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ASCSU Chair's Report September 2019 Submitted by Catherine Nelson

Welcome to the September 2019 Plenary! This report will briefly cover two of the major issues that confront us as we begin our work for the 2019-20 academic year and other happenings since the May Plenary.

Quantitative Reasoning

As you know, the September Board of Trustees agenda includes a proposal to add a 4th year of quantitative reasoning to CSU admissions requirements. The Board's Committee on Educational Policy held a special public forum on August 29 to hear comments from a variety of constituencies about the at that time as-yet formalized idea. Most concerns expressed were about the disparate impact an additional year of QR requirement would have on underserved student populations and the strain it would put on under-resourced school districts, especially smaller and rural districts who don't have the resources to hire/retain teachers to provide the courses for students to take to meet the requirement. There were also speakers in favor of the requirement, though fewer in number than those expressing concern, who spoke about the advantages it would provide for students from underserved populations who want to major in STEM fields. Video of the hearing is available on the Board of Trustees live stream website. You can find the September agenda item on the Board Agendas page. Use the Committee on Educational Policy link.

AB 1460

AB 1460 took up more time this summer than any other commitment. The bill did not make it out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. It is now a "two year bill," which means the author can bring it back in January for another attempt to successfully get it through the legislative process. The bill would need to be amended significantly for that to occur. I want to thank the Executive and Extended Executive Committees for their guidance as we continued our advocacy efforts against the bill, with a special thanks to Vice Chair Collins, FGA Chair Speak and Senator Schutte, our Legislative Specialist, for their ongoing, at times daily, assistance in navigating the byways of the legislature. Senator Schutte in particular deserves special recognition for his efforts (and amazing ability!) to develop sources in the legislature that served us well as we gathered information about the status of the bill, the politics that surround it, and the more arcane aspects of the legislative process.

In the meantime we have a window of opportunity to act on our commitment to take up the issue of an Ethnic Studies requirement for the CSU. The Academic Affairs Committee will begin that process tomorrow. Representatives from the CSU Ethnic Studies Council Steering Committee will be joining AA as discipline experts for that discussion. The challenges we face include the appropriate balance between a systemwide requirement and campus autonomy, the degree of flexibility in the courses that will satisfy the requirement, the lower/upper division question,

whether the requirement should be strictly GE, transfer, the impact on existing campus GE requirements and programs, and of course resource issues. I look forward to AA Chair Schlievert's report to the plenary about the conversation and a first-reading recommendation from the committee.

ASCSU Retreat

Every August the ASCSU Extended Executive Committee meets with the Chancellor and the CO leadership team and the CSSA leadership and student trustees to build relationships, share priorities and discuss the challenges facing us. This August the Executive Committee organized the retreat around the theme, "Inclusive Excellence in Practice: Educating Students to be Informed Citizens." Citizenship is used in the broadest sense, to include contributions students will make to their communities, workforce and society more generally. Using Chancellor White's statement "The CSU Commitment to Inclusive Excellence" as a guide, the goal was extend the ongoing conversation about inclusive excellence to the education our students receive. The conversation was frank and substantive, with specific recommendations about how to foster equity across our students' entire educational experience. We hope to have referrals to our standing committees at our October Interim meeting.

Liaison Activity

The Executive Committee kept up a robust schedule of liaison commitments over the summer. Member-at-Large Yee-Melichar joined me at the July Board of Trustees meeting. I attended a meeting of the Intersegmental Coordinating Committee and joined the CFA Board of Directors for their August meeting. Member-at-Large Norman attended the Alumni Council meeting at CSU Dominguez Hills and Vice Chair Collins attended the CSSA Board of Directors meeting and the CSSA's CSUnity conference at CSU Fullerton. The Executive Committee also attended a meeting of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS). Transfer was a major topic at that meeting, in particular Sacramento's interest in the differences between CSU Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) and UC Transfer Pathways. Upcoming commitments include the September Board of Trustees meeting, the CSSA September Board of Directors meeting, another meeting of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates and the first meeting of campus senate chairs in October.

In closing, thank you yet again for the work you do on behalf of our students, faculty and the CSU. It is an honor and privilege to be associated with such dedicated, caring colleagues.

Best to all,

Catherine