

ASCSU Chair's Board of Trustees Meeting Report

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1. Good morning, All. Talar and Devon, I want to echo the comments you heard - you're the epitome of what we do. You manage to juggle 40 hours of work plus untold social engagements and being in class and you succeed. And you want more so you're going to graduate school. I am truly impressed.
2. As you're aware the Academic Senate speaks formally through resolutions. You should have copies of them in your packets.
 - a. The first one addresses Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) involvement in the passport project of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. They have a passport project that is intended to craft a bulk packaging of General Education and get that certified by states and institutions. Our intent is to help the WICHE group understand that we're glad to be part of their conversation but we did not agree to and don't have the authority to sign on to mandate acceptance of their general education package by California State University (CSU) campuses. We understand we can be part of the conversation but we really shouldn't be listed on their website as participants.
 - b. Our second statement enunciates a plan to increase tenure density in the California State University. I think you have heard a lot in the last two days about the need for faculty. What we're asking is that you and the Chancellor work with ASCSU and CFA to develop and implement a plan to increase tenure density to at least 75% and to reduce the student faculty ratio on each campus to no more than 18 to 1 in 10 years. Those are our aspirational goals. Maybe rather cheeky goals but they're goals and I think they speak to the need to have faculty here for student success. We also ask that the Chancellor include progress on those goals in the annual President's performance reviews in terms of heightening accountability.
 - c. AS3210-15 speaks to executive order 669 governing campus lease agreements. We ask that the Chancellor and the appropriate stakeholders revise the Executive order 669 to update practices and procedures followed by all campuses and auxiliaries for the purposes of ensuring thorough consultation prior to a campus executing lease agreements affecting a campus community. In pursuit of ensuring that they don't have deleterious effects on us. We hope that order 669 may be revised to prohibit campuses and auxiliaries from allowing the lease of space to for profit entities duplicating degree programs at a campus.

The proximate cause for the resolution is the situation at Sacramento State, where a floor of one of the foundation buildings has been leased to "California North State University"

which intends to offer a health sciences program that competes directly with California State University Sacramento's health sciences program.

- e. AS3211 speaks to our expectations for upper division general education. As you heard earlier this morning there is a bit of discussion about California Community colleges issuing BA degrees. We are trying to be prepared for the reality that there will be people that get part way through the programs and then decide that they want to shift to the CSU. We are trying to establish priorities on what we expect upper division general education to encompass so that when they want to transfer we have a mechanism to determine if we should allow them credit or not.
- f. And finally, AS3212 is a call for adequate and appropriate consultation regarding California State University pilot Baccalaureate degree programs. Chair Monville, Thank you very much for your statement on this issue this morning. I appreciate the expression of our shared interest.

The Academic Senate, as I suspect Chancellor White, found the consultation process somewhat less than workable. In a couple of instances we were provided two sentence descriptions of programs and asked to decide whether they consisted of duplication or not within two days. That's pretty clearly unworkable. The Chancellor has been active in pushing the community colleges to provide more reasonable timelines, with some success.

The resolution also directed me to attend the Board of Governors meeting of the community colleges. Last Monday I did so. I conveyed our position and ended up having an interesting interchange with Governor Brown. I confess I never thought I would be at a California Board of Governors meeting listening to the Governor of California quote Chairman Mao at me. However he did, and his question about duplication was "why not let a thousand flowers bloom?" My response was "OK, as long as the state is willing to water the flowers they probably will bloom." It's unclear to me if the state will do that watering at this point. Hopefully we can help them understand the need to do so.

- 3. I ask for Chair Monville's indulgence to speak briefly about online instruction. I teach blended classes; I taught an online class once, it was a very frustrating experience for me and for my students and I decided probably it wasn't not a good thing to repeat until I understood it better.

Trustee Eisen, you used the metaphor of a path through the woods earlier today and I think that's an apt one. We are searching for a path through the woods that gets people to the other side, preferably in an expeditious manner, but we have to acknowledge we can't build the 405 through the woods. We can't because some people are driving. Some people are walking. Some people are biking. Some people want to take the bus. The pride of the CSU has always been its ability to deal with a great diversity of students and backgrounds and find ways to let people succeed. Above all else we don't want to lose that. So when looking at online instruction I think the most honest thing I can say is we are learning. My colleagues

and I – my 25,000 colleagues and I -are doing all we can to figure this out, subject to one dictum. Our students come first. I'm immensely aware that what I do impacts people's lives and I am probably conservative with respect to taking chances with the outcomes on those lives. Our students come first.

What we know from the research -interaction matters. Research tells us that relationships with faculty matter more than which textbook is used. We also know that online instruction has some issues for undergraduate students, most especially for undergraduate students who might not be fully prepared. And especially for undergraduate students coming from other than educational backgrounds: in other words a lot of our underrepresented minorities.

Trustee Taylor asked this morning for information on campus uptake of online instruction and wanted to use that information to determine which campuses are “laggards” in that regard. I have to confess I find that a troubling request because my perception is my colleagues are adopting online education when it fits their students. Our students are just of such wide variety that it makes absolutely no sense to treat online education as if we're ordering meals at McDonald's. The students at Dominguez Hills are not the students at San Jose or the students at my campus, Stanislaus. The strength of the CSU has been our willingness and ability to treat them differently.

Likewise, the notion of being efficient by using a single learning management system has some problems. One of the realities of education is that it requires innovation. And innovation requires people to think about what they do in different ways. That is highlighted by having opportunities to use different systems. I use Blackboard. I also use Moodle – and that's a part of pushing the edge and one of the things we don't want to do is trounce on that innovation by forcing people to use a single package. I think there are a lot of false efficiencies of standardization at play here, and given it's almost lunchtime I keep popping into restaurant metaphors. We can't say we will only have McDonalds. Maybe it's good to have McDonalds and Chipotle and another restaurant once in a while. Maybe even Chez Pansse or French Laundry occasionally.

In summary, my colleagues are on on-line education - they're the front line on how to do it and no matter what Arizona State says California is the place where it starts. They're on it, they have been on it, but it will continue to be on it subject to our prime directive. Our students come first. We will not do things that hurt them. Thank you Chair Monville.