

AGENDA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Meeting: 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 21, 2020
Virtually via Teleconference

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2020
Virtually via Teleconference

Lillian Kimbell, Chair
Wenda Fong, Vice Chair
Silas H. Abrego
Larry L. Adamson
Jane W. Carney
Adam Day
Rebecca D. Eisen
Douglas Faigin
Debra S. Farar
Jean Picker Firstenberg
Maryana Khames
Jeffrey R. Krinsk
Jack McGrory
Hugo N. Morales
Romey Sabalius
Lateefah Simon
Christopher Steinhauser
Peter J. Taylor
Timothy P. White, Chancellor

- Consent** 1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of May 12, 2020, *Action*
- Discussion** 2. Violation of Trustees' Code of Conduct and Resolution of Censure, *Action*
3. Conferral of Title of Student Trustee Emeritus—Juan Fernando García, *Action*
4. Conferral of Title of Vice Chancellor Emeritus—Larry Mandel, *Action*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Trustees of The California State University
Office of the Chancellor
Glenn S. Dumke Auditorium*
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, California**

May 12, 2020

Members Present

Adam Day, Chair
Lillian Kimbell, Vice Chair
Silas H. Abrego
Larry L. Adamson
Jane W. Carney
Rebecca D. Eisen
Douglas Faigin
Debra S. Farar
Jean Picker Firstenberg
Wenda Fong
Juan F. Garcia
Maryana Khames
Jeffrey R. Krinsk
Jack McGrory
Hugo N. Morales
Romey Sabalius
Lateefah Simon
Christopher Steinhauser
Peter J. Taylor
Timothy P. White, Chancellor
Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor

Chair Adam Day called the meeting to order.

***PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Governor's proclamation of a State of Emergency resulting from the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 issued on March 12, 2020 and March 17, 2020, respectively, all members of the Board of Trustees may participate in meetings remotely, either by telephonic or video conference means. Out of consideration for the health, safety and well-being of the members of the public and the Chancellor's Office staff, the May 12, 2020 meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees was conducted entirely virtually via Zoom teleconference.**

Consent Agenda

Chair Day presented the consent agenda – consisting of the minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting – for approval. There was a motion and a second. The consent agenda was approved.

Discussion Agenda

Chancellor's Report on COVID-19 Implications for CSU

Chancellor White provided a report to the Board on the implications of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) for the California State University (CSU). He began by noting that the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the CSU system – across all 23 campuses and the Chancellor's Office – would require continued bold, creative and principled solutions that first and foremost ensure the health, safety and welfare of CSU students, faculty, staff and communities in which the campuses reside. Chancellor White reported that in spring 2020, in response to the rapidly emerging pandemic, the CSU quickly transitioned courses and student-support services to virtual modalities to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty and staff, and to enable completion of the academic term. He commended the resiliency, courage, and leadership of the CSU presidents, faculty, staff, and most importantly students who all quickly and deftly adapted to virtual instruction.

Chancellor White added that in addition to the COVID-19-related alterations in the university, the CSU was also facing significant budgetary constraints over the next several years. These alterations would include a decrease in revenues as well as increased costs associated with the mitigation of COVID-19, such as those related to sanitation, personal protective equipment, facility modifications, and enhanced technology to facilitate virtual learning and business operations for the university. Chancellor White said that it is this confluence of the demands of the pandemic and the austere budget realities that would make planning efforts for the next academic year complex and yet essential. He further asserted, however, that the CSU remains open, committed to inclusive excellence and stands ready to meet California's higher education needs in the 2020-21 academic year. He also encouraged all admitted and continuing students to enroll, as the CSU would continue to provide the best and richest possible educational experience for all students, enabling progress to their degree completion.

Chancellor White next discussed the planning approach for the 2020-21 academic year. He announced the planning approach would result in CSU courses primarily being delivered virtually for the fall 2020 term, with limited exceptions for in-person teaching, learning and research activities that could not be delivered virtually, are indispensable to the university's core mission and can be conducted within rigorous standards of safety and welfare. He added that there would be hybrid approaches and there could be limited granting of exceptions to permit in-person activities – as there will be variability across the 23 campuses due to specific context and circumstances – but any exceptions would have to adhere to rigorous safety measures.

Chancellor White said the virtual planning approach would be necessary because of the evolving data surrounding the progression of COVID-19 – current and as forecasted throughout the 2020-21 academic year. He further emphasized that the virtual planning approach preserves as many options for as many students as possible and is consistent with CSU’s guiding principle of meeting students where they are. Students would begin to receive preliminary information in May from their respective CSU campuses regarding the nature of their instructional modalities and the types of accommodations that would be available.

Chancellor White concluded the report by acknowledging the decision to plan for primarily virtual instruction in the fall – and possibly beyond – would require continued flexibility and alacrity to the ever-evolving crisis. While there would be potentially more clarity in the late summer months on the progression of the virus, he stated it would be irresponsible to wait until then to plan for predominately virtual learning across the curriculum. Chancellor White said the early planning decision - with the benefit of ongoing planning and deep consultation with university stakeholders, coupled with additional training and professional development during the summer – would allow CSU faculty, staff and administrators to be better prepared to deliver an even more comprehensive and robust virtual educational experience for students in fall 2020, including extensive academic and student support services.

Student Trustee Maryana Khames commented that many students have also been expressing concern regarding a basic needs crisis on top of the challenges posed by the pandemic and requested that CSU leadership keep this in mind as planning continues. Trustee Simon asked about digital disparities in the wake of the transition to virtual instruction and how that was being addressed. Chancellor White acknowledge that the digital divide remains a reality and concern and an important factor in the ongoing planning conversations. He mentioned a new initiative called CSU Cares – funded primarily by federal stimulus from the CARES Act – that provided students with stipends to offset COVID-induced costs (such as purchasing a laptop) and many campuses provided students with laptops on loan. Faculty Trustee Romey Sabalius urged CSU leadership to keep the CSU’s core academic mission at the forefront in light of continued budgetary constraints.

Alumni Trustee Larry Adamson commended the faculty for their exceptional efforts transitioning so quickly to virtual instruction. He also asked about intercollegiate athletics and how that was being addressed in the planning framework. Chancellor White again noted that the health and safety of all remains paramount and the highest priority and that this remains a complex and evolving situation. Trustee Jeffrey Krinsk asked for further clarification regarding the rationale for the virtual planning. Chancellor White again noted the decision is necessary given the confluence of factors due to the pandemic both with regards to health and safety as well as resource constraints.

Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis commended Chancellor White, Chair Day, and CSU leadership and staff for their collective and concerted efforts throughout the unprecedented crisis noting the tremendous work to transition more than 70,000 courses to virtual instruction within a

matter of weeks. She asked if there may be some in-person instruction in fall 2020 – for certain courses, labs, etc. – and if there is any possibility for a tuition increase. Chancellor White addressed the first question again citing that exceptions to virtual instruction could be made where specific courses, research labs and clinical simulations for example would be conducted in-person but again would have to adhere to rigorous safety measures. With regards to financial planning, Chancellor White said the CSU continues to work with the governor and state legislature to advocate for the best possible budget outcome and would continue to implement efficiency measures throughout the system.

Trustee Hugo Morales inquired about what other educational sectors were planning for instruction and if there are opportunities to partner with other educational sectors to address the issue of universal broadband access across the state. Chancellor White noted the Governor’s Council for Post-Secondary Education has been broadly discussing this topic as a priority across all segments to benefit all Californians. He mentioned that other educational segments were in various stages of their planning process and anticipated many would be making announcements in the coming weeks.

Trustee Doug Faigin commented on the notion that virtual instruction may not be as robust a learning experience as in-person courses noting instead that virtual learning was not a denigration of the quality education CSU students receive. He also acknowledged it would be a different modality for both faculty and students who were not as accustomed. Given the decision for a longer planning horizon prior to fall 2020, faculty would be able to engage in trainings and professional development to provide rigorous virtual learning experiences for their students, as well as staff to provide the requisite academic and student support services. Dr. Loren Blanchard, executive vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, concurred with Trustee Faigin’s comments and added that many campuses were already engaged in assessments of student learning outcomes in virtual learning environments. Dr. Blanchard highlighted the fact that faculty across the system who were already experienced in providing virtual and online instruction were quick to partner and mentor faculty throughout the transition to a quality virtual educational experience. He also noted the important complement of many student support services that quickly transitioned to a virtual modality as well to ensure a rich, holistic, and successful learning experience.

Trustee Khames inquired about student fees for fall and if there may be any limited extracurricular activities on campuses. Chancellor White again noted any in-person campus gatherings would need to adhere to strict safety guidelines and any decisions for exceptions would continue to be informed by the ongoing developments and guidelines from local and state public health officials regarding the progression of the pandemic. A broader conversation on the budget, including student fees, would take place following the governor’s final budget announcement.

Chair Day adjourned the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Violation of Trustees' Code of Conduct and Resolution of Censure

Presentation By

Lillian Kimbell
Chair of the Board

Summary

Chair Kimbell will present information regarding misconduct by a member of the Board of Trustees which Chair Kimbell has determined to be a breach of the Trustees' Code of Conduct, and will recommend that the Board of Trustees vote to censure the Trustee.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Conferral of the Title of Student Trustee Emeritus–Juan Fernando García

Presentation By

Lillian Kimbell
Chair of the Board

Summary

It is recommended that Student Trustee Juan Fernando García, whose term expired on June 30, 2020, be conferred the title of Student Trustee Emeritus for his service, commitment and leadership to the California State University. The granting of emeritus status carries the title, but no compensation.

The following resolution is recommended for approval:

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that this board confers the title of Student Trustee Emeritus on Juan Fernando García, with all the rights and privileges thereto.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Conferral of Title of Vice Chancellor Emeritus–Larry Mandel

Presentation By

Timothy P. White
Chancellor

Summary

It is recommended that Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer Larry Mandel, who retired from the California State University Chancellor's Office on June 30, 2020 after more than half a century of service, be conferred the title of Vice Chancellor Emeritus for his long-standing service, dedication and leadership to the California State University. The granting of emeritus status carries the title, but no compensation.

The following resolution is recommended for approval:

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that this board confers the title of Vice Chancellor Emeritus on Larry Mandel, with all the rights and privileges thereto.