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ASCSU Chair's Report May 2019 **Submitted by Catherine Nelson**

Welcome to the May 2019 Plenary! This report highlights selected activities since our March Plenary and provides updates on several issues facing us this week.

AB 1460 (Weber) CSU 3-Unit Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement

The bill was heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 23rd. The vote was 9-1 in favor. On May 8 the Assembly Appropriations Committee placed the bill in the suspense file. Bills costing over \$150,000 go to the file until the May Revise is out. The CSU provided to Appropriations a cost estimate for the bill in the \$10 Million - \$15 Million range along with potential one-time costs for faculty to review how the requirement fits into existing transfer agreements. (This is me – not to mention the faculty workload to integrate the requirement into existing CSU academic programs).

The bill will be heard by Appropriations this Thursday, May 16th. The CSU Governmental Relations folks believe the bill will make it through the legislative process and to Governor Newsom's desk. They also believe that the governor will have a difficult time not signing it. The California Faculty Association (CFA), the sponsor of the bill, also seems confident of its ultimate success.

The bill clearly has strong support in the legislature. To paraphrase Senator Steffel, during ASCSU Leg Day our argument about faculty authority over the curriculum (let alone concerns about the bill's impact on existing programs) didn't seem to have much traction. Indeed the underlying argument of supporters of the bill seems to be that the principles of academic freedom and faculty control over the curriculum are racialized, that is they have had the effect of justifying exclusionary curricular decisions based on race/ethnicity. Think about the tepid response to the Ethnic Studies Task Force Report and the impact of Executive Order (EO) 1100 (Revised) on Ethnic Studies programs as examples. For supporters of the bill, that outcome is no longer sustainable given the rapidly changing demographics of our state (and country for that matter).

Nor does there seem to be much flexibility for courses outside the specific framework specified in the bill to meet the requirement. Member Weber's staff made it clear that the requirement should focus on the U.S. experience of the four historically defined racialized core groups in Ethnic Studies, Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and Latina and Latino Americans.

So while we may not yet be facing a *fait accompli*, AS 1460 certainly has the political winds at its back and arguments against it haven't to this point been particularly successful. Everyone does agree that Ethnic Studies is an important and signature part of CSU curricula. So while we

continue our opposition to the bill perhaps it's time to also turn our attention to ways we can meet the concerns of our Ethnic Studies colleagues, not to show good faith to the legislature (that may be a lost cause) but because it's the right thing to do. As many of you know, conversations to that effect are going on among several of our standing committees and I hope they bear fruit.

General Education Task Force (GETF) Report

As if AB 1460 isn't making things interesting enough, this week we will be deciding how to deal with the GE Task Force Report. There are two resolutions before us. AS-3373-19/EX (Rev) acknowledges receipt of the report and recommends to the 2019-2020 Executive Committee that the report be referred to the committees for Academic Affairs (AA) and Academic Preparation & Education Programs (APEP) for review. AS-3378-19/FA (Rev) originally called for a new standing subcommittee on GE Program Review for the CSU system and for the report to be referred to that committee for completion. My understanding is that AS-3378-19/FA (Rev) has been modified to reject the report. The two resolutions are very different so it promises to be an interesting discussion.

Fifteen campus senates have weighed in on the report. Twelve resolutions either reject the report or urge the ASCSU not to take any further action on it. Three campuses say receive the report and continue reviewing it. Eight campuses have not weighed in.

Electronic Core Collection (ECC) Funding

The ASCSU passed a resolution supporting increased funding for the ECC in January 2019 (<https://www2.calstate.edu/csuo-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2018-2019/3351.pdf>). The issue gained traction among campus senates throughout the spring. I include it here so campus action stays on our radar. The budget for the Collection is \$5 Million/year, which has been flat since 2008. Ten campus senates have passed resolutions in support of increased funding for the ECC. The ASCSU resolution makes 11 resolutions total. For more information on the history of the ECC, see the Council of Library Deans (COLD) website at: <https://libraries.calstate.edu/ecc-faq/>

CSU BUDGET

The May Revise is out. The revision keeps the governor's original recommendation for \$300 Million in ongoing General Fund support \$264 Million. These funding levels were recommended on the expectation that the CSU would not raise resident tuition in 2019-2020. Chancellor White made that announcement in January. The revise also includes adjustments over and above the Governor's January budget, including \$6.5 Million in recurring funds to support rapid rehousing homeless and housing insecure students and an additional \$750,000 ongoing General Fund support for Project Rebound to bring ongoing support to \$1 Million. Project Rebound provides assistance to formerly incarcerated individuals who want to enroll in participating CSU campuses. Finally, the revise includes \$740,000 in one-time General Fund monies to support a First Star Foster Youth Cohort at CSU Sacramento. The program will enable a cohort of foster youth to engage in a variety of activities that support learning opportunities.

Chair's Activities

To keep you up to date on the Chair's liaison work, I offer the following list of activities for the period between the March and May plenaries and through the end of May.

March through Mid-May

- CSU Hill Day, Washington DC
- Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS), with Executive Committee
- Emeritus & Retired Faculty and Staff Association (ERFSA)
- Academic Council
- Campus Senate Chairs
- CFA Board of Directors/Spring Assembly
- California State Student Association (CSSA) Board of Directors (April and May)
- April Ex Com Interim with Chancellor White
- San José State University, Humboldt State University, and CSU Chico Senates
- Assembly Higher Education Committee
- Assembly Appropriations Committee
- ASCSU Legislative Day
- Meeting with CSSA Sacramento Legislative Staff

Through End of May

- Board of Trustees (BOT)
- Chancellor's Revenue Opportunity Task Force
- Systemwide Budget Advisory Committee (Systemwide Budget Advisory Committee, with Vice Chair Collins and FGA Chair Speak)
- ICAS (current and new Executive Committees invited)

In conclusion, my thanks to the CSU Chico, Humboldt State and San José State University Senates for their hospitality. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to all three campuses. I highly recommend Senator Boyd's tour of the CSU Chico campus and surrounding environs, Senator Creadon's commentary on the Humboldt State campus' relationship with the local Native American community and Senator Van Selst's tour of the culinary highlights of San José State University.

My best to all as we close out the spring semester. I hope everyone has a restorative summer and for sanity's sake at least some down time when your thoughts are somewhere else besides the CSU.

Take care.

Catherine