**Statewide Senate Report May 16-17, 2013**

John Tarjan and Andreas Gebauer

1. **Chair’s Report**
	1. Chair Guerin reviewed a recent discussion she had with Chancellor White. They discussed the following topics.
		1. Faculty participation in the course redesign RFP.
		2. Monthly meetings between the Chancellor and ASCSU Chair.
		3. Importance of meeting with ASCSU at our plenary sessions.
		4. Udacity summer courses at SJSU.
		5. Invitation to meet with next year’s Executive Committee in a summer retreat.
		6. Faculty participation in the system tobacco ban implementation.
	2. The Chair’s written report can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Chairs_Reports/documents/May_2013_Chairs_Rept.pdf>
2. **Executive Committee Reports**
	1. Vice-Chair Filling reported on the progress of resolution tracking. Committee chairs are preparing a report on the implementation of past resolutions authored by their committees. The MOOCs task force is meeting. We hope to have a report on MOOCs available during the summer.
	2. Senator Miller gave an update on the current newsletter. The next edition will be available soon at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Newsletter/> One can subscribe to the newsletter at the same address and receive it automatically (one may also unsubscribe).
	3. Senator Postma reported that the approval of new TMCs is happening slowly. Once TMCs are approved, CSU campuses need to determine the equivalency of the TMC for their own local lower-division requirements. The passage of SB 440 (Padilla) would, as currently written, require that all concentrations/options within a major would have to deem a TMC as equivalent in order to accept a TMC.
3. **Excerpts from Other Reports**
	1. **Academic Affairs** discussed the following topics.
		1. The tuition fee task force.
		2. Change to the joint graduate board charge.
		3. Project Rebound.
		4. Online initiatives, MOOCs, Udacity, etc.
		5. Amendments to Title 5 regarding master’s degrees.
		6. QOLT initiative.
		7. Campus policies on program suspension.
		8. Student Mental Health.
		9. 120/180 unit exceptions.
		10. SB 440.
		11. Resolutions before the body.
	2. **Academic Preparation and Education Programs** discussed the following topics.
		1. Early Start, including an assessment of its effectiveness in increasing student success over other approaches such as freshman year “stretch courses.”
		2. EAP.
		3. SB 1440.
		4. Common Core State Standards.
		5. Smarter Balanced Assessments, including the impact on our EAP testing.
	3. **Faculty Affairs** discussed the following topics.
		1. The committee charge.
		2. Tenure-track hiring.
		3. Udacity SJSU project.
		4. SB 1440.
	4. **Fiscal and Governmental Affairs** discussed the following topics.
		1. CSU budget update/5 year budget and financial statement review.
		2. Governor’s budget as of the May revise.
		3. CSU budget requests.
		4. Tuition fee task force.
		5. Draft paper on ASCSU presenting positions/individual positions on pending bills.
	5. **Faculty Trustee Cheyne** reported a meeting with Board Chair Linscheid, Chancellor White, Chair Guerin, EVC Quillian and EVC Smith at which the effectiveness of communications across CSU constituencies was discussed. Presidential selection interviews for Fresno and LA will take place next Monday in conjunction with the full Board meeting the next two days. There will be a Board discussion on the open presidencies at Stanislaus, Dominquez Hills and Monterey Bay.
		1. Trustee Cheyne shared her written report during the plenary via e-mail.
		2. Faculty trustee reports can be found at: <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Faculty_Trustee/index.shtml>
	6. **GE Advisory Committee** discussed the following issues.
		1. Quantitative reasoning/intermediate algebra.
		2. Oral communication, including online oral communication.
		3. GE Music Courses—appreciation vs. skills focus.
		4. Reciprocity and the acceptance of large section online courses offered on other CSU campuses. The implication for FTES distribution across campuses as a result of online courses was also discussed.
		5. GE focus on outcomes and competencies and assessment of GE as a program on the campuses.
	7. **CSU Admissions Advisory Committee/UC BOARS Joint Committee Meeting**
		1. Discussed the a-g course standards vis-à-vis career technical education.
		2. BOARS approves these HS courses for admissions purposes to both the UC and CSU.
		3. Current law mandates standards for approval of CTE courses within a-g. If they are not developed by the CSU, the State Board of Education will develop standards that will supersede our own.
4. We passed the following resolutions without a second reading due to their urgency/timeliness. Copies of this and other resolutions can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/>.
	1. **Conditional Support for SB 547 (Block): Public Post-Secondary Education: Online Courses** supports the bill and commends the author’s intent while recognizing that the CSU faculty are already engaged in the activities called for regarding online education. The resolution also calls for appropriate faculty involvement in all online efforts. [Note: the bill focuses on IGETC courses used primarily by CCC transfers to the UC. About 100 students transfer to CSU using IGETC each year and approximately 60,000 students transfer using GE Breadth.]
	2. **A Call for the Equitable Visibility of All Online Degree Programs Offered by CSU Campuses on the Calstateonline.com and Calstateonline.net Websites** is self-explanatory. It also requests that there be no charge for listing state-supported programs.
	3. **In Support of SB 241 (Evans): Oil Severance Tax Law** supports the bill due to its potential to provide additional funding for higher education, despite the Governor’s apparent opposition.
	4. **Commendation of the Undergraduate Science Education Project: *Preparing Future Elementary Teachers for the Next Generation Science Standards*** commends the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, the project work group, participating CSU faculty, and Chancellor’s Office leaders for the contributions to this very important and successful project.
	5. **Commendation of Assistant Vice Chancellor Beverly L. Young for Her Activities in Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Development** is self-explanatory. Dr. Young is one of only two higher education representatives on this project’s steering committee from the participating 26 states.
	6. **In Opposition to SB 440 (Padilla): Public Post-Secondary Education: Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act** expresses continued support of the goal of SB 1440 of improving transfer but opposes SB 440 due to likely unintended consequences of its provisions that would in fact work against those goals.
	7. **A Modified Process for Approval of California State University/University of California (CSU/UC) Joint Doctoral Degree Programs** requests that the CSU/UC Joint Doctoral Board charge be adjusted to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.
5. We passed the following resolutions that were introduced in March. Copies of this and other resolutions can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/>.
	1. **Academic Senate of the CSU Calendar of 2013-2014 Meetings** is self-explanatory.
	2. **Change to the Bylaws of the Academic Senate Section 4d(2) Charge to the Faculty Affairs Committee** adds the charge of facilitating the systemwide faculty showcase.
	3. **Conditional Support for AB 386 Postsecondary Education: Cross-Enrollment in CSU Online Courses** supports the bill while listing ongoing concerns. It also commends the author for working collaboratively with the ASCSU during the amendment process.
	4. **Clarifying the Changing Expectations for General Education** calls for the establishment of a task force to address a number of timely issues.
	5. **Re-instituting the Academic Conference** refers to a prior resolution lauding the value of the conference to the system**.** Benefits of the conference in helping to move forward in shared governance/leadership may be more important than ever.
	6. **In Support of AB 387 (Levine): Public Postsecondary Education: California State University: Online Education** reverses the original intent of the resolution opposing the bill because of the deletion of troublesome provisions. It supports the periodic assessment of these programs and commends the author for working closely with the faculty to perfect the bill.
	7. **Reaffirming the Importance of Graduate, Post-Baccalaureate, and Credential Programs and Access to Those Programs** focuses on the preservation of State University Grants and the use of other type of fee waivers for graduate and post-baccalaureate students.
	8. **Support of Student Mental Health and Counseling Services** urges support for these services and supports EO1053 dealing with student mental health.
	9. **Recognition of Clarification Provided by Executive Order 1047, Extended Education and Self-Support Courses and Programs** expresses gratitude for the clarification provided by the new EO.
6. **CFA Liaison Andy Merrifield** discussed the budget, online education, the quality of education, working conditions, campus safety and CFA leadership changes. The Governor’s May Revise Budget came out and is basically unchanged from January with the exception of some changes to the CSU performance metrics and the removal of the 120 unit cap. The Governor continues to advocate health care formula changes and changes to the pass-through of capital and other costs within our annual budget. The budget provides disincentives for both faculty hiring and new construction. We are grateful that the proposal does not include additional cuts. CFA and CSU are determining whether to open discussions on compensation. CFA opposes the current version of SB 520 due to concerns over privatization, outsourcing of our students’ education, and quality. We are following AB 895 dealing with a study of online education and bottleneck courses. There are concerns on many campuses about pressures to realign/dissolve departments, particularly those focused on diversity studies due to budgetary concerns. There are concerns about the shrinking numbers of student mental health counselors. David Bradfield will chair the contract representation committee next year and Kevin Weir will chair the political representation committee.
7. **EVC Ephraim Smith** began by discussing SUGs (CSU fee waivers for needy students). We have an increased number of SUG-eligible students, meaning a greater demand for limited SUG funds. The CSU believes that SUGs should first go to students seeking a first baccalaureate, especially when our capacity to support SUGs is limited. SB 440 and SB 520 are of major concern to Academic Affairs. Our $54m budget augmentation request would fund students are already teaching but for which we are slated to receive no funding. The student success RFP has gone out. The legislature is interested in knowing how we will spend the $10m if allocated. A lot of attention is being paid to MOOCs, including by our joint task force. We continue to make progress on graduation rates. We expect to reach our goal of a 54% 6-year graduation rate for this year. We expect Early Start to continue pretty much the same, with the addition of more 3-unit mathematics experiences. A member of the Executive Committee strongly chastised Academic Affairs for the lack of consultation with ASCSU on systemwide academic matters during the question and answer period.
8. **Academic Technology Director Gerry Hanley and Senator David Hood** presented on plans to develop our capacity to provide the “library of the future.” Collection redundancies, resource sharing, electronic resources, etc. were discussed. Dr. Hood and others urged that we continue to offer adequate library support for our students and faculty and pointed out the diversity of needs across various user groups. Material costs are a continuing challenge. Not all campuses in the LA basin are satisfied with current sharing arrangements.
9. **SJSU President Mo Qayoumi, Provost Ellen Junn and Senate Chair Beth Von Till** participated via conference call to discuss the Udacity course offerings at SJSU. They were joined by a couple of faculty members offering courses. This has been a fast-moving experiment that has been faculty-driven. The approach may not address all of our capacity issues or be appropriate for all students but is an exciting project. The classes are not MOOCs—not nearly that many students are enrolled. An electrical engineering course was discussed in depth. Faculty had both on-campus and online office hours. Enrollment was open—it was likely a random cross-section of students. Student outcomes were very similar to those achieved in other sections but the pass rate was higher. Statistics and remedial math were also offered as a part of the experiment. Data analysis is ongoing. There was a lot of up-front faculty work developing these courses: taping lectures, developing materials, etc. The only way this model will work economically is if we have much larger enrollments in the future. SJSU is also offering MOOCs as a public service for a broad audience. The experimental courses have some elements of MOOC delivery but employ a different model in which there is direct contact with students. They will be adding two more courses (CS) to the experiment next term.
10. **AVC Karen Yelverton-Zamarripa** discussed the budget and gave a legislative update. All bills with a fiscal impact have been referred to budget committees where they are put into “suspense” pending budget clarity. It is also a way for leadership to have an effect on which bills come to the floor. Bills have until the end of May to be taken out of suspense and be reintroduced. The governmental relations staff spends a lot of time developing fiscal impact estimates for pending legislation. There are 10 bills dealing with online learning. AVC Yelverton-Zamarripa gave an overview of individual bills. Assemblyman Levine, a former CSUN student leader, has worked closely with us on a number of issues, including his bill which would make more information available about CSU online offerings. Senator Block has a bill focusing on online IGETC courses that might be available to all students across segments through cross-enrollment. While these bills have some merit, there are a number of other bills that have some potentially worrisome provisions. We are attempting to work cooperatively with Senator Steinberg to amend the language of SB 520 dealing with outside online courses. It is important to work together effectively to advocate for the CSU. Dr. Pasternack noted that 14% of the respondents to a retired/emeritus faculty survey indicated an interest in doing local advocacy with legislative members. The most important budget negotiations take place between now and the end of June. The legislature is focused on restoration of social services and implementing the Affordable Care Act. Prop 98 ties their hands in terms of spending. We are asking for a 5% enrollment growth, funded by $54m. We will focus on this request. The state has many obligations, making increased funding a difficult sell. We are pushing the enrollment message at many levels. In response to a question indicating that our most important priority needs to be the budget: We have some strong supporters/champions in the legislature but not enough. Prison mandates, other priorities make advocacy for the CSU budget difficult. The Governor believes he has done well by the CSU this year. It is important that we advocate for increased funding for access on the local level.
11. **AVC Beverly Young** reported on Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for California. 26 states have adopted this approach to assessment. It is funded by federal Race to the Top monies. Member states have formed an oversight group on which Dr. Young serves. The other states have adopted another joint approach (PARCC). The goal of this initiative is to have all HS graduates prepared for college and career. All current testing will be superseded (in one more year) by Smarter Balanced testing. A challenge from the CSU will be to continue EAP while eliminating current testing programs for HS juniors. It is unclear if Smarter Balanced will replace the CHSEE (HS exit exam). There is concern that while college content readiness can be determined from scores, placement cannot. Once SBA and PARCC are implemented, all states will in effect have an EAP program. The CSU pioneered this program years ago. It will be difficult to agree upon common standards for exam scores across states.
12. **Dir. Margaret Merrifield** reported on faculty hiring. 2008 was a high-water mark for tenure-track positions. We have just under 10,000 tenure-track faculty this year. We hired a lot of faculty in the mid-2000’s. Hiring has fallen precipitously. Combined with retirements, we continue to lose and fail to replace faculty. We have a good success rate in hiring—about 75% of searches result in a hire. Last year it was 83%. Salaries in many disciplines are pretty flat. Engineering, nursing, and particularly business, have significant salary issues. Most new faculty get some type of “startup” package that may include equipment, travel support and assigned time for teaching and scholarly activity development.
13. **Miles Nevin (CSSA Executive Director)** indicated that CSSA has had a productive year. Prop 30 was passed with strong student support. However, we hoped that the CSU would receive more than 2% of the revenues. Chancellor White has been very supportive of CSSA. We have sponsored SB 325 (Block) which would allow sophomores to serve as student trustees and provide student fee waivers for student trustees. It is likely to pass. Issues we are looking at include student tuition fees, graduate SUGs and quarter to semester conversions.
14. **AVC Robert Turnage** indicated that the May Revise budget reflects a status quo. However, we are working for a budget augmentation as state revenues have increased. In April the Department of Finance introduced a 5-year accountability-based budget incentive plan that was developed with relatively little consultation with higher education experts. The Department of Finance has indicated that they will work with the CSU to improve the plan. The 150 semester cap for state-assisted fees was dropped. Prop 98 guarantees for K-14 complicate things. There is also a forecast for lower revenues next year. Hence, the Governor has been very conservative in proposing new spending—the only exception is Medicare obligations. We are working very hard to get a $54m augmentation for enrollment growth of 5%. Q: Is the potential health care cost increases to faculty part of your advocacy agenda? A: The legislative committees have already removed the proposed change language. In response to questions about SUGs—the state provides some funding for SUGs but the amount has remained flat for 20 years meaning that only a small fraction of the current SUG fee waiver lost revenues are replaced by the state.
15. **ERFA**—Bill Bliscke reported that all 23 campuses were represented at the last ERFA meeting. A new Executive Committee was elected. Senator Carol Liu attended the meeting. The May issue of *The* *Reporter* (<http://csuerfa.org/reporter.html>) is available as of this week. We have recently updated a very useful publication called the *Survivors Guide* which can help one plan for their heirs. We continue to focus on long-term care and pension reform. The Board will next meet on August 22nd.
16. **Alumni President Guy Heston** reported the completion of a CSU alumni attitudinal survey (19 campuses). The results of the survey will be presented to the Board of Trustees next week. We will attempt to use this information to make our alumni groups stronger and more connected to our campuses. We are developing a new strategic plan for the organization. The CSU will soon confer its 3,000,000th degree.

This will be my last ASCSU campus report. My time serving on ASCSU has been one of the highlights of my life. It has allowed me to get to know outstanding colleagues and form treasured friendships across the CSU. I am inspired by the good work and commitment of so many people in the CSU. Thank you to all for your important contributions to our students, the CSU, and beyond. JT