

ASCSU Chair's Report

Steven Filling

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The following report highlights activities from a very busy start to the academic year. I've chosen to use a bulleted format in pursuit of clarity.

120/180

We continue to monitor the 120/180 unit cap exception process. Chancellor White tells us that he has all of the exception requests that were submitted by the deadline and that he intends to review them in the near future. He also noted that he would be communicating with faculty prior to finalizing his decisions. The Executive Committee has asked senators to consult with their campus programs and senates and to share campus perspectives with us. It seems clear from the stories that have been shared with us that there was wide variation in process across the campuses.

Last year we discovered that AVC Mallon had engaged a faculty member to do some "120 unit work" that included reporting on high unit disciplines. When Academic Affairs Chair Miller asked for a copy of the consultant's analysis and recommendations AVC Mallon declined to provide it, stating that the faculty member had gone beyond the intended scope of the project. Recently the California Faculty Association filed a California Public Records Act request for the consultant's work and any associated materials. CFA forwarded the materials they received to the Executive Committee and we are sharing the reports with ASCSU senators. The reports should be available in the next day or so. One report concludes that "A 132 unit limit and continued GE standards provides the best chance for us [the CSU] to maintain competitive programs and help make a better life for many Californians." This recommendation was offered as a "first choice" for CSU engineering programs. As a "second choice," the consultant concluded that "a 128 unit limit should be achievable by most programs without fatally affecting program quality, and still allows us [the CSU] to help make a better life for many Californians. The consultant's "Final Report," written almost one year ago, offers the following summary of the work: "As described in several reports and numerous emails, the recommended course of action is to raise the unit cap for engineering programs to no less than 128 semester units (preferably 130 or 132)."

Governance Concerns

As you're likely aware, both San Jose State University and CSU Chico Academic Senates have passed resolutions calling for review of campus climate and administration. Their campus senate chairs have asked the Executive Committee for counsel on how they might most effectively proceed with communicating about those requests and encouraging action based on the outcomes of those reviews. We are working with the chairs and will report back to senators as things proceed.

SB 850

The Executive Committee initiated conversation with Chancellor's Office staff on possible processes for review of community college baccalaureate degrees piloted pursuant to SB 850. While the process for CSU agreement that the proposed programs are not already offered by CSU has not been developed we have the Chancellor's agreement that the process must involve CSU faculty review before agreement that the programs don't duplicate CSU programs. The Executive Committee has referred this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Faculty Appointments

The Executive Committee made several appointments to various committees and we note that in several cases we appointed members of the Executive Committee because we received no responses to our call for senators interested in and able to serve on the committees. Our appointments included:

- Institute for Teaching and Learning Director Search Committee - Senator Guerin
- Quality Assurance for Online Instruction Grant Proposal Review Committee - Senator Benavides
- Associate Director, Academic Programs and Policy Search Committee - Senator Miller
- Modes of instruction workgroup [following up on AS-3167-14/APEP/AA] – Senator Chisholm, Senator Collins, Senator Roberts
- Discipline Councils workgroup [following up on AS-3169-14/AA] – Senator Baaske, Senator Murphy, Senator Van Selst

Academic Council

I attended the Academic Council meeting in October. Ryan Storm and Phil Garcia provided an overview of the measures the State is requiring CSU to report, discussed the need to provide context for those measures and discussed additional measures that CSU is considering providing. The required report will be presented to the Board of Trustees in November and January. Several provosts noted that funding for faculty hiring is needed.

Faculty Development Directors Council

I attended the Council of Faculty Development Directors meeting in October. Discussion topics included the need for heightened visibility of campus faculty development efforts and successes. The Council also discussed the need for stable funding for faculty development efforts. The Council expressed its appreciation for the leadership of Dr. Wayne Tikkanen, who will be retiring this year.

Campus Chairs Council

The Campus Senate Chairs Council met in October as well. The chairs are developing a compendium of governance structure on CSU campuses, and will be working to develop a systematic process for updating that compendium as their campus governance structures evolve. The chairs also discussed student success fees, modifications proposed to EO 1065 and the 120/180 unit cap process. The chairs

have requested data on hiring patterns [administrator, faculty, staff] from their campuses, and are looking to develop a trends analysis to inform future actions.

California State Students Association

The CSSA Board of Directors met in Humboldt in October. There was a spirited discussion of student success fees led by Student Trustee Talar Alexanian. I led a discussion of General Education and will be sharing comments received with the appropriate committees and anyone interested. My thanks to Senators Creadon and Eschker for their hospitality.

CSU Graduation Initiative

CSU held a Graduation Initiative event in mid October. Attending were teams from each campus including the president, provost, vice president student affairs and senate chair. CSU engaged Education Trust to develop targets for 4 and 6 year graduation rates and for closing the gap for each campus. Presenters from Education Trust reported that the campus targets were developed by extrapolating trend lines of historical data. Campus teams were also introduced to the Student Success Dashboard Project, which is intended to provide metrics and a capacity for data analysis that can guide campus progress toward goals. You can explore the Dashboard at <http://www.calstate.edu/dashboard>.

EVC ASA Search

The search for an Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs is in progress. Senator Foroohar, Faculty Trustee Stepanek and I serve on the search committee. While the process has been mandated confidential I can report that the Chancellor's intent is to have that person identified and hired by the end of the year. EVC Smith has graciously agreed to continue to serve until the new EVC can join us.

Financial Sustainability Task Force

The Task Force on a Sustainable Financial Model for the California State University met for the first time on 5 November. Faculty Trustee Stepanek and I are members of the committee. I shared the draft charge for the group with ASCSU recently, and note that the group is empowered to modify that charge as work proceeds. The group will be preparing two "mid term" reports, and is expected to provide a final report in April. I encourage you to take a look at the committee charge, which contemplates a new model for resource allocation to the campuses. The group will be soliciting counsel from ASCSU as well as other stakeholders, most likely at the January and March plenaries.

Enhancing Communication

I'd like to thank Senator Aloisio, Senate Chair Grier and the Senate Executive Committee at Channel Islands for allowing me to visit their meeting and participate in a discussion about enhancing communication between ASCSU and campus senates. Among their suggestions was the notion that ASCSU consider highlighting specific issues that our first reading items seek to address in pursuit of encouraging feedback from campus faculty. We will continue to explore ways to more effectively engage our campus colleagues.

Finally, the CSU Academic Conference 2014 will be held next week, immediately following the Board of Trustees meeting. The Executive Committee and the Conference Planning Group have worked

tirelessly to respond to a wide array of challenges as we've sought to reconstitute this event and we believe that we have an interesting and informative program that will enable thoughtful conversation among attendees. We appreciate Chancellor White's support and willingness to help us adapt the Conference in response to a variety of situations and we thank the campus presidents for providing funding for campus team travel to the Conference.

As always, please feel free to contact me via email [sfilling@mac.com] or phone [209.988.8256] if you have questions, concerns or suggestions on any of these issues.