

Chair's Report to the Board of Trustees January 23, 2013

Resolutions Approved at the January 2013 Plenary

Support for Alternative General Education Pathways for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Transfer Students (AS-3101-12/APEP/AA): STEM disciplines have highly sequenced courses that build upon each other across multiple years. This resolution endorses establishment of an alternate general education transfer pattern for community college students majoring in STEM to facilitate their completion of lower division coursework in their major and transfer to CSU within 60 units. This pathway ("SCI-GETC") allows transfer students to defer specific general education courses until after transfer but still receive the rights and guarantees of GE-certified transfer students.

Support for the Continued Inclusion of Upper Division General Education within WASC Accreditation Guidelines (AS-3109-13/AA): In the December revision of the accreditation handbook, the elimination of the guideline describing the normative expectation regarding curriculum for institutions. ASCSU encourages WASC to include a modified guideline that specifies the inclusion of general education throughout the curriculum, including at the upper division level, without reference to the specific number of units.

Towards an Evidence-Based Culture in Establishing Academic Policies and Initiatives (AS-3103-13/APEP): This resolution urges use of evidence-based research based on students with similar demographic features prior to adoption of new academic policies and initiatives. Systematic pilot testing to appraise both intended and unintended consequences for CSU students is encouraged.

Commendation of Chancellor Timothy White's Requesting a 10% Reduction in Salary (AS-3108-13/FGA): The ASCSU recognizes Chancellor White's action because it showed both sensitivity to the current political and fiscal climate as well as solidarity with CSU faculty and staff who have experienced stagnant compensation and furloughs over the past several years.

A Smoke-Free California State University (AS-3102-12/EX/AA): On January 9, 2012, UC President Mark G. Yudof directed Chancellors at all campuses to implement a smoke-free policy within the next 24 months, noting that 586 other university campuses were already smoke-free. The health hazards of using tobacco products are widely known; according to the Centers for Disease Control, tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the US. The ASCSU

asks Chancellor White to create a smoke-free CSU, including prohibiting both the use and sale of tobacco products.

System-wide Outstanding Professor Awards

The ASCSU is working with the Chancellor's Office to feature on the system website the faculty recognized each year by their campus as outstanding faculty in the areas of teaching, scholarly and creative activity, and/or service. This website is scheduled to launch in August 2013.

From 1963-64 through 1994-95, the Board of Trustees, utilizing funds from the Joseph M. Schenck Foundation of Los Angeles, sponsored a program to select [Outstanding Professors](#) (see pages 11, 12) from the system's campuses. Two faculty were designated each year, with awards of \$4,000 each. This award discontinued after 1994-95. In fall 1998, Trustee Stanley T. Wang provided \$1 million to reward outstanding faculty and administrators. During a 10 year-period, four faculty and one administrator throughout the CSU system received \$20,000 awards each year. The [Wang Family Excellence Awards](#) were last designated in 2008. A successor program at the system level to recognize outstanding performance has not been established.

ASCSU 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Academic Senate marks its 50th anniversary this year with an event on Thursday, March 14th from 12:00 to 5:00 pm at the Chancellor's Office. The event will feature an opening plenary, a break-out for discussion, and a final plenary session with the goal of setting a path for shared collegial governance for the future. My thanks go to Past Chair John Tarjan from CSU Bakersfield for focusing attention on this important milestone in CSU history. Please plan on joining us for this important program.

Board of Trustees Agenda

Joint Meeting, Committees of Educational Policy and Finance, Cal State Online: The ASCSU recognizes and appreciates amendments made at the request of faculty to the proposed Title 5 change regarding Cal State Online from initial language presented in September.

The ASCSU will study the implications of the amendment discussed yesterday to remove the words "self-support" from the proposed Title 5 language.

Committee on Educational Policy, Agenda Item on Baccalaureate Unit Limits, Proposed Title 5 Changes: Expected shared governance processes were circumvented when this item appeared on the September BOT agenda without discussion with ASCSU. At its November plenary, the ASCSU expressed serious concerns about this proposed Title 5 change, which we view as removing authority from the faculty, who are the most appropriate body to ensure curricular integrity ([AS-3092-12/AA Faculty Consultation on Baccalaureate Unit Limits](#)).

In AS-3092-12/AA, the ASCSU encouraged campus-based timelines jointly determined by campus administration and senates so as to allow programs to engage in normal and well-established curricular review processes, reaffirmed its commitment to distinctive universities in the CSU, and affirmed that some programs must remain "high unit majors" to protect academic quality and student success. Campuses are best positioned to make decisions regarding high unit degree programs for their students, looking at the entire degree program—including depth and breadth—simultaneously.

**Joint Task Force on Potential System-wide Implications of Cal State Online
and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)**

In response to the urging of the Governor to leverage online education to increase capacity, reduce time to degree, and manage costs, a joint task force between the ASCSU and Academic Affairs Division is being formed with a report due by May 22, 2013. The task force will also include students.