

Academic Senate CSU
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ASCSU Chair's Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Steven Filling

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Good afternoon all. Chair Monville, I want to echo what the Chancellor had to say about your obvious commitment to the CSU. The depth of that commitment is evident when you get a little teary as you think about leaving.

In March I shared with you the Senate's request that the CSU policy on Academic Freedom be reviewed and updated. I'm happy to note that I've had multiple conversations with the Chancellor and General Counsel and we are moving ahead with engaging in that review and I believe there will be a working group in the fall. Hopefully we will bring something back to you in the short term.

Over the summer we spend a lot of time doing intersegmental work. There is a group, ICAS, which is the Academic Senate of all three segments that spend a lot of time together. We have worked on things like the basic skills initiative AVC Storm has mentioned earlier as having received \$10 million in funding from the state. We are working on trying to more closely define what general education means and to a very real extent what it means to have a liberal arts education.

We also will spend a significant amount of time and resources on open educational resources. For those that don't know those are educational materials, textbooks and supplemental materials that are freely available - in other words that cost the students nothing at all. We have spent the last two years creating a repository of those materials we are just moving into the phase of trying to get people to use the materials. We should be grateful to CSSA and Meredith Turner, their legislative director, for their work in sponsoring a bill, AD798, that seeks to allocate money for faculty to adopt the materials. This is a real step forward for our students.

I vicariously experienced a bit of your retreat yesterday, watching the video and having conversations with several of you last night. I admit to being awed by the unanimity of purpose among us. I think we have differences about how to get there but it's amazing how much we agree about what the goal is. That is, student success, and I think we also agree that the essence of student success is, as Chair Monville put it this morning, people intensive.

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

Education is an interpersonal activity, but not just any people, people that are dedicated, people that are willing to work with our students, people that have time to work with our students. In May I shared a statement from the Senate calling for a plan to increase tenure density. Those are the very people that we need for student success. The response from the Chancellor's office was an agreement that yes, this is a need, however given at that point the uncertainty of the State Budget there was a disinclination to go forward with measures and metrics. I think that we should hold ourselves to the same standards that we hold our students to. We don't always have to meet our metrics but if we don't know where we're at, we're not going to make much progress. We do need those metrics.

In the end the CSU allocation included \$11 million specifically for hiring faculty. That solves part of the problem this year and I'll note that today there is a press release from Moody's, those investment banker folks. They have raised the outlook on higher education from negative to stable. That suggests to me that the outlook for higher education funding in the future is not as dismal now as we have learned over the last several years to believe. Again, I don't think we should shy away from outcome measures. Yes, what we can do depends on what we get, but that's not an argument for not measuring what we do.

I will note, finally, that requires not only hiring the right people but also retaining them. At my own campus, Stanislaus, I looked at a list of the people we hired over the last five years. Over 20% of them have left the CSU already. I think that speaks to the wages and working conditions of the people that we most need to be there when our students need them.
Chair Monville that concludes my report.

Chair Monville:

Thank you and I appreciate the feedback, and I do know, and I am taking note of your thoughts related to some reporting and metrics about faculty hiring. I know it's an important issue to this Board and think it's a value and I might ask Vice Chancellor Blanchard and the Chancellor in the fall to bring something back. I know anecdotally from the conversations with Presidents that they are actively hiring faculty for campuses and bringing it back for information and understanding would be useful to all of us and we can measure and track performance from there. Thank you for that.