

ASCSU Chair's Board of Trustees Meeting Report

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1. Good morning Chair Monville, Trustees, Colleagues. First I would like to thank Trustee Norton for taking the time out of his busy schedule to visit the Academic Senate last week. We truly enjoyed our conversation and also the validation that our common goals remain common.
2. As you're aware the Academic Senate speaks formally via resolution as this body does.
 - a. Our first statement spoke in opposition to a practice of John Wiley & Sons of bundling huge numbers of journals so the libraries are forced to purchase thousands of them rather than the ones we would like to see. We fully support the decision of the library directors of the CSU to cancel our system subscription and additionally we are asking the faculty to consider using materials other than those available from John Wiley & Sons. That is, textbooks and educational materials to the extent that is feasible. We think that perhaps John Wiley & Sons need to understand that echoing the most odious behavior of cable television companies is probably not a success strategy.
 - b. Our second statement is the initial legislative positions of the Academic Senate CSU. This is a practice we started last year in response to increased activism on part of the legislature in terms of how the CSU conducts its business. Our response is to increase our activism in Sacramento and hopefully provide some informed influence into the bills that result.
 - c. The third statement expresses our support and participation in the stand for the CSU Campaign. As AVC Zamarripa mentioned earlier, we're happy to work with the Vice Chancellor, the Chancellor, and with you in helping the Legislature and the Governor understand the value CSU provides and the dire need to invest in the public good of higher education.
3. Earlier this morning we heard Vice Chancellor Relyea on the impressive gains we've made on efficiency in the CSU. I think it really important to note also that when we flavor that with some of the materials of reports from the white papers the California Faculty Association produced, we note that some of the efficiency comes from the employees. As their report states and as noted in the L.A. Times this morning, the number of faculty went down by 3% over the last decade at the same time the number of students went up by 24%. From one perspective that's efficiency, from another perspective – one I think Chancellor White was eloquent about this morning - that is, endangering the quality of what we do. We need to pay attention to that quality. We need to, I think, invest in the human capital of the CSU, the human capital that produces the core mission. In line with that current topics for discussion at the Academic Senate include a plan for tenure density. Chancellor White and I have had conversations about this. I think everyone is in agreement that we need to build the

long-term faculty. One of the things we're dealing with right now is how does that set the goals that are reasonable, goals that push us but don't become impossible. Goals that will help measure our success at rebuilding the human capital of the CSU.

4. We're also working on a statement on developing a culture of assessment in the CSU. Trustee Eisen, I know you asked yesterday about the program review assessments and why sometimes they weren't used in evaluation of faculty. I thought about that for several hours last night and I guess my response would be evaluation of programs... evaluation that goes in a classroom, something I refer to as formative assessment, is sort of like the cook tasting the soup as he's preparing it. Evaluation of the soup by the customer tasting it – is a whole other measure. It's an outcomes measure. We prefer to use those intermediate measures to more finely tune what we do in hopes of not having to wait until the end of the process before things get better. And our request with the culture of assessment statement is that we find ways to fund faculty development. That is, we find ways to help the faculty to understand how to more effectively use the assessment information we get.
5. We participate in continued discussions on general education and transfer. One of the discussions takes place with the Western Interstate Council on Higher Education. We're trying to figure out what our place is in the national conversation. It seems that most of the nation looks to us for leadership. They think we've got a lot more experience. We're trying to find ways to offer them our counsel without fully sometimes participating in the projects that we don't have the statutory or realistic ability to implement for them.
6. We're also talking about some practices we're not sure we understand, for instance the leasing of University facilities to outside agencies, most specifically, the leasing of some space to California North State University on the CSU Sacramento campus. We think that there may be some issues there with people trading on our brand that we would like to explore. And we will continue doing that.
7. And finally, I would like to add the faculty voice to the fairly large chorus thanking Trustee Achtenberg for her leadership and her commitment to the public good of higher education and echo her plea to the public of California that they find a way to restore some of the money they took out of our budget in the last couple of years. As she noted quite accurately, "The American Dream, the future of the state hinges upon that."