

ASCSU Chair John Tarjan's Report for September 2008

This report is a recap of the chair's activities over the summer. I have tried to communicate the substance of meetings and activities in the notes/reports sent over the summer. Please feel free to ask any questions during the Chair's Report portion of the plenary on September 11th. I plan to highlight just a few points rather than make a full report at that time.

1. The Executive Committee was active throughout the summer.
 - a. We met in person and virtually to select standing committee chairs and make statewide committee appointments in June.
 - b. The standing committee chairs joined us for an orientation on June 4th and to make standing committee appointments.
 - c. We have continued to make referrals and appointments on a more or less continuous basis.
 - d. We met via teleconference in July and August to plan for the fall and conduct other urgent business.
 - e. Each member of the Executive Committee was assigned to be on at least one workgroup developing *Access to Excellence* commitment indicators and measures.
 - f. Members acted as liaisons to external groups (alumna, students, CFA, retired faculty) and to represent the ASCSU during the summer on a variety of committees.
2. ICAS (3 segment senate executive committees) met in June. Two notable developments include
 - a. The writing of an editorial dealing with higher education funding to be sent out over the chairs' signatures to all leading CA newspapers, and
 - b. The formation of a task force to develop a white paper on transfer to be used to inform policy makers. Barbara Swerkes and I represent the CSU.
 - c. Due to the yearly rotation, the ASCSU Chair will chair this group this academic year.
 - d. Our next meeting will be September 10th.
3. In conjunction with the Executive Committee, I sent three official letters during the summer.
 - a. One to the conference committee requesting that the Governor's May Revise Budget be honored and those efforts be made to restore other funds.
 - b. One to the "Big Five with much the same request.
 - c. One to the members of the Senate Education Committee opposing AB 1785 (DeSaulnier). This bill would have had the effect of separating CSU and UC admissions criteria (different "g" courses in the "a-g" list). It is one of many pieces of legislation dealing with career technical education (CTE) this year. We are likely to see many more next year.
 - d. You can see copies of these letters on the ASCSU website.
4. In that same vein, I travelled to Sacramento and with Wess Larson met with members of the Senate Education Committee and a variety of staff personnel on AB 1785. I also sat with Senator Scott (chair of the committee) at dinner during the Academic Council retreat and we discussed the bill extensively. Despite his and the CSU's good efforts, the bill almost made it out of committee. A couple of members assured us we would see the bill again next year.
5. I attended the Academic Council Retreat in June and the regular meeting in August. I previously sent out my notes on the two meetings.
6. I attended the following meetings for the first time and previously distributed my notes.

- a. Provost's Technology Steering Committee (PTSC)
 - b. Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC)
 - c. Intersegmental Coordinating Council (ICC)
7. While in Sacramento for ICC, I attended a town hall meeting put on by the CA Secretary of Education dealing with the report on education excellence *Students First: Renewing Hope for California's Future*. The report contains lots of good ideas but as you might expect, practitioners believe more resources are needed for implementation.
8. David Hood, Bob Buckley, Buckley Barrett and I participated in the Systemwide Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) meeting. David's notes and my comments have been distributed.
9. I joined the Sacramento State University Senate and guests for their annual retreat and made a presentation during lunch on my take on the CSU from the "top down." I will be meeting with the Pomona senate in September. As a result, I have developed a rather lengthy outline of topics that might be of interest to campus senates. I would welcome the invitation to meet with any senate group.
10. I was invited (the only faculty member) to a UC/CSU administrator meeting dealing with the following topics.
 - a. ASSIST
 - b. CPEC Eligibility (admissions) Studies for CSU and UC
 - c. Enrollments
 - d. CTE
 - e. UC Admissions Standards
11. I attended the first meeting of the ASSIST advisory committee (supersedes the former board to some extent). I have some deep concerns related to ASSIST. As chair of ICAS, I became an ex officio member of the committee and will likely not be sharing a written report. Bob Buckley was recently named as our new ASCSU representative and I am sure will keep the body informed.
12. I met with administrators and an AAC&U representative relative to a proposed COMPASS general education grant. This would provide funding for campus and system academic leaders (mostly faculty) to participate in conferences and workshops related to incorporating "high impact" practices into GE to improve underserved student group retention.
13. In conclusion, I have been struggling to keep up with Ann Peacock, who is the one who really keeps the ASCSU on track. We talk often each day. I am in a better position now to realize how lucky we are to have such a talented and committed staff in Ann, Tracy and Sharon.