**Statewide Senate Report January 17-18, 2013**

John Tarjan and Andreas Gebauer

1. **Chair’s Report** 
   1. Chair Guerin/other members of the Executive Committee made the following announcements.
      1. Smarter Balanced testing will replace STAR testing and will therefore replace our EAP testing. A task force with 5 or 6 faculty members will be formed to provide advice on how to smoothly transition to the new testing system.
      2. Chair Guerin will be testifying on higher education at this year’s Little Hoover Commission hearings.
      3. The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) is forming the California Council on Open Educational Resources (on-line texts and instructional materials) and each of the segments will be appointing three faculty to the Council. We hope to identify a diverse group of faculty across the segments to this group by the end of March. This Council is in response to legislation sponsored by Senator Steinberg.
      4. There will be no change in the apportionment of Senators from campuses this year.
      5. The 50th ASCSU Anniversary celebration will take place on March 14th.
      6. The Governor is very interested in on-line education. ASCSU and Academic Affairs at the CO are forming a joint task force to develop a report on on-line education, MOOCs, Cal State Online, etc.
      7. The Senate newsletter has been published online. <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Newsletter/>
      8. The Chair’s written report can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Chairs_Reports/documents/November_2012_Chairs_Report.pdf>
2. **Excerpts from Other Reports**
   1. **SB 1440**—The Transfer Model Curricula (TMCs) are either complete or shortly will be finalized. There may be some external funding for developing TMCs for CTE-related degrees (hospitality, etc.). If new TMCs are proposed, the discipline faculty will be charged with simultaneously developing descriptors for all courses included in a TMC. We continue to work on course review. We are looking for more CSU faculty to do course reviews in a variety of disciplines. This work is compensated. Overall we have developed transfer patterns for more than 75% of students transferring to the CSU.
   2. **Academic Affairs** discussed the following topics.
      1. Follow-up on the Board item on GE.
      2. Follow-up on international program policies.
      3. Access to Excellence follow-up.
      4. Cal State Online, white paper on on-line education.
      5. C-ID review conflicts.
      6. Grades in “Golden 4” courses used for transfer.
      7. COLD request re resources to support Cal State Online.
      8. Development of quality metrics.
      9. Support for UD GE (on the agenda).
      10. SUGs (on the agenda).
      11. MOOCs.
   3. **Academic Preparation and Education Programs** discussed the following topics.
      1. Our four items on the agenda.
      2. Issues related to the new K-12 standards (Smarter Balanced and Common Core).
      3. SB 1440 and transfer issues.
      4. Assessment of the Early Start program.
      5. Transition to Smarter Balanced testing for EAP.
      6. Early Start, stretch courses, other approaches to remediation.
   4. **Faculty Affairs** discussed the following topics.
      1. Selection of ASCSU standing committee chairs.
      2. Central website recognizing campus faculty awards.
      3. Rights and responsibilities of faculty.
      4. Department chair roles.
   5. **Fiscal and Governmental Affairs** discussed the following topics.
      1. The Governor’s January budget proposal.
      2. CSU budget analysis.
      3. SUGs/financial aid.
      4. Student fee freeze.
      5. ASCSU legislative day.
      6. Sustainability.
      7. Commendation of the Chancellor.
      8. Building bridges with the LAO.
   6. **Faculty Trustee Cheyne**
      1. Her written report can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Faculty_Trustee/index.shtml>
      2. The Board agenda has been posted.
         1. She is working on a response to the proposed change regarding limits on baccalaureate degree units.
         2. At the Committee on Finance we will likely get a more detailed report on the CSU support budget.
         3. The items on additional student fees have not reappeared on the agenda.
         4. There is an item on management reporting outside employment.
         5. They will consider non-resident student fees.
      3. She reported a very positive and unprecedented meeting with Governor Brown and faculty leaders (Trustee Cheyne, ASCSU Chair Guerin, CFA President Taiz).
      4. She solicited input on any issues from interested faculty. Her e-mail address is readily available.
      5. In response to a question on semester conversion—there is often a dearth of evidence to support assertions that are made in conjunction with Board items.
      6. There was a lengthy discussion about the unit limit item on the Board agenda. Faculty leaders view the item and the process by which it appears on the agenda a serious breach of shared governance.
   7. **GE Advisory Committee** discussed
      1. The proposed WASC guideline changes regarding upper-division GE and GE units.
      2. The incorporation of LEAP outcomes and campus GE program assessment.
      3. Development of guidelines for on-line oral communications courses.
      4. Inaccurate information appearing in TMCs regarding GE credit.
      5. Quantitative reasoning, the role of algebra, the California Acceleration Project, etc.
      6. The Compass project.
   8. **Legislative Specialist** Krabacher reported on a meeting with the staff that drafted the legislation promising the “$10,000 degree.”
   9. **Admissions Advisory Committee** discussed
      1. Impaction—there is no definition currently in Title 5. We are reexamining criteria for campus-wide impaction.
      2. Early Start—there will be some minor adjustments this year but this summer’s program will be very similar to last year. Policies of how credit is awarded.
      3. Transfer AAs—the advisability of allowing students to transfer using “similar degrees” that would be equivalent preparation for the major.
      4. The number of applications.
      5. Replacement of Smarter Balanced testing for EAP.
      6. Minimum grades in “Golden 4” courses for transfer students.
      7. Joint meeting with UC BOARS on May 3rd.
   10. **Faculty Trustee Recommending Committee**
       1. We have four nominees for the Senate to consider
          1. Bernadette Cheyne from Humboldt
          2. Heman Debose from Northridge
          3. Jim Postma from Chico
          4. Stephen Stepanek from Northridge
       2. Their files are available for review in the Senate office.
       3. We will hear presentations and vote on the nominees in March.
   11. **Bechtel-Funded Next Generation Science Standards Task Force**
       1. Includes Senators and other discipline faculty in science and education.
       2. Is focused on highlighting current practices and ideas in the CSU.
       3. There will be a February 8th webinar highlighting best practices in preparing science teachers.
       4. There are grants available for campuses to improve science education and incorporate the new standards.
       5. Bechtel will likely provide additional monies in the future.
   12. The executive committee will be forming a joint task force with Academic Affairs that will produce a white paper on Cal State Online and MOOCs by May.
3. We passed the following resolutions without a second reading due to their time urgency. Copies of this and other resolutions can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/>.
   1. **Commendation of Chancellor Timothy White’s Requesting a 10% Reduction in Salary** commends Chancellor White for his requested salary reduction.It will be presented to the Board at their meeting next week, likely in the presence of the Governor, who has shown great interest in executive compensation.
   2. **Support for the Continued Inclusion of Upper Division General Education Within WASC Accreditation Guidelines** is in reaction to a proposal to delete the reference to upper-division general education in their new guidelines that will be voted on next month.
4. We passed the following resolutions. Copies of this and other resolutions can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/>.
   1. **Support for Alternative General Education Pathways for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Transfer Students** urges the creation of GE transfer pathways that preserve student rights and guarantees while allowing them to substitute some lower-division GE coursework with major/major preparation coursework both under IGETC and GE-Breadth.
   2. **A Smoke-Free California State University** requests that the smoking and sale of tobacco products be banned on CSU campuses.
   3. **Towards a Culture of Evidence-Based Academic Policies and Initiatives** urges more pre-implementation analysis of new policies and initiatives, and the piloting of them, before systemwide implementation. This resolution partially is in reaction to proposed fee changes and cites them as an example.
5. We introduced several resolutions at the plenary. These will return as second reading items in March after being reviewed on the campuses.
   1. **California State University (CSU) Action on Environmental Sustainability** commends the CSU campuses that have signed the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment and the CSU campuses that have signed Talloires Declaration and encourages the Chancellor’s Office and the other campuses to consider becoming signatories to these commitments.
   2. **Support for the Course Identification Numbering (C-ID) System** expresses support for the continuation of the system and requests funding to ensure its viability. The system not only supports the implementation of SB 1440 but also provides a vehicle for systemwide articulation.
   3. **AB 67 (Gorell) Post-Proposition 30 Freeze on Systemwide Student Fees and Tuition Increases** expresses concerns about overall CSU funding and encourages the author to include exceptions in the case that adequate state general fund support is unavailable.
   4. **Request for a Task Force to Study California State University (CSU) Student Tuition Fees and Financial Aid Support** again encourages the establishment of a task force to include CSSA, Chancellor’s Office staff and ASCSU.
6. **Chancellor Timothy White** (Note—Dr. White met with those Senators attending committee meetings on Wednesday, January 16th due to an inability to attend our plenary session later in the week). He has been on the job for 11 days. He believes strongly in a “shared leadership” approach rather than a “shared governance” approach. The latter term seems to lack the collegiality and shared responsibility that the former term implies. He does not believe that he has all the best ideas. He solicits ideas and suggestions from others. Q: How will you ensure the CSU avoids some of the management and decision-making pitfalls common to large organizations. A: He is doing a lot of listening and observing to try to understand the CSU better? Communication is key. We need to have the right people and enough people vet decisions. We need to get the right people involved in conversations. There are many groups that meet. It is difficult to get a handle on all of our many groups. We may need to review the various groups and their roles and perhaps consolidate. These groups had a rationale once that perhaps needs to be reviewed. Q: What is the appropriate role of athletics in the CSU? A: Athletics has a place. It is a part of the culture. It keeps alumni connected to the campus, in addition to more academic connections. It furthers teamwork, initiative, etc. It is a part of campus life and helps student to connect with the university. Certain careers requiring a degree are connected to athletics. The “mid-major” experience in some cases is more conducive to the student-athlete model. The conference realignment and big bowl games may not serve the university. I am not in favor of eliminating athletics. Q: What are your plans regarding the three interim presidents? A: I plan to talk with each of them to discuss their aspirations and plans. If they desire a permanent position, I will consult with campus groups, including faculty, and take a recommendation to the Board as a result. Q: What are your plans regarding quarter to semester conversion? A: Most campuses are on semesters. I am a fan of semesters, particularly for first-generation students. It gives more time for academic interventions during the term. We need to provide lots of help for these students. We will need to provide support to campuses if they move. Having all the campuses on semesters provides some advantages. Q: What is your view on the 120 unit degree maximum? A: This will be in front of the Board next week. We should make some exceptions based upon programmatic needs. Q: What is the role of technology and distance learning in North America and how should we proceed? A: We need to enrich the learning environment. Some curricula lend themselves to extensive use of technology. Other curricula lend themselves less so and require more intensive face-to-face interaction. Remember, the faculty are the key to success, not the technology. Students come to us familiar with technology. We need to focus on integrating faculty efforts and technology to become more effective and efficient and to enrich the learning environment. The bottom line is the learning environment, even as we need to be accountable for the number of degrees we provide. Q: We are concerned that initiatives begin with a lack of input and/or assessment: A: I plan to visit all 23 campuses soon. I will participate in organized meetings and spend time walking around the campuses and visiting informally and randomly with students, faculty, etc. I am cognizant of the budget challenges and am gratified things look better this year. Budget numbers translate into hope. I will try not to be isolated. I want to meet with local elected officials, police, etc. I am a CSU faculty member. I am one of you. I look forward to my time with you.
7. **CFA Liaison David Bradfield** reported on the meeting with the Governor that was previously referred to in Chair Guerin’s report. CFA is closely monitoring developments in online education. The Campaign for College Education (CFA is a founding partner) continues to hold meetings. This nationwide group will next meet in Los Angeles and will be discussing higher education issues, online education, labor developments and goals for the future. The Governor’s budget both backfills the tuition rollback and increases our allocation by $125m for a total of a little over $250m. The Governor’s ideas were reviewed. The money for online bottleneck courses was for stateside, not extended education, courses. Backfill of pension payments are proposed to be eliminated in the next year’s budget. CFA is working with the legislature to address benefit costs. Neither side is proposing a reopener to the current contract at this time. CFA believes there are sufficient funds to implement the equity program.
8. **VC Gail Brooks and SSU CFO Laurence Schlereth** discussed the progress of the CMS project. CSPUP Provost Van Boer heads up a committee that is looking at enhancing and improving the functionality of the student system. The committee is just getting started on their work and would welcome Senate input on a variety of issues. The common HR system is moving forward. The staff side is almost complete but we are still working on the design of the faculty side and could benefit from faculty input in the design process. The design is based on the Fresno campus adoption of Peoplesoft. The generic PeopleSoft system had very little faculty functionality and we have had to significantly enhance it. Outside consultants will be doing much of the system development. We hope to implement the full HR system in 2014. However, we are uncertain what impact the systems issues at the State Controller’s Office might have on our implementation schedule. There were many comments from the floor about the need to get sufficient user input and do end-user testing before design and implementation. VC Brooks informed us that we will soon be receiving information about our mandated role as reporters of child neglect and abuse. We are legally required to receive training and report suspicions of neglect and abuse if we regularly have contact with persons under the age of 18 during the course of our employment activities.
9. **EVC Smith** began by reporting on the Graduation Initiative. Fall 2012 data shows improvement. We expect to meet our goal of a 54% graduation rate. However, progress has not been made equally across all groups, meaning an achievement gap for underrepresented students persists. We are considering the development of TMCs for programs that have low numbers of transfers. The Presidents and Provosts would like to weigh in before we take up the issue with our CCC colleagues. It is possible that we could have “generic” or “substitute” TMCs for some majors that would carry SB 1440 degrees. We had over 18,000 students in Early Start this year. Students participating in 3 unit experiences made more progress than those in 1 unit experiences. EVC Smith is unaware of any students being dismissed for failing to participate in Early Start although these students were typically placed in a category of academic jeopardy. We are working on perfecting the exemption petition process. Smarter Balanced and the Common Core are areas of concern for us both in the area of teacher preparation and EAP testing. The Governor is concerned about bottleneck courses, super seniors, graduation rates, etc. We are contemplating some policies to address his concerns. (There was a question and discussion about a potential Board item on minimum grades in GE courses for transfer students that the faculty have not yet seen.)
10. **EVC Quillian** indicated that many outside and internal groups are interested in changing the way we do business. He has been in contact with the financial rating agencies giving them information about our financial situation. He was surprised and gratified by the passage of Prop 30. He had been planning for a much larger budget cut and some funds were held in reserve. The faculty, administration, labor, students, etc. were vital in getting Prop 30 passed. However, the Governor’s proposed budget, given fee rebates ($137m) still leaves us far short of our needs. The net effect is a $113m step towards restoration of the much larger cuts in funding we have been experiencing. The best news is that this budget is the first of a five year proposal that will allow us to plan. The Governor plans to increase our budget 5%, 5%, 4% and 4% in the succeeding four years. The bad news is that the Governor also expects us to freeze tuition for those 4 years. He also has some expectations of changes in how we approach our mission. He has a lot of interest in increasing “bottleneck” course offerings. He wants us to use technology to increase the number of students served. He wants improvement in basic skills preparation, transfer percentage and graduation performance. The Governor is planning to put $288m in our budget next year to pay for our debt service. The state will bill us for that same amount. One problem is that there will be no guarantee that the additional allocation will cover our debt service obligations in the future. A bigger problem is that we will be obligated to pay the additional debt service for all new capital construction. If we had more debt management authority, like the UC does, we would be in a much better situation. We are concerned that we will now be required to meet our pension obligations with a fixed budget. If we have an increase in employees or employee compensation, we will have less money for other purposes. We may also be more directly responsible to meet any increases in health care benefit costs. Our health care benefits are more generous than those of the majority of other state employees. The Governor is in favor of full cost being borne by students accumulating more that 150% of the units required for the degree for the next two years. After that, tuition would be increased for students accumulating more than one extra year’s worth of credit. Overall, the Governor’s goals reflected in the budget seem congruous with our long-standing values. We can view his budget as a type of system reset that is perhaps a good thing. Dr. Quillian feels better about the system’s financial footing than he has in 5 years. No more funds will be allocated to Cal State Online until a more developed business plan is finalized. Campuses are concerned about some of the revenue sharing proposals in Cal State Online. Our previous strong directives to campuses not to overenroll are no longer necessary. Given the Governor’s approach to our budget (a fixed annual percentage increase), we are expected to increase enrollments without any impact on our future allocations. A 3% compensation increase would “use up” the majority of any increase in funding in this year’s budget. Our new Chancellor is likely to be more “strategic” in compensation increases, paying attention to market realities and absolute levels of income. Different groups will likely have different changes in compensation, if any. The Governor is very interested in increasing the use of technology to increase our capacity. The reality is that great cost savings might not be there. For example, MOOCs may seem great but there is no viable business plan for making them self-sustaining. Comment from the floor—our budget might look slightly better today but we are on the hook for debt payments, increases in health benefits, and increased retirement costs. It seems like we have a little more cash today but will be “bankrupt” tomorrow under the weight of these additional, and likely unfunded, obligations in the future. Dr. Quillian shares these concerns. We have skyrocketing benefit costs and great maintenance and capital needs. He referred to an electrical power problem at Fresno that might require up to $100m to be fully addressed, that if not addressed, could result in campus closure. These infrastructure needs will use funds desperately needed to meet our instructional mission. Systemwide, we may be looking at over $1b in urgent infrastructure/maintenance needs. Q: If we are moving away from enrollment-based funding, what will replace that approach? A: I am a little unsure. The Governor has expectations for increased efficiencies. The Governor has taken a much more active role in the operation of the CSU (he is a member of the Board and has been attending and influencing decisions at Board meetings). This has the potential to be a good thing as he becomes more familiar with what the CSU does. By combining and centralizing our purchasing operations (requiring a $10m initial investment) we might be able to save $30-35m dollars. The Chancellor seems supportive of this idea and it will likely move forward.
11. **ERFA**—Bill Bliscke reported that ERFA sent Chancellor White a congratulatory letter that indicated a desire to meet with him in person to discuss the role of ERFA. He reported the passing of Sidney Albert, the founder of CSU-ERFA, likely the largest such organization in the world. ERFA is about to distribute a campus survey of retired/emeritus faculty with the hope of encouraging/facilitating more of these individuals to take an active role in their campuses.