

Academic Senate CSU Chair John Tarjan's Report for January 2009

January 13, 2009

This report is a recap of the chair's activities since the last plenary. I will only highlight a few points in my report during the plenary. Please refer to previously distributed notes for more detail on meetings that I reference below.

1. Budget

- a. The Executive Committee has continued to both monitor the budget and to identify appropriate strategies in consultation with the standing committee chairs and in accordance with the preferences of ASCSU as a whole, as communicated in the budget survey from last year.
- b. This task is complicated by the fact that the budget is a moving target due to developments on the state level and the inability of Academic Affairs to predict what our final budget will be.
- c. The administration has acknowledged the extraordinary efforts being undertaken by ASCSU members to reduce costs and is committed to preserving the functioning of ASCSU.
- d. Given cost savings to date relative to the current systemwide budget reduction (\$97m), I am hopeful that we will not be forced to significantly alter our operations for the remainder of the year.

2. Executive Director Transition

- a. Tracy Butler and Sharon Van Steenwyk continue to "pick up the slack" during the transition to a new Executive Director.
- b. We will be saying farewell to Executive Director Ann Peacock beginning at 4:30 on Thursday, January 22nd.
- c. The search for Ann's replacement is well underway. The job description was modified and expanded and posted last month. Several candidates are already under review and the closing date for applications is next week. Barry Pasternack is chairing the committee. Marshelle Thobaben, Sharon Okashima and Pat Caton from Academic Affairs, Ann Peacock, and I round out the committee. Dates for screening (January 22nd) and interviews (February 9th) have already been set and questions for the interviews are being finalized. It is hoped the transition will begin no later than the end of February.

3. Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)

- a. Our segment is chairing the group this year.
- b. The last meeting was on December 2nd. The next meeting is on February 26th.
- c. An IGETC Standards Review Committee has been established with faculty, articulation officer and system office representatives from each segment.
- d. A review of the ICAS by-laws is underway.
- e. A white paper on transfer is being developed.
- f. ICAS is planning its annual legislative visit to Sacramento—most likely on the 13th of April. In past years, many top legislative and executive branch leaders have met with the group to hear faculty perspectives and concerns.
- g. The group continues to monitor legislative/policy developments including those related to career/technical education and the Master Plan for Higher Education in California. Of particular interest to UC and CSU is the maintenance of faculty control over admissions standards (the a-g high school curriculum).

4. **WASC:** Following in Past Chair Pasternack's footsteps, I am a member of the planning committee for the upcoming WASC Academic Resource Conference to be held in Hollywood from April 15-18. There is usually high participation from the CSU at this conference.
5. **Appointments:** The Executive Committee appointed faculty representatives to the following initiatives.
 - a. Replacements for the EdD advisory and proposal review committees.
 - b. An additional alternate to COLD.
 - c. Discipline representatives to review the International Baccalaureate curriculum.
 - d. Search committee for ASCSU Executive Director.
 - e. ASCSU task force on career/technical education.
6. **Technology:** The ASCSU Chair serves as co-chair of the Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) and on the newly-constituted Academic Technology Steering Committee (ATSC).
 - a. Given its new charge and the addition of several influential chief information officers from across the system to its roster, ATSC promises to be an influential advocate for the support of the academic mission of the university. This group meets often, in conjunction with the Academic Council (face-to-face), and via technology. It will be the recommending body regarding the funding and prioritization of projects and will monitor project effectiveness.
 - b. ATAC continues to meet, primarily via technology. It has six ASCSU representatives and continues to serve as the research/screening/investigative body for academic technology. It is anticipated that the clarification of its role relative to the former PTSC (current ATSC) will increase its effectiveness in its role.
 - c. Pending restoration of additional funding, the main academic technology initiatives receiving attention from the groups include learning management systems (recall the initiation of The Learning Management Systems Futures Project with several ASCSU representatives), and transforming course design. Microeconomics and U.S. history are receiving support for development of strategies to improve student success.
 - d. Reminder: the deadline for campus comments on the proposed systemwide Information Security Policy is March 2nd.
7. **Access to Excellence:** The Executive Committee has been engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the possibility of producing short papers to inform the implementation of Access to Excellence and the commitments made in the document.
8. **Other Functions as Chair**
 - a. The ASCSU chair attends the dinner for Board members and presidents in conjunction with the Board meeting. I attended my second dinner in November.
 - b. Beginning with the Board meeting in May, the ASCSU has given a formal oral report to the Board during its meetings.
 - c. I attended the November meeting of CSSA and will attend the January meeting in LA immediately following the January plenary. A draft plan to reorganize CSSA to increase participation has been developed and is being considered. A topic of great interest to the students is controlling textbook costs. I have referred them to the good work done by ASCSU on this topic.

- d. I am grateful to the other members of the Executive Committee for assuming liaison responsibilities to groups such as CSSA, the alumni, CFA, and the retired faculty. We have attempted to share assignments while being mindful of budget constraints.
- e. I continue to attend Academic Council meetings. The last meeting was on December 17th at LAX. The next meeting will be on February 12-13 in San Francisco.
- f. I attended the meeting of the State EdD Board at the CO on December 3rd. This group has both CSU representatives and outside education leaders from across the state. Their main function is to provide advice to ensure the quality and responsiveness of the CSU EdD programs.