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Faculty Trustee's Report

CSU Board of Trustees Meeting – July 21-22, 2020 (virtual)

Hereby I respectfully submit a summary of the Board of Trustees meeting. My report is largely based on the agenda materials provided to the trustees and to the public, my personal notes, my memory, and a partial review of the archived livestream of the meeting accessible at

<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2020/Pages/july-21-22-2020.aspx>

I tried my best to accurately reflect the deliberations, and I hope to have quoted correctly and paraphrased in the spirit of the speakers' and presenters' intentions. If you notice any inaccuracy or misrepresentation, please let me know (Romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu).

Like in March and May, the July meeting of the Board of Trustees had to be conducted virtually again. The public was invited to comment live for one and a half hours at the beginning of the meeting or to submit their comments in writing.

I presume that the topics of greatest interest to you would be the controversial *Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Requirement* (section 4.b and 13) as well as the sobering *2020-2021 Final Budget* (section 9.d).

I hope that you were able to stay healthy, productive, and optimistic during the summer, and I wish you a good start to a very unusual and challenging fall semester.

Romey Sabalius

San José, CA – August 26, 2020

Faculty Trustee's Report

CSU Board of Trustees Meeting: July 21-22, 2020 (virtual)

On July 21 and 22, the CSU Board of Trustees meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On July 21, at 8:00 am

1. The **Board of Trustees** met in **Closed Session** to discuss *Executive Personnel Matters* and to receive a report on *Pending Litigation*.
2. The **Committee on Collective Bargaining** convened in **Closed Session**.
[Note: According to California Education Code § 66602 (c2) the faculty trustee “shall not participate on any subcommittee of the board responsible for collective bargaining negotiations.”]

The **Public Meeting** started at 10:00 am.

3. Due to the meeting modality, all **Public Comments** were made at the beginning of the open session. The first five speakers expressed their support for the CSU Fullerton Master Plan Update.

The approximately 40 following speakers expressed their support for an Ethnic Studies course as a CSU graduation requirement. However, the vast majority of them preferred the narrower defined version proposed by the legislators (AB-1460 – with the sole focus on the experience of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latino/as), as compared to the version proposed by the Chancellor's Office, which allows expansion of the course to include additional disenfranchised and discriminated groups as well as social justice issues.

Several labor union representatives expressed their concerns about the safe repopulation of the campuses while the pandemic is not yet under control.

After a 30-minute break, the Board of Trustees resumed its meeting at noon.

4. The **Committee on Educational Policy**
 - a. approved as an action item the *Recommended Amendment to Title 5 Regarding Residency Reclassification – Financial Independence*.

“A student who is deemed a nonresident for tuition purposes may request a reclassification to residency for a subsequent term. In addition to demonstrating physical presence and intent to remain in California at that time, a student must also satisfy financial independence requirements. Currently, a lack of financial independence is an automatic disqualifier for a nonresident student seeking reclassification. As a result,

reclassification requests must be denied even in a few circumstances where compelling arguments exist to support reclassification for the student. The proposed amendment delineates the circumstances where financial independence shall not be considered in a reclassification analysis.”

Trustee Faigin asked how much the increased reclassifications would cost the CSU. Ray Murillo, Director of Student Programs, replied that according to modeling a 10% to 20% in reversals of denials would reduce the CSU’s tuition revenue by \$342,000 to \$674,000. As during the Board meeting in May, Trustee Sabalius opined that the proposed Title 5 change should not be evaluated in terms of revenue loss, but that it is intended to make the reclassification process more accurate and fair, which will benefit eligible students. Trustee Khames appreciated that the lack of financial independence will be removed as an automatic disqualifier.

- b. approved as an action item the *Recommended Amendments to Title 5 Regarding Ethnic Studies and Social Justice*.

******* On August 17, Governor Newsom signed AB-1460 into law, which supersedes the Title 5 change, therefore rendering it obsolete *******

For the record: “The proposed amendment specifies that California State University undergraduate students will be required to complete one lower-division course in Ethnic Studies and Social Justice as part of CSU General Education (GE) Breadth. [...] The goal of the proposed Ethnic Studies and Social Justice requirement is to prepare CSU students to live, work and lead in a multicultural society.” Courses that meet this requirement shall either focus on the intersection of race and ethnicity and describe how resistance, social justice, and liberation as experienced by communities of color are relevant to current issues; or they shall focus on other factors in understanding hierarchy and oppression, such as class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, and/or age.

A currently proposed Assembly Bill (AB-1460–Weber) also would establish a new Ethnic Studies graduation requirement for all CSU undergraduate students. However, the bill would require a three-unit course requirement in Ethnic Studies to be offered through specific academic departments: Native American Studies; African American Studies; Asian American Studies; Latina/o American Studies. The bill is sponsored by the California Faculty Association (CFA).

The Chancellor’s Office maintains that its proposed Title 5 amendment is broader in scope, provides more campus and hence faculty control, aligns more seamlessly with California Community College transfer patterns, has a more realistic implementation timeline, and would cost much less (\$3 to \$4m vs. \$16m annually). Furthermore, both the Chancellor’s Office and the statewide Academic Senate (ASCSU) reject the legislative intrusion into the curriculum that AB-1460 would constitute. “Legislative interference as exemplified by AB-1460 compromises the autonomy of the Board of Trustees as well as the ability of CSU campuses to determine how academic and curricular requirements to enhance student learning can best be met at individual campuses. It erodes CSU’s academic freedom.”

An hour-long, intense discussion among the trustees ensued. Trustee Abrego made the motion to postpone the decision to the September Board meeting. As a matter of fairness and to broaden the Board’s input, Trustee Sabalius thought it appropriate to pass the proposal out of committee so that all trustees can discuss and vote on it. Trustee Abrego’s motion failed and subsequently, the committee approved the item by a vote of 10 to 2 (Abrego and Khames) [see continued discussion in section 13].

5. The **Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds**

- a. approved as an action item the CSU Long Beach Housing Expansion Phase I – Housing Administration and Commons Building Project Supplemental Impact Report.

“In May 2008, the Board of Trustees approved the 2008 Campus Master Plan, which proposed the demolition and replacement of the existing administrative offices for the Hillside and Parkside student housing community and siting of new student housing, in addition to other Master Plan projects.

In November 2018, the Board of Trustees approved the Capital Outlay Program that included the \$122 million CSU Long Beach Atherton Student Housing project to construct additional student beds and expand the Hillside student housing administrative offices/commons along with resident advisor apartments that are part of the complex. The campus refined the scope of the project compared to that originally envisioned in the 2008 Master Plan as it determined there was no longer a need to include a dining center, convenience store or coffee shop, as such facilities had been accommodated through other expansion or new facility projects elsewhere on campus. Other changes to the project are the inclusion of improvements to the Earl Warren Drive roadway and sustainable design features like the solar power array.”

- b. approved as an action item the CSU Fullerton Master Plan Update and Enrollment Ceiling Increase.

“This agenda item requests that the Board of Trustees approve the following actions for California State University, Fullerton:

- Certification of the 2020-2039 Physical Master Plan Update Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) dated July 2020;
- Approval of the proposed 2020-2039 CSU Fullerton Physical Master Plan Update (Master Plan Update), including an increase in the enrollment ceiling to 32,000 FTES.”

“Since approval of the 2003 Campus Master Plan (2003 Master Plan), CSU Fullerton has grown to become one of the largest campuses within the CSU system. The 2003 Master Plan is now outdated and inadequate to accommodate continued demand. Moreover, CSU Fullerton has undergone considerable demographic, economic, political, and social changes within the last decade and a half. This Master Plan Update provides a framework for managing future campus growth and change in a strategic and orderly way. The Master Plan Update would accommodate future growth of up to 32,000 FTES by the year 2039, a 7,000 FTES increase above the current master plan level.”

- c. received as an information item the CSU Enrollment Demand, Capacity Assessment, and Cost Analysis Report for Campus Sites.

“The Budget Act of 2019 appropriated \$4 million to the CSU to assess the need for a new university in the Cities of Concord, Chula Vista, Palm Desert, and the Counties of San Mateo and San Joaquin.”

“The scope of work for the study required:

- 1) assessment of statewide enrollment demand and physical capacity of the 23-campus California State University;
- 2) a statewide workforce demand and alignment of the CSU’s academic programs;
- 3) an analysis of the five sites and development timeline; and
- 4) the impact a new campus would have on the specific region, the existing CSU system and related institutions.”

“Based on the data collected, the analysis does not support the addition of a new campus based solely on enrollment demand. However, policymakers may consider other factors when evaluating whether to locate a campus in one or more of the five regions.”

The report estimated that the development of a new campus site would cost between \$1.9 and \$2.6 billion. Trustee Taylor asked how much the creation of a branch [satellite] campus would cost, and he was surprised that the expense would not be significantly lower than to commission an independent campus. Chancellor White pointed to the finite resources and maintained that the CSU does not want to “start and starve” a new campus.

- d. received as an information item the report on Affordable Housing at the CSU.

“The level of housing provision (total beds to full-time equivalent students (FTES)) varies widely across campuses. Overall, 11 percent of student headcount within the CSU are housed on-campus. The California Maritime Academy offers a unique residential experience in which 71 percent of students live on campus. Geographic locations of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and CSU, Monterey Bay for example, lend themselves to a more residential student experience, housing 36 and 35 percent of students, respectively. On the other hand, campuses such as Bakersfield and Fresno serve largely commuter students living at home with parents/relatives; these campuses house just 3 and 4 percent of their students, respectively.”

“Across the CSU, 30 percent of over 59,000 beds are occupied by students who are Cal Grant recipients. Data is not readily available for all campuses regarding the number of low-income students in need of housing who are not accommodated on campus either due to lack of capacity or unattainable pricing.

Unmet demand varies widely across campuses, as determined by waitlist data and market demand assessments completed within the last three years. Systemwide, estimated unmet demand for housing exceeds 17,600 beds. Campuses such as San Francisco and San Diego State have significant unmet demand –1,800 and over 2,660 beds, respectively– that is impacting their ability to recruit and retain students because of the pressures on the surrounding housing markets. CSU, Bakersfield and CSU, San Bernardino, on the other hand, each recently opened housing projects and estimate no unmet demand.”

A brief synopsis of the affordable housing plan from each campus was included in the agenda.

Trustee McGrory stressed that the CSU has to keep campus housing construction costs down. Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, replied that there is more to it than just to provide sleeping places for students. There is a need for student programming space, like dining and gathering spaces, and there are costs associated with it [see also section 6.a]. Trustee Sabalius lamented the high price of on-campus housing. He sees this as an obstacle to access and affordability, especially when a campus has a freshmen housing requirement, and sometimes even the purchasing of an expensive meal plan is required as well. He considers on-campus housing requirements an unethical imposition on students and their parents.

6. The **Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds**

- a. approved as an action item the *CSU Fullerton Housing Phase 4*.

“The proposed Student Housing Phase 4 project will construct a new 600-bed housing community to increase housing retention and address unmet housing demand. The target population will be sophomore and junior students in semi-suite style living accommodations. Programming and staffing will support engagement efforts and will focus on academic and social development and student success. [...] The program includes 600 student beds arranged in semi-suite style housing, 15 resident advisor (RA) rooms, 2 staff and graduate student apartments, and engagement spaces comprised of lounges, student leader program space, a multi-purpose room, and ground floor housing support functions including housing offices, housing police offices, landscape and custodial warehouses, laundry facilities, and mailroom. [...] The expanded outdoor spaces will provide residents and the campus with a vibrant social engagement space. The new student housing building will be designed to be highly sustainable and energy efficient.”

The Board approved the project at a cost of \$122,504,000 [an overall cost of approximately \$200,000 per bed].

7. The **Committee on Collective Bargaining**

- a. approved by consent as an action item the *Ratification of the Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with Bargaining Unit 6, Teamsters 2010*.

8. The **Committee on Audit**

- a. received by consent as an information item the *Status Report on Current and Follow-up Internal Audit Assignments*.

“For the 2020 year, assignments were made to execute individual campus audit plans; conduct audits of information technology (IT), sponsored programs and construction; use continuous auditing techniques and data analytics tools; and provide advisory services and investigation reviews. Follow-up on current and past assignments is being conducted on approximately 46 completed campus reviews.”

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the scope of the audits portion of the 2020 audit plan has inevitably been reduced. This is primarily due to the fact that no new audits were commenced between the period of March 16 through May 30. Additionally, some audit topics are more difficult than others to perform remotely given that under current circumstances both the auditor and campus personnel are working remotely. However, alternative topics have been identified, when necessary, and new audits commenced in early June. The timing and logistics of new audits are being planned in consultation with the respective campus vice president for administration and finance/CFO and are being performed remotely to the extent possible due to interim limitations of the COVID-19 health emergency. On-campus audit and advisory activity will resume when it is safe and appropriate to do so. During the period of March 16 through May 30 audit staff was able to continue progress on audits with completed fieldwork, attend virtual trainings, expand the use of existing data analytics software, develop new audit programs, and prepare for upcoming scheduled audits.”

- b. received by consent as an information item the *Report on Financial Statements Audit Corrective Actions*.

“As presented at the January 2020 California State University Board of Trustees meeting, there was an audit finding related to the accuracy of employee census data provided by the State Controller’s Office (SCO) and CalPERS for actuarial valuation that resulted in overstatement of the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability. We continue to work with the SCO and CalPERS to improve data sharing across the three entities and develop a reliable process for the future.

Additionally, each auxiliary organization conducts individual audits and 17 of the 90 auxiliaries identified material weaknesses and significant deficiencies in internal controls over financial reporting. All auxiliary organizations have provided documentation of corrective actions taken.

Finally, there were findings of minor financial materiality from the Single Audit of Federal Awards audit and campuses have provided documentation of corrective actions taken.

The Chancellor’s Office Financial Services and Audit and Advisory Services have reviewed documentary evidence provided by auxiliary organizations and campuses and have confirmed completion of corrective actions to respond to findings from the auxiliary organization audits and the Single Audit.”

Committee Chair Day noted that this is the first Board meeting of Vlad Marinescu, the newly appointed Interim Chief Audit Officer, who succeeded Larry Mandel [see section 12.b].

The Board of Trustees adjourned the meeting for the day.

The Board of Trustees reconvened its meeting on July 22 at 8:00 am.

9. The **Committee on Finance**

- a. approved by consent as an action item the CSU Sacramento Conceptual Approval of Two Public Private Partnerships for the Development of Real Property.

“California State University, Sacramento requests conceptual approval to pursue two public-public partnership agreements on campus land commonly known as the Ramona property. The Ramona property is a 25-acre parcel located about half a mile to the south of the campus. It is located within a manufacturing, research, and development zone designated by the city.”

“The first project proposed is the California Mobility Center (CMC), an electric/autonomous vehicle prototyping facility in partnership with a public-private consortium comprised of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD); PEM Motion USA, (a U.S. subsidiary of PEM Motion, a German based corporation specializing in, among other things, electromobility consulting, design, and engineering services); the City of Sacramento; the University of California, Davis; the Los Rios Community College District; and various regional economic development organizations.”

“The second project is the Northern Region Consolidated Forensic Science Laboratory Campus (CFSLC), a forensic science laboratory campus for the California Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Forensics. The project proposes to consolidate laboratories at four different departments within the Bureau of Forensics (California DNA Laboratory, Sacramento Regional Crime Laboratory, California Criminalistics Institute, and the Bureau of Forensic Science Headquarters) into a single campus-like environment on an 8-acre site.”

CSU Sacramento is not involved in either development of the project, rather the campus will merely provide the land. However, “both projects will provide opportunities for collaboration between campus departments and the public/private entities. They will create internships and employment opportunities for students as well as applied research opportunities for faculty.”

- b. approved by consent as an action item the CSU Doctorate of Occupational Therapy Tuition.

“Based on program-cost analysis conducted in consultation among the Chancellor’s Office and CSU campuses planning to offer the OTD [SJSU and CSUDH], the CSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate Tuition rate is recommended to be set at \$8,598 per term. [...] The tuition model recommended is comparable to other allied health doctoral programs in the CSU. Per semester, the Doctor of Audiology is \$7,371, the Doctor of Nursing Practice is \$7,635, and the Doctor of Physical Therapy is \$8,598.”

- c. received as an information item the Appointment of the CSU Investment Advisory Committee Chair.

“For the fiscal year 2020-2021, Trustee Jack McGrory has been appointed Chair of the Committee on Finance for the CSU Board of Trustees. With this appointment, Trustee McGrory now becomes, and has agreed to serve as, a member and Chair of the IAC for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.”

EVC Relyea thanked Trustee Taylor, the inaugural and now departing Chair of the IAC, for his service and leadership.

d. received as an information item the 2020-2021 Final Budget.

“Since the May Board of Trustees meeting, there have been several important developments on the 2020-2021 state budget.

The governor’s May Revision proposal concluded that the severe drop in economic activity due to COVID-19 has created a state budget deficit of \$54.3 billion dollars – that is \$13.4 billion in the current year and \$40.9 billion in the upcoming fiscal year. The \$54.3 billion is equivalent to one-third of the state’s annual general fund budget.

In order to narrow the budget deficit, the governor proposed the following for the CSU:

1. The governor repealed his January proposal to provide a \$199 million recurring state General Fund increase.
2. The governor proposed a \$398 million recurring state General Fund reduction to the CSU operating budget, effective July 1, 2020. If adopted, it would be a ten percent decrease in state support, equivalent to a 5.6 percent operating budget reduction.
3. If the federal government were to provide the state with approximately \$14 billion of one-time assistance during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the governor’s administration would restore some portion of the \$398 million reduction on a one-time basis.

On June 15, 2020, the state legislature adopted a bicameral budget agreement and proposed the following for the CSU:

1. Effective July 1, 2020, the CSU would receive a \$199 million recurring state General Fund increase.
2. However, if the federal government does not provide the state with approximately \$14 billion of one-time assistance by September 1, 2020, the legislature’s budget plan would repeal the recurring increase and reduce the CSU recurring operating budget by \$202 million.

In summary, the governor’s plan would have reduced the CSU’s recurring funding by \$400 million and the legislature’s plan would have reduced the CSU’s recurring funding by \$200 million.

On June 22, 2020, the governor, senate pro tem, and assembly speaker announced a three-party consensus agreement on the 2020-2021 state budget. This final budget agreement struck a compromise on the CSU recurring operating budget and included a few one-time augmentations.

On the operating budget, the agreement reduced the recurring CSU operating budget by \$299.1 million from the state general fund. In total, recurring state support for the CSU operating budget now stands at \$3.72 billion.” This constitutes a reduction of 7.5% compared to the previous year. The overall CSU operating budget (combination of state general fund support plus tuition and fee revenue) now stands at \$6.9 billion, which is 4.2% lower than last year. “If the federal government were to provide funding to California by October 15, 2020 to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the state’s finances, the CSU would be provided a proportional share of this one-time funding in

2020-2021 to mitigate the reduction and potentially augment the CSU operating budget on a one-time basis.

The final budget agreement also included two, non-recurring increases in support of other state leadership priorities including \$6 million for 2021 Summer term financial aid for students and \$3 million for emergency student financial aid for eligible AB-540 students” [non-resident tuition exemption (undocumented students)].

In addition to the reduction of the operating budget, the campuses also face significant revenue losses from their self-supported enterprise programs (e.g., housing, parking, etc.) and their non-profit auxiliary organizations (such as bookstores, dining and catering, etc.). The estimate is \$337 million in costs and revenue losses for spring 2020 alone. In response, the budget of all 23 campuses and the Chancellor’s Office were reduced on a recurring basis. The CSU plans to buffer the effect by drawing on its reserves and to utilize federal CARES Act funds (\$301 million). It will also limit travel and hiring, and implement additional cost efficiencies and avoidance.

Being mindful of the economic burden of the pandemic on students and their families, EVC Relyea reiterated that “the option of increasing tuition is not an appropriate strategy today. [...] Tuition increases have been a rare part of our funding strategy in the past, and if the state’s economy becomes more dire later this year, it may be necessary to revisit this and other options.”

In response to Trustee Morales’ question about the CSU’s reserves and investments, EVC Relyea opined that it would not be prudent to spend our entire reserves (approximately \$460 million) at one time, but rather incrementally over the next three years, especially given the significant variables in the development of the pandemic and the economy, the possibility of California wildfires, and the results of the federal elections. He further stated, that the utilization of one-time CARES Act funds and also our reserves does “not solve structural budget problems; it merely buys campuses time to solve those structural budget problems.” Robert Eaton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Financing, Treasury, and Risk Management, added that “our investments are actually doing fine right now. We have about \$4.7 billion in total investments.” While there was intense volatility, CSU’s investments are currently “about \$53 million ahead for the year.”

Trustee Carney inquired about fall enrollments and the resulting budget implications. EVC Relyea reported that “early indications are that CSU enrollments still look strong for the fall,” but they vary from campus to campus. A more detailed answer regarding enrollments from Loren Blanchard, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, was interrupted due to technical difficulties.

Trustee Sabalius recommended to implement incentives to retire. Several benefits would result from earlier retirements. The temporary deferral of replacing the positions would save money, it would create additional teaching assignments for lecturers, and it would offer a safe option for elderly faculty members, who might have the greatest health risks. EVC Relyea explained that providing service credit –as suggested by Trustee Sabalius– is not an easy solution, because the CSU does not operate its own retirement system like other institutions as for example the University of California. “Whatever we

would do would have to be in concert with CalPERS.” He is, however, not certain that significant savings could be achieved. Evelyn Nazario, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, added that a “golden handshake” in the past had not achieved the financial objectives. Furthermore, the governor would have to issue an executive order in conjunction with CalPERS. This is a lengthy process that does not seem viable at this time.

10. The **Committee on Governmental Relations**

- a. received as an information item a *State Legislative Update*.

Garrett Ashley, Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Advancement, reported that despite the stay-at-home order, advocacy continued virtually “to insure that the CSU remained a top budget priority.”

Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Advocacy and State Relations, spoke about the truncated meeting schedule of the legislature due to the pandemic. The CSU welcomes AB-2288 (Low), which would enable nursing students to finish their degree despite limitations in their training due to COVID-19. It also supports ACA-5 (Weber) that would repeal a prohibition of affirmative action (Proposition 209).

Trustee Eisen asked what the CSU could do better if the prohibition of affirmative action would be repealed in the November election (following the likely passage of ACA-5). AVC Muñoz-Murillo explained that it would help the CSU “to eliminate the opportunity and equity gaps.” Currently, “because of Proposition 209, we are unable to have race-conscious policies” to better focus our programming to assist students. Also, “more intentional recruiting of faculty of color” could take place, as well as fundraising “for a particular set of students.” EVC Blanchard added that “targeted and strategic scholarships would also be a major factor” in the recruitment and retention of students.

Trustee Sabalius expressed his appreciation for the responsiveness of the office to closer analyze AB-2972 (Limón – Undocumented Students), and he appreciates CSU’s support position.

- b. received as an information item a *Federal Legislative Update*.

James Gelb, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations, explained that since the onset of the pandemic, the CSU intensified its advocacy in Washington for emergency relief funding. Several important relief measures were enacted in spring, primarily the CARES Act in the amount of \$2.2 trillion. “The legislation also included numerous provisions geared toward colleges and universities, resulting in approximately \$563 million in direct support to CSU students and campuses.”

“The CARES Act provided roughly \$14 billion in emergency funding for institutions of higher education across the nation,” of which “over \$525 million were allocated across the 23 CSU campuses. Half of that, or roughly \$263 million, was designated for students as emergency grant aid. The other half is institutional aid that is available for a wide range of purposes. [...] These funds may be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.”

“An additional \$1.05 billion in CARES Act funding was designated for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and minority-serving institutions, including Hispanic-Serving (HSI) and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander

Serving Institutions (AANAPISI). Twenty-two CSU campuses received an additional \$38 million through these provisions.”

Yet, given the \$337 million costs and revenue losses for spring 2020 alone, the CSU is hoping for additional funding. A successor relief package called the HEROES Act in the amount of over \$3 trillion would provide close to \$40 billion for institutions of higher education. It is estimated that CSU students and campuses would receive approximately \$900 million. While the House of Representatives approved the HEROES Act, the Senate has not acted on it yet and apparently envisions a more modest relief package.

The CSU also continues to advocate for Dreamers and DACA students, as well as for international students, whose ability to return to or remain in the US was in peril when taking only online classes.

Trustee Sabalius encouraged strong advocacy for both DACA and international students, who he sees as a significant asset for our educational institutions and our state and nation. California has already made a tremendous investment in the education of Dreamers and DACA students, and to lose them would constitute a “brain drain.” It is equally in our interest to facilitate the enrollment of international students as much as possible. They help our campus budgets with ‘full-cost tuition,’ they provide an international and multicultural exposure for our domestic students, and their expertise and research skills enrich our institutions and society with a “brain gain.”

11. The **Committee on Institutional Advancement**

- a. approved as an action item the *Naming of the Nicholas and Lee Begovich Center for Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy at CSU Fullerton.*

“The proposed naming recognizes the bequest of the Begovich Automobile Collection comprising 14 post-war sports and grand touring cars. The collection was received as a bequest from Nicholas Begovich upon his passing on May 3, 2020. The collection was subsequently sold on May 18, 2020, to a private buyer for the benefit of the Audrain Automobile Museum of Newport, Rhode Island for \$10 million. From the sale of the collection, 66.5% of the proceeds will support the creation of a quasi-endowment fund to supply the resources needed to transform the center’s role in providing mission critical research, both theoretical and experimental, for a new frontier of science and educating the next generation of scientists. The remaining 33.5% of the proceeds will support the creation of a quasi-endowment fund to enhance the electrical engineering curriculum and program in the College of Engineering and Computer Science.”

12. The **Committee of the Whole**

- a. approved as an action item the *Conferral of Title of Student Trustee Emeritus on Juan Fernando García.*

Juan García served the regular two years as Student Trustee. However, his appointment was delayed until he was granted US citizenship; a similar experience to that of the current Faculty Trustee one year earlier, when California law changed to require citizenship for service on state boards.

- b. approved as an action item the Conferral of Title of Vice Chancellor Emeritus on Larry Mandel.

Larry Mandel served for a remarkable 52 years in the CSU in a variety of positions, during which he “worked with 6 chancellors, 92 trustees, and 111 presidents.” Since 1997, he has been in the position of Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer that he now retired from.

After the **Committees of the Board** concluded their work, Chair Kimbell called the full **Board of Trustees Meeting** to order.

13. The **Board of Trustees** received the following Reports:

- a. In her first meeting as Chair of the Board of Trustees, Lillian Kimbell thanked Chancellor White for his “wise, courageous, and evidence-based leadership” in announcing at an early stage that most classes in the CSU would be online during the fall. She expressed her “respect, pride, and commitment” to the CSU, “the largest and most diverse four-year public university system in the nation.” “We are a socio-economic escalator that lifts more students and their families out of poverty and into the middle class and beyond than any other institution in the nation.” “The pandemic has revealed a San Andreas Fault of inequality,” and in these times of uncertainty, Chair Kimbell is convinced that “the ultimate vaccine is education. A college degree is the single most critical tool for economic recovery – for an individual, the state, and our nation.” Her expressed goal as Chair of the Board is to “focus on ensuring the economic health of the CSU [...] since most issues come down to funding.”
- b. Chancellor Tim White reported that “the number of in-person on-campus courses for fall 2020 will average less than 7% than those offered in fall 2019,” and “systemwide approximately 14% of forecasted enrollment is expected to attend some form of in-person instruction or an off-campus clinical experience.”

“We face a grim, new fiscal reality.” Yet, “after having earned a strong state appropriation for the fiscal year 2019-2020 that just ended, having prudently build up reserves, and having received federal CARES Act funding this spring, we began the current fiscal year 2020-2021 reasonably prepared.” Therefore, we are “not seeking to negotiate a furlough program with our union leaders during this fiscal year.” However, “recognizing that this is at least a three-year fiscal challenge, [...] we will likely have to revisit the matter of furloughs in the ensuing fiscal years.”

- c. In his first report as Chair of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU), Robert Collins expressed his belief that “we are at our best when we engage in common unity,” and he affirmed that “the ASCSU continues to stand ready to collaborate in the advancement of the principles of curriculum in this age of COVID-19.”

At its May meeting, the ASCSU passed resolution AS-3424, “commending the students, faculty, staff, and administrators of the CSU during this historic challenge.” “The ASCSU also passed AS-3421, re-affirming the role of the ASCSU and campus senates in establishing curriculum and graduation requirements.”

“Acting on behalf of the ASCSU over the summer, the Executive Committee has met twice and passed two resolutions to address pending legislation centered on access, budget, and equity concern in higher education.” AS-3436 expresses support for ACA-5 and its repeal of Proposition 209, and AS-3437 voices concerns that the Budget Act of 2020 would negatively impact the nearly half million students currently enrolled in the CSU and calls for adequate funding.

- d. Zahraa Khuraibet, an international student from Kuwait, delivered her first report as President of the *California State Student Association*. The CSSA considers Ethnic Studies as essential and a vital academic program, but has taken no official position on the Chancellor’s Office’s proposal. Last year, however, CSSA did support AB-1460.

While the White House has rescinded a plan to not allow international students to remain in or return to the US when taking only online courses, Student President Khuraibet still deems the status of international students to be at risk.

- e. Alumni President Michelle Power delivered the report for the *Alumni Council*. She shared several examples of alumni “who made a difference during the pandemic.” As leaders in their professions, CSU graduates provided thousands of Chromebooks and internet hotspots to students living below the poverty line, traveled to New York for eight weeks to combat the surge of COVID-19 cases, and helped to develop rapid results for COVID tests.

The Board moved to approve the resolutions that were previously passed in the various committees. Trustee Morales requested to remove from the consent agenda item 3 (*Recommended Amendments to Title 5 Regarding Ethnic Studies and Social Justice*) from the Committee on Educational Policy. All remaining items on the consent agenda were approved unanimously.

The continued debate (see section 4.b) was long and robust, and it included various motions that were voted on. Essentially, several trustees objected to an Ethnic Studies requirement that they regarded as “watered down,” while others appreciated the broader and more inclusive version proposed by the Chancellor’s Office that would “give the students more choices” (White).

A motion to postpone the consideration of this item to the September Board meeting was voted down (5:14), and a subsequent motion to remove Ethnic Studies from the proposed “Ethnic Studies & Social Justice” course requirement did not achieve a majority either (6:13). Eventually, the Title 5 amendments were approved by a vote of 13:5 with one abstention (Sabalius).

The Board took a break for lunch and then convened in **Closed Session** to discuss *Executive Personnel Matters* (three-year performance reviews of two presidents).

The Board of Trustees meeting was officially adjourned on Tuesday, July 22, at approximately 1:30 pm.