

## **January 25-27, 2016 CSU Board of Trustees Meeting Faculty Trustee's Report**

### **Steven Stepanek**

Key activities of the January 25-27, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting:

1. January 25<sup>th</sup> was spent in closed session interviewing the finalists for the positions of President of San José State University and President of Sonoma State University.

On the morning of January 27<sup>th</sup>, the appointment of Mary A. Papazian, Ph.D., as president of San José State University effective July 1<sup>st</sup> was announced. Papazian comes to SJSU with more than 25 years of teaching and administrative experience. She is currently serving as the president of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) in New Haven, Connecticut. She will replace Susan Martin, Ph.D., who was appointed as the interim president in August 2015. Papazian will be the 29th president of SJSU and is the third female president in the campus' 159-year history.

Also on January 27<sup>th</sup>, the appointment of Judy K. Sakaki, Ph.D., as president of Sonoma State University effective July 1<sup>st</sup> was announced. Sakaki currently serves as vice president, Student Affairs, at the University of California, Office of the President. She succeeds President Ruben Armiñana, who is retiring in June and has served as president since 1992. Sakaki will be the seventh president of SSU and is the second female president in the campus' 55-year history.

2. During the January 26<sup>th</sup> open session of the Board meeting, the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Bargaining Unit 6, the State Employees Trades Council-United, was ratified. Unit 6 represents CSU skilled trades and maintenance workers.
3. The Committee on Campus Planning, Building and Grounds approved to amend the 2015-16 Capital Outlay Program to accommodate projects by Fullerton (solar photovoltaic array, and seismic and tenant improvements to a building at their Irvine off-campus facility), Long Beach (parking lots 7 and 14 solar photovoltaic, and parking lot 7 expansion), Northridge (bookstore complex renovation), Sacramento (parking structure V design and construction, Folsom Hall renovation, Lassen Hall elevator installation, and Eureka Hall network cabling), and San Diego (campus entrance elements).

Also, the motion to set aside and vacate the 2007 campus master plan for San Diego State University and partially decertify the Environmental Impact Report for SDSU was approved. What caused this action by the Board was a court ruling holding the CSU responsible for providing immediate funding to the City of San Diego and the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System in fair share mitigation costs for proposed long-term projects that appeared in SDSU's campus master plan that might not even be constructed as initially envisioned. It is because of this case that the CSU has stopped requesting campuses submit new long-term campus master plans that may look 15 or more years into the future regarding potential changes to campus building infrastructure. In the place of new campus master plans, campuses now put forward proposed alterations to their last approved master plan on a project-by-project basis with any fair share mitigations costs calculated just for the current project.

4. The Committee on Finance heard three informational items:
  - a. Sustainable Financial Model Task Force Draft Report – the full report from the task force is available for viewing at: <http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/jan16/finance.pdf> starting on page 12 of the document. Full disclosure – I am a member of the task force.

The current financial model for the CSU is based on the 1992 and 2007 crisis handling of economic downturns of the state. It only minimally differentiates between the costs to run differently sized campuses and is based on a campus planning model that does not take into consideration the differences in our current operation from nearly 25 years ago such as: classroom pedagogy changes, the current role of technology to support instruction, changes in the level of state support to the CSU, development of advanced degrees including the offering of doctorates, and the growing importance of State University Grants (SUGs) to students as tuition increased.

A sustainable financial model for the CSU should provide both campuses and students with tools to plan the financial costs for several years out and minimize the possibility of surprise financial cuts to campus programs and huge jumps in tuition. It needs to take into consideration the importance of existing State University Grants to make public higher education more affordable to the entire populous of the state. The underlying purpose of SUGs will not be going away even if the funding structure and name of these grants change. Any multi-year plan for tuition increases would be to compensate for cost of living increases and changes in state funding of the system. Such increases would be reviewed by the Board of Trustees on a yearly basis based in state funding support. By announcing the possible increases several years out, students would not be caught off guard by unanticipated tuition increases.

Next steps: some recommendations in the report, such as providing the CSU with greater investment flexibility, are already being actively explored; some items will require the convening of subject-matter experts to address and refine report recommendations; some items will need to come back (tentatively in June 2016) to the full Board for review and adoption.

- b. 2016-2017 Support Budget Report – this is a standard January update on where we are currently regarding the Board’s budget request to the state for the next fiscal year. The Governor’s proposed state budget provides the CSU at the system’s minimum request level which includes a \$140.4 million support budget increase but not the additional \$100 million that was requested. The Governor’s budget does include as one-time funding \$35 million for deferred maintenance and \$35 million for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. We now wait for legislative hearings and the Governor’s May revised budget.
    - c. 2015-2016 Student Fee Report – the report can be viewed starting on page 47 of the document: <http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/jan16/finance.pdf> . Besides the CSU tuition rates, there are campus-based mandatory fees that averaged \$1,343 in 2015-2016 (up by \$56 from 2014-2015.) The campus with the highest campus-based mandatory fees is San Luis Obispo at \$3,529 above the standard tuition. The campus with the lowest fees is Monterey Bay at \$647 above the standard tuition. These campus-based mandatory fees cover: health facilities and services, instructionally related activities, materials services and facilities, student success, student body dues and student body centers.
5. The Committee on Audit convened to receive a status report on current and follow-up internal audit assignments. This is a routine report given at nearly every Board meeting.

6. The Committee on Educational Policy approved an amendment to Title 5 to keep the CSU in compliance with state bill AB 2000 which defines when a person, other than a nonimmigrant alien, is exempt from paying nonresident tuition at CSU.

The committee also heard an informational item on CSU financial aid and State University Grants. At the “big picture” level for 2014-2015:

- a. 80% of all CSU students received some level of financial aid to tune of over \$4 billion for the year
- b. 61% of all undergraduates have full cost of tuition covered by grants, scholarships or waivers
- c. 51% of CSU bachelor degree recipients graduate with zero student debt

An update on the CSU Graduation Initiative and Student Success initiative was given. The 2009 Graduation Initiative goals were to increase the 6-year graduation rates by 8% and to cut the achievement gap in half. Graduation rates at the 6-year mark actually increased by 11% (from 46% to 57%) but because most of the ethnic groups improved their graduation rates by about the same amount when averaged across the system, only minimal progress was achieved on closing the achievement gap.

The 2025 Graduation Initiative goals were reviewed: 60% 6-year graduation rate and 24% 4-year graduation rate for entering freshmen; 76% 4-year graduation rate and 35% 2-year graduation rate for transfer students; and close the achievement gap by 50%. [See Chancellor’s achievement gap challenge in his State of the CSU Address later in this report.]

The committee closed the Board’s activities on January 26 with the presentation of the Wang Family Excellence Awards for 2016. I once again had the privilege of serving on the selection committee to determine the recipients of the four outstanding faculty and one outstanding staff Wang Family Awards. All of the nominees for this honor were truly outstanding and they are representative of the amazing commitment our faculty and staff have to the CSU and and the success of our students. The 2016 awardees by category are:

- a. Visual and Performing Arts and Letters: Kristine Diekman, CSU San Marcos
- b. Natural Sciences, Mathematical and Computer Sciences, and Engineering: Lynn Cominsky, Sonoma State University
- c. Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Public Services: Nancy Segal, CSU Fullerton
- d. Education, and Professional and Applied Sciences: Kamal Hamdan, CSU Dominguez Hills
- e. Staff / Administrator: Debra Hammond, CSU Northridge

Congratulations to these individuals for their amazing accomplishments. For more information about these awards and the 2016 recipients, please visit:

[http://www.calstate.edu/faculty\\_staff/wang-awards/](http://www.calstate.edu/faculty_staff/wang-awards/)

7. The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel discussed and approved the executive compensation packages for the new campus presidents for San José State University and Sonoma State University. Both of these presidents were hired at salaries slightly less than their incumbents. The committee and later the Board also approved an exemption request from the post-retirement employment waiting period for Dr. Andrew Mason, former assistant vice chancellor for research initiatives and partnerships, since his replacement will not be able to assume this position until summer 2016.
8. The Committee on Organization and Rules approved a change to the calendar of Board meetings for the calendar year 2017 approved during the November 2015 Board meeting. The single change was to shift the November 2016 meeting to one week later on November 15-16 to accommodate election day on November 8.

9. The Committee on Institutional Advancement received and approved the Annual Report on Philanthropic Support for 2014-2015. During 2014-2015, gift receipts were at a record high of over \$314 million. There was a 44% increase in alumni giving with 11,000 new alumni donors and 60,000 reconnecting alumni. Gift commitments for the year, which consists of new gifts, pledges and testamentary provisions, reached \$411.3 million.
10. The Committee on Governmental Relations convened to hear about the CSU's 2016 federal agenda and sponsored state legislative initiatives.

Federal agenda:

- a. Improve college access through aid to students
- b. Prepare student for college
- c. Foster degree completion for California's diverse population
- d. Educate students for tomorrow's workforce
- e. Solve societal problems through applied research
- f. Enhance campus infrastructure, health and safety
- g. Promote state and private support for public universities

State legislative proposals:

- a. One-stop financial aid
- b. Simplify administrative processes associated with the handling of lottery funds

11. Chancellor's State of the CSU Address – the full text of the Chancellor's address can be found at: <http://www.calstate.edu/stateofcsu/socsu-address/2016-address.shtml> . Some key highlights are:

The Chancellor stated there were three goals of the address:

- a. To reaffirm what he believes is our core principle: **achieving excellence through inclusivity**
- b. To celebrate our shared successes from 2015
- c. To preview future challenges and opportunities

He discussed the achievements of our ongoing Graduation Initiative, adding that “these goals, however noble, are only steps in the right direction. Our goal, our moon, must be a quality bachelor's degree for every Californian willing and able to earn it – with an **achievement gap of zero**. That means the same opportunity to succeed for every student. That is how we empower the disenfranchised... That is how we achieve both inclusivity and excellence.”

“To achieve **inclusive excellence**, we must all work together to accomplish three objectives:  
First, a continuous pipeline from preschool to a bachelor's degree – with state support for growth with quality at all levels along that pipeline  
Second, better-prepared high-school graduates and transfer students who are ready to succeed at the university level  
Third, readily available resources and timely interventions for current and future students attending the CSU”

12. After the close of the open session on Wednesday, the Board continued to meet in closed session to discuss executive personnel matters.