

Statewide Senate Report September 2010

John Tarjan and Michael Ault

1. We passed several resolutions at the September plenary. Copies of this and other past resolutions can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/>. We failed to pass two resolutions dealing with the vacant Faculty Trustee position and proceeded with the election of members of the Faculty Trustee Nominating Committee. The resolutions were passed without distribution to the campuses and a second reading due to the urgency of the issues addressed.
 - a. **Call for Adequate and Sustainable Support for the California State University** calls for passage of the proposed \$305m budget increase for the CSU and calls that the \$106m in stimulus funds we have received be treated as one-time funds.
 - b. **Endorsing the October 7, 2010 National Day of Action in Defense of Public Education** endorses the spirit of the call for support for all levels of education without endorsing any specific demands that individuals involved with the day may have made.
 - c. **Call for Formation of a Joint CCC-CSU SB 1440 (Padilla) Implementation Task Force on Transfer AA Degrees** may seem premature since the legislation has not yet been signed. However, it is very likely that the bill will be signed and it contains some tight deadlines. The resolution calls for a task force that consists of equal numbers of faculty appointed by the Senates of the two segments and requests this group to provide clarity to the faculty on the issues addressed in the bill.
2. Several other resolutions were introduced during the plenary. They will be taken up at our next meeting in November after allowing campuses time to review them and provide feedback.
 - a. **Counseling and Troops to College** calls for the Board to seek funding to support the special needs of these students
 - b. **Affordable Learning Solutions Initiative** applauds efforts to date, urges faculty participation in these efforts and urges that any alternative materials adopted for use be ADA compliant.
 - c. **Public Education Leadership and Political Neutrality** calls upon Chancellor Reed to resign or suspend his membership from the board of the California Chamber of Commerce in response to their gubernatorial endorsement.
 - d. **Encouraging the Community Colleges to Make Use of CLEP in Fulfillment of General Education Requirements** The GE Advisory Committee developed guidelines for the use of CLEP in GE last year. This resolution encourages the use of CLEP within those guidelines.
 - e. **Adequate Financial Support for the Academic Senate of the CSU (ASCSU)** requests the Executive Committee meet with the Chancellor to address this issue.
 - f. **Resolution on Returning Veterans** encourages campuses to allow returning veterans to have the option of catalog rights dating at the time they were first admitted.
3. One second reading item was withdrawn.
 - a. **Preparation of an Annual Report on the Status of Teacher Preparation Programs**

4. There are several issues of potential interest to the campus.
 - a. The **Board of Trustees** will be meeting next week. See the following link for the committee and plenary agendas. <http://www.calstate.edu/BOT/agendas/>
 - b. The **Compass Project** will be soliciting proposals to send teams of CSU/CCC faculty to the annual AAC&U conference in SF January 26-29. The teams will have travel funded in order to explore ways to make general education more relevant to our students and more focused on learning outcomes.
 - c. On a related note, the **Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee** will have their first meeting of the academic year on October 14th in the Chancellor's Office.
 - d. Members were elected to the **Faculty Trustee Nominating Committee**. A call will go out to two randomly selected campuses to appoint representatives.

5. **CSSA Representative Neil Smith** reported the results of the CSSA elections and the activities of the organization during the summer. He highlighted CSSA's efforts to increase student voter registration.

6. **Executive Vice Chancellor (for Academic Affairs) Ephraim Smith** addressed the group. This was his first ASCSU meeting as EVC. He spoke about developments in intersegmental cooperation on transfer and other issues and reviewed legislation regarding transfer and independent doctoral degrees in physical therapy and nursing practice. Regional meetings will be held on the graduation initiative. There will be speakers from other systems who have experienced success in decreasing the achievement gap experienced by underserved student groups. He discussed the Early Start Program. We hope to begin roll-out in the summer of 2012. Our system FTES target has been raised from 310,000 to 317,708 after the receipt of stimulus funds. We have 41,000 applications for spring admission that we cannot act upon until the funding picture becomes clearer. No decision has been made on whether summer 2011 will be self-support or YRO funded.

7. **Board Chair Dr. Herb Carter** addressed the plenary. He explained his vision for the Early Start program. He is interested in meeting the needs of underserved students. He is open to suggestions for improvement to the program and to ongoing evaluation of the program as it proceeds. He feels that students and their welfare should be our central focus. Dr. Carter recalled past efforts over the year to improve transfer. He feels SB 1440 (which established a transfer AA degree). He believes that a joint cooperative effort on the part of the CSU and CCC faculty will result in improvement in transfer mechanisms. Dr. Carter affirmed a commitment to faculty quality and support. He referenced the HR strategic plan which will be before the Board next week (<http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/Sep10/UFP.pdf>). He believes we have the finest faculty in the nation as evidenced by their commitment to, and success with, our students. He was asked about the SB 1440 legislative process—in particular the exclusion of faculty from most of the deliberation and advocacy prior to the passage of the bill. Dr. Carter indicated that he shared the concerns of the faculty that the previous ASCSU chair had shared with him with the author of the bill. In response to question on funding teacher preparation, Dr. Carter expressed his support for public education and reviewed the initiatives related to student outreach. In response to a question about

less-than-optimal relationship between the Board of Trustees and the faculty of the CSU, Dr. Carter discussed the commitment of the Board to our students and expressed a willingness to work with the faculty to solve the problems that face us. He has no desire for conflict with CFA. In response to a question about the lack of a faculty trustee, Dr. Carter lamented the absence of the presence of the faculty trustee. He asked the Chancellor to discuss the issue with the Governor, which he did. Apparently there is an impasse that he can do nothing about. He feels that he has benefitted greatly from the advice of the faculty trustee in the past. He believes we should do whatever we can to secure a faculty trustee as soon as possible. There was a question about a general call for faculty from anywhere to participate in an evaluation of our Early Assessment Program. Dr. Carter charged Dr. Smith with looking into the matter. In response to a question about declining faculty numbers and faculty quality, Dr. Carter affirmed his support for the new strategic plan and increasing the number of tenure-track faculty. The state funding crisis has gotten in the way of the Board's intentions. In response to concerns about the attitude of the administration and Board about the Senate's role, in particular, items appearing on the agenda of the Committee on Educational Policy without the opportunity for prior Senate input, Dr. Carter responded by indicating he would discuss the matter with the Chair of EPC and the EVC. In response to a question about faculty workload and support, he reviewed his willingness to reconsider allocation of system funds based as heavily upon FTES. In response to a senator's recap of statistics on loss of faculty, Dr. Carter reaffirmed his support for ACR 73 and the rebuilding of our faculty. If we are to serve our students well, we need an excellent faculty.

8. **Executive Vice Chancellor (for business & finance) Dr. Ben Quillian** reported that we have received \$106m in stimulus money which has allowed us to increase enrollments by 17,000 FTES. The situation remains dire. Currently the difference in budget proposals between the parties in the legislature is approximately \$4b. We do not know when the budget is likely to be approved—making planning very difficult. We are attempting to develop a 2011-12 budget without a budget for the current year. Our parsimonious planning to date should serve us well in the coming years. We have planned as if the budget will be flat this year. The Governor's staff has assured us that they will try to keep the \$106m separate from the \$305m request in the Governor's budget. The staff is not optimistic that they will be able to do this, however. There is a real possibility that we will only get a \$106m increase total. He summarize our budget request that will be presented to the Board next week, even though it does not include enough funds to meet our true needs.

- Replace one-time federal funds \$106 million.
- Mandatory costs (health and dental benefits, new space, energy) \$45 million.
- Compensation increase (3 percent "pool") \$90 million.
- Access to Success/Graduation Initiative/Early Start \$56 million.
- Enrollment growth (2.5 percent) \$60 million.
- "Long term needs" (technology, libraries, facility maintenance) \$47 million.

Total ongoing revenue increase \$404 million

Dr. Quillian discussed the auditor's finding regarding funds in university auxiliaries. There were no student fee funds or state general funds involved in the finding. There were no violations of state law or ethics or mismanagement. The finding centered on potential risk of current practices and the development of new policies, which has been done. <http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1052.html> In response to questions, Dr. Quillian

indicated that it was a difficult decision to raise our target in response to stimulus funds even though they are one-time monies. We do not admit “one-time” students. Dr. Quillian detailed some of the administrative savings and the intent to follow the UC’s lead to use savings to reinvest in the academic side of the house. The “Synergy Project” attempts to pool efforts across campuses in things such as procurement, admissions, etc. to become more efficient. There is also an effort to redirect funds from CMS to academic computing.

9. **Eric Forbes, CO Director of Enrollment Management Services** discussed some of the challenges likely to be associated with SB 1440. One of these could have been the last minute insertion of language dealing with local guarantees—fortunately it was replaced with language restating current state law. There still remains a lot of work to be done with the community colleges. The Early Start Program Implementation Committee has already developed some useful guidelines for campuses to consider in their implementation of this program. The system has an explicit policy of trying to stall close to full current capacity to demonstrate “good faith” prior to arguing for budget restoration next year. There was a question about campus impaction and the effect on local area transfer students. In response, Mr. Forbes indicated that there are 16 campuses impacted for FT freshmen and 14 for transfer students. Many students are being affected. Impaction on a given campus can greatly affect enrollments at nearby campuses.