask questions on your campus about who will be participating in this event, and see if your campus president will include you or another faculty representative on your campus delegation.

### **California Education Learning Lab**

While I’m on the subject of discussions in Sacramento, I should mention that Governor Brown’s budget includes a proposed “California Education Learning Lab” which appropriates \$10 million (ongoing) for a faculty professional development program featuring “learning science” in online education. This proposal is a rather omnibus effort requiring all three segments of public higher education to participate jointly in “professional learning academies,” “precision education,” and an “asset library.” I have shared this proposal with the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs and Academic Affairs Committees, along with my notes from a discussion I had with a representative of the Legislative Analyst’s Office. I anticipate that one or both of these committees will follow up with a more formal ASCSU response. If nothing else, conversations regarding online education and the ways in which it meets (or doesn’t meet) student needs will continue within the ASCSU.

### **Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)**

ICAS represents the Academic Senate leadership of each of the segments of public higher education in California. I chair the group this year. Its priorities are as follows:

- Student basic needs (e.g., homelessness, food insecurity, mental health)
- Faculty diversity
- Tenure density
- Transfer between segments
- High school science and math admission standards
- Re-envisioning the California Postsecondary Education Commission

The Chairs of the three Academic Senates engaged in advocacy at the Capitol in December. We met with legislators, legislative staffers, and the Chief Consultant of the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

ICAS is following up on its commitment to intersegmental advocacy by hosting a Transfer Forum at the Capitol next week, on February 1, 2018. The Forum features a student panel (our own ASCSU liaison, Ryan Brown, has graciously agreed to participate), as well as discussion of current transfer trends and intersegmental transfer efforts. I'm grateful to my Executive Committee colleagues for the extra work they are doing to represent ASCSU and CSU students in these efforts, and to Chancellor's Office colleagues such as Eric Forbes who are helping us prepare for our intersegmental advocacy.

### **General Education Task Force**

The GE Task Force has been meeting for about a year now. Senator Ullman co-chairs the group with me, and has provided brief updates at prior plenary meetings. She may do so at this session as well. For this report, then, I will simply note that significant progress has been made on identifying issues that will be addressed in the group's recommendations, and a very preliminary draft of foundational issues will be offered to the Task Force at its next meeting. Co-Chair Ullman and I are also trying to secure an outside consultant to meet with the group. We anticipate robust consultation with several constituencies as the work progresses. For instance, UC and CCC Senate groups are slated to receive a preliminary briefing in February or March, and the same is true for the CSU's General Education Advisory Committee. Co-Chair Ullman and I will keep you apprised of the activities of the Task Force as it proceeds.

### **Tenure Density Task Force**

I am not a member of the Tenure Density Task Force; the ASCSU representatives are Simone Aloisio, Diana Guerin, and Jerry Schutte. However, I have been informed of the meeting times and allowed to listen in. Senators Aloisio and Schutte can certainly provide more detailed information about the content of the discussions and conclusions, but I will note two things regarding the process:

First, at the final meeting of the Task Force, the three representatives from CFA were notably absent, and had not indicated they would not attend. This complicated the efforts of participants to reach a final consensus or to clarify if there would be a "minority report" appended to the final product. Members agreed that the CFA representatives should be contacted to determine their positions on the final draft.

Second, as I understand it, the final report was forwarded by the Task Force Chair (President Ochoa) to Chancellor White over the weekend, so it is in his hands now. I'm not sure to whom it will be released, or how long it will take to be released.

**State of the CSU**

Speaking of Chancellor White, he is slated to deliver his "State of the CSU" address on Tuesday, January 30, at 10am. This coincides with the Board of Trustees meeting. Vice Chair Nelson will send a link that morning to the ASCSU listserv so that you can watch "real time," and it will be available for later viewing as well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine M. Miller