

ASCSU Chair John Tarjan's Report for May 2009

May 4, 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. Copies of these notes can be obtained from ASCSU staff.

1. Budget

- a. The Executive Committee has continued to monitor the budget. We believe that our continuing efforts to conserve resources will allow us to continue normal operations through the summer.

2. ASCSU Office Transition

- a. The transition/interim staffing arrangement has gone smoothly. Kudos to Tracy Butler and Sharon VanSteenwyk. Thanks also go to Yvonne Benavides who has been helping out during plenary sessions.
- b. The new Executive Committee will revisit ASCSU office staffing with Academic Affairs leadership during summer as next year's ASCSU budget is finalized.

3. Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)

- a. ICAS Legislative Day took place on April 13th, the day before ASCSU Legislative Day on April 14th. Many governmental leaders met with the combined CSU/UC/CCC faculty leadership. We were very unified in our message—any further cuts to any segment of public higher education will result in reductions to workforce and hence a prolonged recession and more difficult recovery.
- b. The new IGETC Standards Review Committee is continuing to meet to refine policies and procedures for GE transfer.
- c. An ICAS workgroup put the finishing touches on a transfer white paper. The document will be considered at the next meeting on June 4th. This is the annual transition meeting and will include outgoing and incoming Executive Committees from the three segments.
- d. In Sacramento the group discussed efforts to control textbook costs. ASCSU was repeatedly recognized by the other segments (during meetings with governmental leaders) for our initiatives in this regard, including the task force report.
http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Reports/Textbook_Affordability_Taskforce_report.pdf

4. **WASC:** Following in Past Chair Pasternack's footsteps, I was a member of the planning committee for the upcoming WASC Academic Resource Conference held April 15-18.

5. **Appointments:** The flow of appointments has ebbed towards the end of the year. Other than appointing replacements for several meeting, The Executive Committee appointed two faculty representatives to serve on the Pre-Doctoral Program Director search committee.

6. **Executive Vice Chancellor Search:** Senators Thobaben and Tarjan served on the Executive Vice Chancellor search committee. We are pleased to acknowledge the wisdom of the Chancellor in nominating Dr. Echeverria to succeed Dr. Reichard.

7. **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). Both meet regularly, primarily in a virtual mode. The main issues before these groups continue to be
- a. Facilitation of on-line degree programs (See BOT item <http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/may09/EdPol.pdf>),
 - b. accessible technologies, and
 - c. learning management systems.

8. Other Functions as Chair

- a. The ASCSU chair attends the dinner for Board of Trustees members and presidents in conjunction with the Board meeting.
- b. In conjunction with Board of Trustees meetings, the Executive Committee meets with CSU executives and then CSSA leaders to review the Board agenda and discuss any relevant resolutions we have passed.
- c. Beginning with the Board meeting last May, the ASCSU chair has given a formal oral report to the Board during its meetings.
- d. I attended the March meeting of CSSA in Camarillo and will attend the May meeting in SLO immediately following our May plenary. The students are finalizing the reorganization of CSSA and will soon be replacing their Executive Director. There is a significant increase in campus participation in CSSA. Textbook affordability and fees are two issues of particular interest to the students.
- e. I attended the ERFA semi-annual meeting at LAX a little over a week ago. 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.
- f. On the day before the April interim committee meetings, I split time between the Campus Senate Chairs Council, the GE Advisory Committee and the LDTP Steering Committee. A hearty thank you to Kevin Baaske and Praveen Soni for their leadership in the Campus Senate Chairs Council. The group has been energized and the chairs have indicated that the meetings have been very helpful to them in their roles as campus chairs. Judging by the traffic on the chairs listserv, this group has become a very valuable resource. A second thanks to Kevin for his leadership of the GE Advisory Committee and to Mark Van Selst for chairing the LDTP Steering Committee.
- g. I continue to attend Academic Council meetings. The last meeting was on April 2nd at LAX. The next meeting will be during the third week of June.