

## ASCSU Chair Marshelle Thobaben's Report for May 2007 Plenary

I want to express to all academic senators my deepest appreciation for the honor to serve during the past two years as your chair. It has been a privilege to work with and for you. I have been impressed with the quality and intensity of your work as a deliberative body. We can be very proud of what we do for the California State University faculty and students, and for the citizenry of California.

I want to thank and express my appreciation to the Executive Committee, Vice Chair Barry Pasternack, Secretary Marshall Cates, and Members-at-Large Henry Reichman and John Tarjan, for their support and attending meetings such as the CSU Alumni Council, CSSA and CFA on my behalf. I also wish to thank them for their extraordinary work on analyzing the 23 Access to Excellence Strategic Planning campus conversation reports and their presentation, *Summarizing Conversation Sessions by Theme*, at the Access to Excellence Summit.

Additionally, I wish to thank the Standing Committee Chairs, Darlene Yee, Bernadette Cheyne, Jackie Kegley and Mark O'Shea for their diligent committee work and in presenting issues of importance and concern to the ASCSU for us to consider.

Finally, I wish to thank Executive Director Ann Peacock for the outstanding work she did in managing the senate office and Administrative Specialist Tracy Butler and Administrative Support Specialist Sharon Van Steenwyk for their exceptional support during the year.

The Executive Committee minutes are posted on the Academic Senate web page <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/Executive/index.shtml>. We last met during the ASCSU interim committee meetings in April.

Following is a list of Senate-related activities the Executive Committee has been involved with over the past two months, including some highlights from meetings in which we have participated.

**Academic Council (AC) [CSU Council of campus Provosts/Vice-Presidents for Academic Affairs]:** I represented ASCSU at the April 11-12, 2007, meeting at LAX. The provosts approved *The Place of Scholarly Research and Creative Activities* in the CSU paper. Brief reports were given on the CSU budget, the Access to Excellence strategic planning process and Summit, the PTSC meeting and the various Task Forces [Textbook; Drops/ Withdrawals/ Incompletes/ Repeats, and MBA Professional Fee]. I provided an update on ASCSU activities.

**Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC):** ATAC is co-chaired by CSU Los Angeles Provost Herman Lujan, Chair of the Provost Technology Steering Committee (PTSC), and me. Senators Benavides, Pasternack, Rohm and Thobaben attended the April 19, 2007 meeting. We approved the report, *Strategic Policies for Providing Faculty Resources*. The Executive Committee sent the report to the ASCSU Academic Affairs Committee for their review and comment. An update was given on the Academic Transformation project (see [http://www.calstate.edu/ats/academic\\_transformation/](http://www.calstate.edu/ats/academic_transformation/)). A subcommittee was formed, which includes Vice Chair Barry Pasternack, to develop more detailed recommendations for the project.

We had an update on the CSU's Online Degree Programs (OLDP), and recommended it needed to include strategies for communication and coordination of planning between campuses and system activities as well as course alignment with WASC requirements. One area for which these programs can play an important role is in providing online degree programs to military personnel.

We were given an update on plans for eBook pilot in Digital Marketplace (DM) project. ATAC recommended that the DM project and the Textbook Affordability Taskforce coordinate their efforts and be more focused on faculty-centric activities. Stephanie Brasley, CSU Manager of Information Literacy Initiatives, provided an update on the ICT literacy project.

Additionally, David Ernst, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Information Technology Services, reported to ATAC on the potential of a significant increase in State Compact Funding for academic technology over the next four years. He recommended that we must plan to align new resources with the strategic priorities of the CSU. There will need to be a balance between system and campus support as well as program and infrastructure services to ensure that we can scale and sustain the technology services at the level required.

**Alumni Council:** On March 19, 2007 the Executive Committee participated in the CSU Alumni Day. Members of the committee and FGA Chair Jackie Kegley joined their campus delegations to lobby for CSU priority items. On the previous day, Vice Chair Barry Pasternack attended the CSU Alumni Council where he shared the concerns of the Executive Committee regarding the seemingly biased language of a resolution being considered by the Alumni Council concerning faculty contract negotiations. In response to these concerns, modifications were made to their resolution. He updated the Council about the Access to Excellence planning activities and bargaining.

**Board of Trustees:** The Board of Trustees met on March 13-14, 2007. Faculty Trustee Craig Smith's reports of the meeting are available on the Academic Senate web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Committees/Executive/index.shtml>. The next Board meeting is May 15-16, 2007.

**Board of Trustees to Excellence Strategic Planning Process:** The Executive Committee participated in several of the Board of Trustees Access to Excellence Strategic Planning Process campus discussions, which took place between January and March 2007. The Executive Committee was charged with summarizing the 23 Campus Conversations for the six Domains in the Access to Excellence strategic planning project and presented their summaries at the Access to Excellence Steering Committee meeting on April 4, 2007. Executive Committee members also agreed to act as discussants during the Statewide *Access to Excellence Summit* on April 24 and presented the summaries of the conversations to the Summit attendees on April 25. The web site for the Board of Trustees strategic planning process is at [http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System\\_Strategic\\_Planning/AccessToExcellence.shtml](http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System_Strategic_Planning/AccessToExcellence.shtml)

**Board of Trustees Wang Award Committee:** I participated in the Wang Award Committee deliberations on March 15 and April 5, 2007. The recipients will be honored at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

**Campus Actions to Facilitate Graduation (CAFG):** I participated in a CSU Facilitating Graduation Initiatives [CAFG] campus visit to California State University, Monterey Bay on May 2, 2007 with former Senator Ted Anagnoson, the team leader for this visit, Senator Cristy Jensen, and other CSU administrators and faculty. It is impressive to see what campuses are doing to facilitate student graduation with a quality education in a timely fashion.

**CFA:** Member-at-Large Henry Reichman attended the CFA Board Meeting on April 20, 2007. He sent an extensive report to the ASCSU. The highlight of the meetings included summations of the lengthy contract campaign and the honoring of Paul Persons. Former Chico State professor and statewide academic senator Paul Persons was posthumously honored at Saturday night's assembly gala with CFAs first ever-humanitarian award. Person's wife Marcia Briggs, who is also a Chico professor, accepted the award from CFA President John Travis who said, Paul passed away while in service of the CSU. He will be fondly remembered as a tireless

political scientist and lawyer who worked diligently doing pro bono advocacy for those who needed it most.

The Assembly elected the following officers who will transition into their new positions on June 1, 2007.

- President - Lillian Taiz (Los Angeles, History)
- Vice-President - Kim Geron (East Bay, Political Science)
- Secretary - John Halcon (San Marcos, Education)
- Treasurer - Peter Kreysa (Long Beach, Professional Studies)
- Associate Vice President Lecturers Elizabeth Hoffman (Long Beach, English)
- Associate Vice President South David Bradfield (Dominguez Hills, Music)
- Associate Vice President North Andy Merrifield (Sonoma, Political Science)
- Associate Vice President Affirmative Action Cecil Canton (Sacramento, Criminal Justice)

The CFAs home page is <http://www.calfac.org/>

**California State Student Association (CSSA):** The ASCSU Executive Committee has been meeting with CSSA leadership bimonthly prior to the Board of Trustees meeting.

**Campus Senate Chairs:** The Executive Committee met with the campus senate chairs on April 12, 2007. The senate chairs shared respective campus activities, were updated on current ASCSU issues, and discussed the Accessible Technology Initiative, the contract settlement and the *Access to Excellence Summit*.

**CSU Searches:** ASCSU senators were involved in CSU Chancellors Office searches for the *Dean for Academic Planning* and the *AVC for Research Initiatives and Partnerships*. Senators are involved in the current CSU searches for the *Human Resource Director* and the *ITL Faculty Director*.

**CSU Joint Academic Senate and Research Officers Task Force: Patents and Technology Transfer Policy:** The ASCSU Executive Committee appointed Senators Barrett, Hornbeck, Kegley, Postma and Thobaben to serve on this Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to gain clarity and direction on CSU system/campus policies and implementation with regard to intellectual property; particularly with respect to the handling of patents and technology transfer. We met for the first time on April 25, 2007 and elected Senator Fred Hornbeck to chair the committee. The draft recommendations will be sent to the ASCSU, CSU Academic Affairs, and campus Research Officers.

**Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS):** ASCSU Executive Committee members attended the April 10, 2007 ICAS meeting in Sacramento. We met with key legislators and staff, including Anthony J. Portantino, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education, and Jason Murphy, staff to Jack Scott, Chair of the Senate Education Committee. The following day members of the Executive Committee joined members of the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee for the Senates Lobbying Day. The ICAS agenda and minutes are available at <http://www.academicssenate.cc.ca.us/icas/Meetings.html>

**Naming Facilities Review Panel:** Executive Director Ann Peacock is the Executive Committee's designee to review all proposals to the Board of Trustees to name campus buildings and to report any concerns she has to me.

**Provosts' Technology Steering Committee (PTSC):** PTSC met on April 11, 2007 at LAX. Updates were given on the following projects: Transforming Course Design, the CSU's Online degree Program (OLDP), ICT literacy, Textbook Affordability and Accessibility, and focus and plans for an eBook pilot in Digital Marketplace [refer to my ATAC report for more information].

The April ASCSU newsletter is available on the senate web site:  
<http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Newsletter/index.shtml>.

I join my Academic Senate colleagues in their commendation of those leaving the ASCSU, and in greeting the new Academic Senators.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chair and your contributions in support of the CSU mission.

Marshelle Thobaben, Chair  
Academic Senate CSU