Statewide Senate Report January 2011  
John Tarjan

1. Announcements
   a. Faculty at CSU, Northridge will be holding a symposium on the future of higher education in California to which CSU faculty from across the state will be invited in mid-April.
   b. Senator Goldwhite, Chair of the Faculty Trustee nominating committee, announced that the following four individuals are forwarded to the ASCSU for their consideration for nomination to the Governor at our March plenary. At that time they will make short presentations to the body and respond to questions selected by Senator Goldwhite from a list of questions submitted by senators in advance of the meeting. ASCSU will then select 2-4 of these individuals to recommend to the Governor.
      i. Bernadette Cheyne, Humboldt
      ii. Jacquelyn Kegley, Bakersfield
      iii. Steven Stepanek, Northridge
      iv. Darlene Yee, San Francisco

2. Committee of the Whole
   a. The senate convened a Committee of the Whole to consider ways in which we could improve the functioning of the senate. Issues discussed included the method of selection of committee chairs, the possibility of a Chair-Elect, and the appointment process.
   b. There was a suggestion that a task force be formed to consider the issues discussed and to potentially bring back suggestions for the body.

3. Chair’s Report  Chair Postma testified this week (along with the Chancellor and CSSA President) in Sacramento on preserving educational quality. He addressed the proposed cuts to the CSU budget and how difficult it is to get an adequate take on the precise magnitude of the proposal and its ultimate impact on our campuses. Director Butler is doing a good job of managing our budget but it does not appear that it will be adequate to meet all of our expenses unless 1) augmented or further steps are taken to decrease expenses. The Early Start Initiative continues. The campus plans have all been received. It appears that most campuses are building upon existing programs already in place. These plans will be posted and publically available after feedback from the implementation group has been received and responded to. Work proceeds on the implementation of SB 1440 (AA transfer degrees). The first two Transfer Model Curricula to be used as a model for the 112 community colleges in developing their degrees are ready to be published. There is a high degree of cooperation between our two systems. Discipline faculty should visit the C-ID website to sign up for a discipline listserv and/or to participate in discipline meetings at which they can offer CSU perspectives on the content of the degrees and the courses which are part of the AA major (Transfer Model Curricula).  

http://www.c-id.net/  The Executive Committee met yesterday with Ralph Wolfe, WASC Executive Director, and a faculty member from SFSU involved with WASC. They are interested in making the accreditation process more faculty-centered, more transparent, more meaningful, and more collaborative across campuses. The ASCSU has been invited to be part of a CSU consortium to lobby for financial support for the system.
4. Excerpts from Other Reports
   a. Faculty Affairs— the faculty research grants were restored last year. There is
      concern over the increased use of the Extended University to offer programs.
   b. Budget Specialist—More cuts will come if the Governor’s proposed tax initiative
      does not pass.
   c. GE Advisory—a number of conversations/conferences are taking place where
      suggestions for making GE more meaningful and impactful are being
      considered.
   d. Admissions Advisory—has met and will continue to meet as more information
      on the budget becomes clear and appropriate adjustments will need to be made
      to admissions policies and targets.
   e. AAUP Conference—Senator Linder gave a comprehensive and enthusiastic
      report from the AAUP conference on faculty freedom and governance.

5. We passed several resolutions at the January plenary that were previously introduced
   at the November plenary. Copies of this and other past resolutions can be found at
   http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Resolutions/.
   a. Commending Trustee Carter the CSU for Initiating a National Teacher
      Education Summit also encourages participation and asks that the
      publications developed as a result of the conference be widely disseminated.
   b. Recognition and Commendation for Efforts that have Increased Rates of
      Proficiency in Reading and Writing for Entering Freshman recognizes the
      leadership of a couple of individuals in the ERWC effort and commends and
      encourages collaboration with our high school faculty colleagues.
   c. Adequate Financial Support for the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) directs
      the Executive Committee to conduct a budget analysis and to discuss the
      ASCSU budget with system leaders.
   d. Creation of a Taskforce for Developing System Policies of Online Degree
      Programs encourages the Chancellor to convene a task force composed of
      Academic Affairs staff, provosts, students, ASCSU members and others.
   e. Implications of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Decision in Garcetti v. Ceballos
      expresses our concern that the ruling may be a basis for restricting academic
      freedom by punishing faculty for expressing opinions about campus
      administrative leadership and encourages campuses to develop policies that
      would preserve academic freedom and freedom of speech. The ruling allows
      restrictions on the ability of public employees to express opinions without
      employer discipline.
   f. Investing in Faculty Resources to Ensure Quality Education in the
      California State University reaffirms support for ACR 73 and calls for a
      restoration of the faculty workforce.
   g. Sale, Distribution of Publishing of Class Materials for Commercial Use
      expresses support for the section of California Code prohibiting this practice
      and thanks the CO for attempts to ensure the law is followed. This resolution
      is partly in response to the NoteUtopia controversy that has recently been in the
      news.
   h. Fiscal Concerns on Implementation of Early Start Programs asks that
      students not be disadvantaged due to financial circumstances, that successful
      programs not be supplanted and that the financial impact of this program be
      assessed.
i. **Call for Intersegmental Collaboration on the Implementation of AB 1295 (Fuller) – Postsecondary Education Nursing Degree Programs** calls upon our CCC colleagues to advise their students to complete either GE Area-Breadth or IGETC as a component of the transfer degrees in nursing.

j. **Assessment and Reporting of Results of Early Start Programs** urges the development of an interim report on Early Start makes recommendations regarding the assessment of the effectiveness and costs of campus Early Start programs.

k. **Resolution Regarding Consultation about the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ (AASCSU) Red Balloon Project** encourages our faculty to participate in this and similar initiatives provided appropriate consultation within shared governance takes place.

6. Two items were introduced from the floor dealing with Senate procedures. Amendments to the bylaws require a first and second reading during regularly scheduled meetings.

   a. **Amendments to the Senate Bylaws to Limit the Appointment of Senate Specialists to Academic Senators** speaks for itself.

   b. **Amendments to the Senate Bylaws for Direct Election of Standing Committee Chairs** would replace the current procedure of appointment of standing committee chairs by the Executive Committee.

7. Several other resolutions were introduced during the plenary. They will be taken up at our next meeting in March after allowing campuses time to review them and provide feedback.

   a. **Support for Intersegmental Collaboration for the Implementation of SB 1440** urges and commends collaboration with our CCC colleagues in the implementation of transfer AA degrees.

   b. **Support for Faculty Collaboration in the Development of Model Transfer Degrees (SB 1440)** Complements the previous resolution and specifically urges participation in the development of the content of the model degrees we hope will be used as a template across the CCC.

   c. **Support for Adequate Resources for CSU Libraries** is self-explanatory.

   d. **Support for a Three-Year Pilot Program of the Statway Curriculum as an Alternative for Establishing Proficiency in Quantitative Reasoning** The Statway curriculum blends algebra with statistics within a multiple-term course. It is hoped that this pathway through quantitative reasoning will increase student success and persistence prior to transfer.

   e. **Recognizing the Joint Committee Report on Student Evaluations of Teaching** commends the tri-partite task force and endorses the general recommendations in the report.

   f. **Amending the Constitution of the Academic Senate of the California State University to Include a Statement Upholding Academic Freedom** is self-explanatory.

   g. **Support of the Development of a Consistent Methodology for the Analysis of Student-Faculty Ratio and Intra and Inter Campus Expenditures on Instruction** anticipates improved understandability and analyzability of campus data as a result of a more consistent methodology.

   h. **Support for the CSSA Resolution Calling for the Standardization of Student Response Systems** is self-explanatory.
i. **Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Reducing Remediation Needs to Negligible Levels for Entering California State University Students** calls for the formation of a planning group consisting of representatives from the CSU math and English faculty, CCC faculty and administration, campus faculty and administration, Chancellor’s Office personnel and the Early Start task force. It reflects the desire to develop a comprehensive plan which coordinates the many complementary efforts addressing the need to improve student preparation.

j. **Renewed Call for Establishment of a Task Force to Respond to Section 66205.8 of the California Education Code—Career Technical Education Courses** encourages steps be taken to meet the 2014 deadline to develop standards for inclusion of CTE courses into the a-g high school curriculum. Not only is this mandated by law but we risk imposition of standards if we fail in this responsibility.

8. 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/](http://www.calstate.edu/BOT/agendas/)

9. **Former Assistant Vice Chancellor Allison Jones (now with Achieve)** addressed the plenary. He spoke about a project called Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. The US is lagging behind many nations in terms of college degree attainment. There are dramatic differences across ethnic groups in terms of degree attainment. Half of the states are participating in the project. It’s goal is to prepare and assess students while in high school to increase their likelihood of degree attainment. He solicited a mathematics faculty member from the CSU (a CCC faculty member and a K-12 teacher) to participate in the development of common standards for PAARC states.

10. **Vice Chancellor Gail Brooks** lamented the fact that new employees within PERS would have less generous pension benefits. The Board enthusiastically endorsed the Human Resources Strategic Plan but requested a focus be placed on periodic reporting on progress and accountability. A guiding principle is to allow campus autonomy to select best practices while still being accountable for the achievement of goals. There are many best practices on campuses across the system. During the first year of the plan, a group of HR volunteers is taking stock of where the CSU is in terms of HR and report to the Board in the fall. It is hoped that we will soon (2013) have an integrated HR data base within CMS. This is mandated by the state. It poses unique challenges for academic (faculty) HR accounting (e.g. accounting for WTUs). However, it will allow us to do a better job of managing HR at both the campuses and at the system level. Collective bargaining proceeds with CFA. The bargaining group’s next meeting will be later this month. It is hoped that the contract will help us achieve our goals through attraction and retention of quality faculty and the speedy and local resolution of grievances. There are a number of areas where more clear language in the contract would be helpful. She is hopeful that a more meaningful review of temporary faculty will be reflected in the new agreement. **Margy Merrifield (Academic HR Senior Director)** in response to a question on faculty turnover—good comparison data is hard to come by but it appears the CSU is not out of line with other universities. **GB:** Still, any faculty turnover is a worry and we are looking at causes and potential appropriate actions in this regard. There were concerns expressed about new PhDs.
utilizing the CSU Forgivable Loan Program who are unable to secure a faculty appointment.

11. **John Travis, CFA Liaison** gave an update on the progress of bargaining. The administration is in the process of providing their proposals for the new contract. All of the proposals should be received before the next meeting next week. He announced a multiple system faculty meeting in LA dealing with academic restructuring across the country facilitated by CFA. He also addressed the proposed budget cuts and lobbying.

12. **Associate Dean Ken O’Donnell** gave an overview of the project he is currently working on. They are complementary in that they all touch on student success. Our Graduation Initiative has a relationship to a nationwide initiative called Access to Success. We are trying to increase success (degree completion) overall, with particular attention to focusing on decreasing the gap between success rates evidenced by underrepresented minorities and other groups. Give Students a Compass is an effort to increase student success by making general education more meaningful and impactful by integrating “high-impact practices” (student research, service learning, internships, capstones, etc.) into the curriculum. Data from CSUN shows that Hispanic students’ success is greatly improved through multiple high impact practice experiences. All students benefitted but, larger impacts on Hispanic students led to a decrease in the graduation gap. Support is being rounded up to send CSU campus teams to an AAC&U conference on high-impact practices this summer. Our transfer students have fewer exposures to high-impact practices. CSU/CCC teams will attend an AAC&U conference in SF next week and will develop proposals for improving student success through GE.

13. **State University Dean Chris Mallon** reported that the Board will consider honorary degree nominations and amending the Academic Master Plan (normally done in March) to include Doctoral degree programs in Nursing Practice and Physical Therapy. This amendment is being considered now to allow the campuses potentially offering these degrees the time to plan for the initiation of the programs. The Chancellor consistently asks staff to plan for budget reductions while considering the impact on students. While he is supportive of a strong Extended University, he is firm in his opposition to supplanting degree programs offered through state support. Offering programs overseas or in other states on at work sites might be appropriate ways to “extend” the University. Campuses will be able to decide how to offer their summer sessions.

14. **CSSA Representative Neil Sanchez** is gratified that we are supporting the students’ resolution on personal response devices. He outlined CSSA’s advocacy efforts. The students are preparing a response to the Governor’s Budget. **University Affairs VP Emily Switzer** described a green initiative. On-line student evaluations of teaching are an important agenda item for them. CSSA hopes to team with faculty and others to advocate on behalf of the CSU. **CSSA President Chris Chavez** was also in attendance.

15. **Board of Trustees Vice Chair Bob Linscheid** recounted his educational experience. He began at Diablo Valley College lacking proficiency in English composition. He graduated from CSU, Chico and now has two children who have graduated from
Chico. His experiences help him to identify with our students. He strongly supports the goals of Early Start, Early Assessment and the Graduation Initiative, as do the other members of the Board. He passionately recognized the value of a university education and his commitment to, and appreciation of, the CSU. He recognized the most important mentors in his early life which included a Chico professor and a member of the Board of Trustees (he was the head of the student association at the time). He stressed how important each faculty member is as a mentor to our students. He is supportive of efforts to have universities be places where innovation takes place for the betterment of their local communities. In response to questions:

a. He supports ACR 73, especially as the Board representative of the alumni. Faculty are important. The state is not fulfilling their role to fund quality.

b. His #1 goal as a Board member is to ensure access for our students. However, we need to look at the distribution of the financial burden across our students. 160,000 of our students pay no fees, and others with financial hardships struggle. He is worried about how we can ensure quality without adequate funding. He sees technology transfer and research as ways to provide employment for our students and economic development for our communities.

c. An effective intellectual property policy is very important. The Board will soon consider a system policy in this regard.

d. Due to the cuts imposed by the legislature, we face some difficult decisions. That is why dialog with the Senate and other groups is so important. He is committed to working as hard as possible for the CSU. He does not like the cost shifting to students but it may be unavoidable. He tries to make the case for continuing the investment in students that California made for him.

e. The Board may have to consider changing the fee increase set-aside for financial aid from 33% to 25%.

f. We try not to make decisions hastily to respond to crises. He has an abiding concern about quality. Efficiency is important but cannot solve all of the problems faced by the CSU.

g. The most important component of shared governance is the will to do it well. The Board desires a faculty member. One-on-one dialog is important. He invited us to continue to communicate our perspectives.