**Statewide Senate Report March 14-15, 2013**

John Tarjan and Andreas Gebauer

1. **John Travis**, long-time CFA liaison to ASCSU, was remembered and honored. The plenary was dedicated to his memory.
2. **Chair’s Report** 
   1. Chair Guerin reviewed the agenda. We will be hearing from our faculty trustee candidates and holding our 50th anniversary celebration later in the day.
   2. Dr. Guerin reviewed her activities and those of the Executive Committee—meetings attended, presentations made to outside groups, appointments, etc.
   3. The Chair’s written report can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Chairs_Reports/documents/November_2012_Chairs_Report.pdf>
3. **Executive Committee Reports**
   1. Vice-Chair Filling reported on the joint faculty/provosts/student MOOC task force. They will be developing a report that will be available on or before May 23rd. One of the focuses of the task force is addressing related current/potential legislation. Some MOOCs differ from other on-line offerings in their collaborative nature and peer review of student work. Chair Guerin outlined our strategy for responding to on-line education initiatives. We have embraced technology as a faculty and already teach a lot of on-line and hybrid courses. Our overriding concerns deal with quality and student success. The Executive Committee and ICAS are working to address all on-line related legislation and initiatives to ensure an effective faculty voice.
   2. The Udacity experiment at SJSU is felt by some to be an overall success, with one glaring exception—remedial mathematics. There was a large (66%-91%) increase in pass rate for the engineering circuits course.
   3. Accurate information on the number of CSU on-line and hybrid offerings is elusive.
   4. There are a number of financial and equity-related concerns with SB 520 (potential to redirect students to private on-line providers).
   5. Jim Postma reported on SB 1440. Things are moving along but there are a few road blocks being encountered.
      1. There are 24 approved TMCs being accepted by CSU campuses.
      2. The geology and computer science TMCs have not received approval on a number of campuses yet.
      3. The CCC campuses have progressed relatively slowly in developing transfer AAs based upon the TMCs. Sen. Padilla has follow-up legislation (SB 440) designed to speed the development of these degrees. We have concerns about potential language mandating CSU acceptance of online coursework.
      4. We need more course reviewers for C-ID (the mechanism to approve courses for inclusions in a transfer AA).
      5. We hope to have a more cooperative role with the CCCs in directing the C-ID process. With campus input, we hope to potentially have CSU faculty potentially identify/develop even more effective transfer pathways.
      6. We are addressing the issue of CCC primacy in the course approval process. There is strong feeling among CSU faculty that it is inappropriate to mandate articulation without CSU faculty assent.
      7. Barbara Swerkes, SB 1440 consultant, expressed the need for more discipline faculty course reviewers.
   6. There has been a lot of work on the newsletter. In the next edition we are looking forward to a legislative report, a report on Smarter Balanced (new K-12 standards and testing) and our 50th anniversary celebration. The February newsletter has been published. 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).
4. **Excerpts from Other Reports**
   1. **Academic Affairs** discussed the following topics.
      1. On-line learning.
      2. Access to Excellence goal on reducing the achievement gap.
      3. Task force on student tuition and financial aid.
      4. SB 520.
      5. Importance of graduate programs.
      6. Support for student mental health.
      7. Extended education.
      8. General education.
   2. **Academic Preparation and Education Programs** discussed the following topics.
      1. Early Start program assessment.
      2. Common Core state standards and Smarter Balanced standards/EAP testing.
      3. SB 520.
      4. C-ID.
   3. **Faculty Affairs** discussed the following topics.
      1. Recruitment and professional development of department chairs.
      2. Potential category of appointment—clinical faculty (is feasible under the current CBA).
      3. Lack of compensation for thesis supervision, directed studies, etc.—may be addressed under CBA side agreements.
      4. Support for/bureaucratic procedures dealing with research.
      5. Mandatory reporting of child neglect and abuse training.
   4. **Fiscal and Governmental Affairs** discussed the following topics.
      1. LAO report on higher education/meeting with Judy Heiman from the LAO.
      2. Faculty health care costs.
      3. SB 520.
      4. Potential compensation increases.
      5. Potential legislation of interest (and review of CFA, CSSA and CSU legislative agendas).
   5. **Faculty Trustee Cheyne** reported
      1. That there has not been much progress on the 120/180 unit cap. It is likely the policy will go forward despite faculty concerns.
      2. She is focusing on how the Chancellor will move forward with his vision of “shared leadership.”
      3. Presidential searches are ongoing. It is believed that campus constituents are being consulted about the advisability of making interim president appointments permanent on the respective campuses.
      4. Her written report was distributed via e-mail and should be available shortly at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Faculty_Trustee/index.shtml>
   6. **GE Advisory Committee** discussed the following issues.
      1. Oral communication, including on-line courses.
      2. WICHE Passport initiative (inter-state articulation of GE).
      3. The role of algebra in the baccalaureate.
      4. ITL Summer Institute (critical thinking focus) on improving the baccalaureate.
      5. Compass Project Conference
         1. Campus As A Living Lab (sustainability).
         2. E-portfolio for meeting GWAR requirements.
         3. CCC research on student success.
      6. A Santa Barbara College proposal to fulfill GE Breadth transfer in 35 units (rather than 39) with an integrated approach to oral communication and lifelong learning rather than individual courses.
   7. **Legislative Specialist** Tom Krabacher reported that
      1. All bills for the year have been introduced. They will have an initial committee hearing over the next couple of weeks.
      2. FGA will be providing ongoing summaries and tentative recommendations on bills of interest.
      3. On March 25th, Senator Krabacher and Chair Guerin will go to Sacramento to talk with the authors/staff about SB 520, AB 386 and AB 387, all dealing with on-line education. (Note: although we did not pass a resolution on SB 520, we did have a lengthy discussion—see below.)
5. We heard presentations from the **Faculty Trustee Candidates** on Thursday. On Friday, we voted to send the names of Bernadette Cheyne (current faculty Trustee, Humboldt) and Steven Stepanek (Northridge) to the Governor for his consideration. Congratulations to the nominees and the other two outstanding candidates for their excellent presentations and willingness to serve in this important capacity.
6. We passed the following resolutions without a second reading due to their relative lack of campus impact and their timeliness. 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. **Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Academic Senate CSU** is self-explanatory.
   3. **Note:** There was a resolution and accompanying in-depth discussion about SB 520**.** There were concerns expressed about the potential usurpation of the faculty role in approving curriculum and the potential privatization of higher education. ASCSU leadership heard a number of suggestions and will likely draft a letter and meet with the author and/or his staff in person to communicate our concerns.
7. We passed the following resolutions. Copies of this and other resolutions can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/>.
   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. It encourages the Chancellor’s Office and the other campuses to consider becoming signatories to the Presidents’ Climate Commitment.
   2. **Support for the Course Identification Numbering (C-ID) System** expresses support for the continuation of the system and requests the segment academic senates to seek 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) and SB 58 (Cannella) Post-Proposition 30 Freeze on Systemwide Student Fees and Tuition Increases** supports the notion of predictability in student fee/tuition levels and expresses concerns about overall CSU funding and encourages the authors to include exceptions in the case that adequate state general fund support is unavailable to support the CSU mission.
   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 and ASCSU representatives.
8. We introduced several resolutions at the plenary. These will return as second reading items in March after being reviewed on the campuses.
   1. **Change to the Bylaws of the Academic Senate Section 4d(2) Charge to the Faculty Affairs Committee** adds the charge of the systemwide faculty showcase.
   2. **AB 386—Cross-Enrollment in CSU Online Courses** opposes the provision requiring the establishment of a numbering system for online courses due to concerns over feasibility and the existence of existing resources to accomplish the bill’s goals.
   3. **Clarifying the Changing Expectations for General Education** calls for the establishment of a task force to address this issue.
   4. **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.
   5. **AB 387—Online Education in the CSU** opposes the bill because of the difficulties in developing a workable common course numbering system just for online courses and the mandate dealing with the number of courses to be developed.
   6. **Reaffirming the Importance of Graduate Programs and Access to Those Programs** focuses on the preservation of State University Grants (fee waivers) for graduate students.
   7. **Support of Student Mental Health and Counseling Services** is self-explanatory.
   8. **Recognition of Executive Order 1047, Extended Education and Self-Support Courses and Programs** expresses gratitude for the clarification provided by the new EO.
9. **CFA President Lilian Taiz** remembered the contributions of John Travis to CFA and the CSU. CFA is lobbying for an augmentation to the CSU budget and is joining the CSU administration in opposing the folding of debt service, benefits, faculty hiring, etc. into our base budget, given the fact that we have already been devastated by severe cuts and are not even close to a healthy base budget. Many of these concerns about our budget are in the context of our hard work to pass Prop 30. Our expressed concerns have resonated with many legislators. We are gearing up to resume bargaining before long. On-line education may be an important focus. CFA has formed an on-line ad hoc committee. We are tracking on-line related bills. It is exciting to have 6 faculty members elected to the legislature. They have a broader base of knowledge upon which to draw when dealing with higher education issues.
10. **EVC Smith** began by reviewing the agenda of the last Academic Council. They discussed the sequester and its impact on work-study and veteran/active duty financial aid. Enrollment applications are up significantly this year (we have 307,000 unduplicated applications). Our budget will not allow us to meet the increasing student demand. We have been denying admission to eligible students already for several years. This violates the intent of the Master Plan. The Library Futures Project is moving forward. There is the hope that more efficient acquisition of library resources will result. We are concerned about SB 440 (follow-up to the STAR Act), another bill dealing with students taking high numbers of AP classes, SB 520 (online bottleneck courses), and a bill on accountability (Levine). Slow progress has been made by the CCCs in developing Transfer AA degrees. There is no funding to support the STAR Act—for necessary communication, for implementation, etc. This project requires ongoing funding to be successful. We are concerned about “bottleneck” courses that may be slowing student progress. AVC Mallon joined Dr. Smith and a lengthy discussion of the 120 unit maxima/waiver process ensued. There may be a lack of clarity on some campuses about how programs can/will request waivers. Many concerns/questions were expressed with significant vehemence. We may be spending an additional $100,000 or more per campus per year that could be saved if we had an electronic transcript system supporting student transfer.
11. **EVC Quillian** was joined by the CSU Federal Relations Office staff to discuss the impacts of the sequester. The sequester is just one piece of related legislation. It was designed to force compromise for dealing with federal debt/spending. It requires that all mandatory cuts come from discretionary spending, which means many popular items will be cut first. We are not totally clear about the magnitude of cuts to particular programs. Many of the largest impacts for higher education will not be experienced until the next school year. Work-study may be cut 5% for next year. TRIO, GEAR-UP, NIH grants, etc. will also be impacted starting next year. We expect the total impact to the CSU will be about $20 million. $1.5 million will likely be lost from work-study. Loan programs will have increased borrowing fees starting this month. We will increasingly find ourselves fighting for the maintenance of funding with competing legislative priorities. Dr. Quillian was then joined by Ruth Black, Executive Director Ruth Black and Dr. Skylar, a CSU online expert and director of a new center to support online teaching excellence (she is a former CSU faculty member). Dr. Quillian also has concerns about bills related to online education that are the subjects of resolutions now before us. CalState Online has met its launch target date and several programs are being rolled out, beginning with a business degree at Fullerton. Research and assessment of learning are major foci of the initiative. Dr. Quillian is concerned about the quality of many online offerings and hopes that Calstate Online will be a model for quality teaching and learning. Currently the project only focuses on self-support courses/programs. It is hoped that state-support online programs will join the project at some time in the future. There is some urgency to move forward with quality online education. There will be a very modest compensation increase pool for raises for employees other than executives in the Trustees’ budget request, which assumes the $125m restoration in the Governor’s budget proposal. We may need to fund IT, replacement of instructional equipment, etc. with one-time monies. The reserves held back at the system level in case Prop 30 did not pass have been returned to the campuses.
12. **ERFA**—Bill Bliscke reported that the March issue of *The* *Reporter* (<http://csuerfa.org/reporter.html>) is available on-line. ERFA has written to the Cal-PERS board expressing concerns over investments in gun manufacturers. They have analyzed the retired faculty survey and have campus-by-campus results that are available for perusal. There is the hope that the emeritus/retired faculty can become more involved in activities such as course reviews, etc. Their next meeting will be on April 20th at CSPU Pomona. The public is invited to attend.
13. **Alumni President Guy Heston** thanked the faculty on behalf of the alumni for the excellent education they have received. He is grateful for the efforts of Chair Guerin to maintain effective communication between our groups. The alumni association distributed a pamphlet, Working for California, that they also shared with our elected officials in Sacramento. It highlights contributions of alumni to the state. They have also attempted to communicate our good efforts in things like the Graduation Initiative to state leaders.
14. The **50th Anniversary Celebration** was held in conjunction with our plenary. Members of the Academic Council (provosts), past members of ASCSU, two campus presidents, the Chancellor (virtually), Dr. Karen White (Tim’s spouse), CSSA representatives and others were in attendance
    1. Themes from the first plenary session presentations.
       1. Déjà vu—the issues faced by the 50th incarnation of ASCSU seem to be very similar to those faced by the 1st incarnation.
       2. Civility and cooperation are essential if shared governance/leadership is to be effective.
       3. A true partnership between administration and faculty leaders is essential for the effective governance of the CSU.
    2. Past Chairs Panel
       1. The ASCSU has contributed in a number of ways including helping to make legislation more effective, providing statements about the content of the baccalaureate and support for the CSU in the 21st century, and helping to keep the CSU focused on the educational experience of our students.
       2. The faculty have an obligation to continually assert their stewardship over admissions, standards, and degree requirements.
       3. Chairs shared the recurring story of attempting to fulfill our mission while coping with never-ending budget struggles.
    3. Trustee Cheyne shared her perspectives on shared governance on the system level and her interpretation of the Chancellor’s emphasis on “shared leadership.” She suggested a group be identified to rethink approaches to shared governance at the system. This may result in recommendations that help us to respond to the demands from our many external audiences. We have the capacity, together, to anticipate and respond to the many changes that we will need to confront.
    4. Themes/recommendations frombreakout discussions
       1. Proactive communications is very important in shared governance. We should be proactive in our messaging and be sensitive to our various audiences.
       2. We should consider utilizing ERFA in our advocacy with elected leaders.
       3. We need to improve relationships across groups in the CSU family—treat each other as persons rather than merely as functionaries fulfilling a role.
       4. The annual Academic Conference and its facilitation of informal communication is something that is sorely missed and should be reinstituted.
       5. Perhaps we can use technology to make the ASCSU more effective.
       6. We should focus on the positive moving forward. We all share similar values and the desire to serve the students even if we differ on strategies to do so.
       7. We should celebrate our successes more often.
       8. Let’s use the appointment of a new Chancellor as an impetus to work together to make shared governance more effective.