Greetings from the Senate Chair
By Dr. Jackie Kegley

I am pleased to announce the initiation of a CSUB Academic Senate newsletter. This will be an item that we share with you once a quarter. Its purpose is to keep you informed of Senate actions; actions of Senate committees and of issues of concern to the campus community that are being discussed within the Senate and in conversations with various administrators or groups on campus. Although you are represented both by school and by at-large faculty, it is our strong desire to have your voices and concerns heard. Know also that senate members include faculty members of all ranks including lecturers.

The Senate is a democratic body and thus discussion and debate is a common factor. This means that there is often compromise and that some positions on issues do not win final approval. However, the airing of issues and the expression of different views is at the heart of a university and of shared governance. I do not think we would want it any other way.

The accomplishments of our Senate this last year were, in my judgment, phenomenal. My fellow campus senate chairs in the CSY are amazed that during one year we developed and approved a new General Education program; developed and adopted new Promotion, Retention and Tenure procedures, and developed and approved a procedure for Quarter to Semester conversion. In addition, during this academic year, the Senate took the following actions.

1. Approved 11 new academic programs and or certificate programs:
   a. New Concentrations for the BS in Economics
   b. Pilot Program for MS in Applied Nutrition
   c. Changes in Emphases in Political Science
   d. Academic Transformation in Kinesiology
   e. Academic Certificates in Philosophy
   f. Developmental Mathematical Program
Greetings from the chair continued

g. English Stretch Composition Program
h. Program Transformations in MSA-Health Care Management
i. New Emphases in the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
j. Pharmacy Technician Certificate
k. Petroleum Engineering Certificate

2. Approved a policy on final exam scheduling

3. Implementation of Article 20.37 Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service

4. Approved a pilot program for extended library hours for students

5. Appointed a Task Force on the SOCI

6. Appointed a Task Force on Elections and approved new election policies and procedures

7. Developed and will soon launch an online, user-friendly Academic Policy Manual which will embody the Handbook as well as other academic policies

8. Appointed a Task Force on Research Misconduct Policy

9. Facilitated elections and/or appointment of faculty members to the following search committees:

   a. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
   b. Vice President for Business Administration
   c. AVP for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
   d. Dean for the School of Business and Public Administration
   e. Dean for the Antelope Valley campus
   f. Dean of the University Library
   g. Associate Vice President for Academic Programs

University Day Program

All faculty members will be invited to a University Day luncheon and discussion of crucial university issues on Thursday September 10th from noon to 3:00 p.m. Issues will be briefly presented by different Senate members and then there will be ample opportunity for open discussion and feedback from the faculty in attendance. At that time the SOCI Task Force will present options for SOCI revision; the issues in shared governance will be shared and discussed. There also will be an open discussion of Quarter to Semester issues including options for negotiating workload and assigned-time. We hope you will join us.

We want your voice to be heard and your concerns and issues addressed.
Academic Affairs Committee Report
By Dr. Harvey McCown

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate considers matters related to the academic content of courses, and other matters as referred by the Executive Committee. Many issues normally handled by this committee were referred to the Curriculum Conversion Committee because of the impending conversion from quarter to semester.

Issues considered by the AAC 2014-2015:
- Criteria for Teaching Online Courses
- Certificate Program Policy
- Revision of SOCI
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Non-Academic Degree Certificate Policy

Faculty Affairs Committee Report
By Mr. Bruce Hartsell

The Faculty Affairs Committee has forwarded several policies for Senate approval this year. One of the more important ones addressed Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service to Students. The Committee developed procedures for the selection of five faculty members who will each receive five Weighted Teaching Units of assigned time for their exceptional service. Five faculty members will also be selected for next year. Another significant policy that the Committee addressed was related to holding office hours. The Committee recommended policy changes clarifying the expectation that faculty members be regularly available on campus to meet with students and colleagues. The Committee also recommended a policy clarifying the scheduling of exams in on-line classes. The Senate has approved resolutions on these items.

The Committee made some recommendations—such as regarding emeritus status for lecturers and regarding classroom observations—that did not require policy changes. The Committee determined that existing policy is sufficient and that existing policy should be followed.
Academic Support and Student Services Committees Report

By Dr. John Tarjan

The Academic Support and Student Services Committee’s charge is to “make policy recommendations to the Academic Senate concerning the library, media services, student services, international students, the cafeteria, the bookstore, the computer center, and the campus police. In the performance of this function, the committee shall monitor the University’s academic support and student services programs and make recommendations to the appropriate administrator.”

Our activities this year touched on a number of these areas:

- We made a recommendation to expand the Midterm Assessment Program currently in place for athletes to apply to all students. This change would allow faculty to identify all students who might be “at risk” for potential intervention during the academic term. The Senate passed, and the President approved, the recommended policy.

- In response to concerns about commencement ticket distribution and resale, the committee heard a variety of perspectives. Ultimately, we recommended to the Executive Committee that ASI be consulted regarding commencement tickets but did not see a need for policy change.

- The committee also discussed a number of issues related to campus cashiering and student finance-related communications. In addition to delegating part of the ongoing communications issue discussion to the ASI committee representative and a member of the accounting staff, we made the following recommendations.
  - Improve the student financial notification system within the To Do list on MyCSUB. The chair communicated with the FYE coordinator to recommend that the To Do list be covered in the FYE text. The coordinator indicated that this would happen.
  - Improve signage outside of the cashiering window to remind students that no electronic payments are accepted at the window but are accepted at the kiosk.

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The committee was asked to respond to the CSU Task Force on Student Success Fees. The committee worked closely with ASI. The Senate and ASI input to the Task Force were closely aligned. We both suggested that the fee category and the amount of proposed fee increase are more important factors than the title of the proposed fee increase. In essence, our committee’s recommendation included the following.

- “Small” Category II Fee increases could be implemented through alternative consultation.
- “Medium” fee increases could be implemented through alternative consultation if the campus ASI felt it was appropriate, otherwise a student referendum would be required.
- “Large” fee increases could only be implemented with an affirmative vote in a student referendum.

In response to a referral regarding revising the existing SOCI system, the committee had a lengthy discussion and generated a number of suggestions for improvement. After a report to the Executive Committee, a task force was formed to make recommendations to the Senate. The task force includes both the AS&SS Chair and another committee member. The task force is planning to present options for campus feedback and an ultimate recommendation to the Senate in the fall.

The committee received a referral touching both upon library hours and the availability of library resources in the evening when only the 24 hour study room is open. In response, the committee recommended that the library closing time be pushed back from 9:00pm to 2:00am Sunday-Thursday. The Senate approved this recommendation. It will be implemented on a pilot basis next fall.

The committee met to discuss student academic advising. Information was shared from a variety of sources with the committee and a number of suggestions developed. Once feedback is received from the DCLC and ASI, a report will be submitted to the Executive Committee.
Budget and Planning Committee Report
By Dr. Joe Fiedler

Thanks to the work of the conversion to semesters we had a lighter workload than usual. We collaborated with the Curriculum Conversion Committee (CCC) on a number of unusual issues related to their work and approved new programs, emphases, and certificates in Economics, Political Science, Kinesiology, Philosophy, Developmental Math, English Composition, Health Care Management, Petroleum Engineering and Pharmacy Technician. We also proposed Academic Calendars for the final year of Quarters Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Winter 2016, Spring 2016 and—after expressing our concern for the abbreviated timeline, the quarter—Summer 2016. Finally, we examined the upcoming transition of Engineering Faculty and Staff from grants to hard money and communicated our concerns to the Administration.

CSU Statewide Senate

Steven Frye and Cliona Murphy are CSUB’s two statewide senators. There are 53 statewide senators representing the different campuses in the CSU. Most campuses have two senators. The bigger ones have three senators. Frye is in his first year and Murphy is in her second year. They are serving three year terms. Statewide senators receive nine units reassigned time in their second and third years.

Senators’ duties include attending plenary sessions four times a year in the Chancellor’s Office in Long Beach, taking part in interim plenary phone meetings, sitting on senate committees, and acting as liaison to other CSU committees (from their second year). Murphy this year served as senate liaison to the CSU Academic Council on International Programs, and sat on the Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee. Frye will be assigned to committees next year. Frye and Murphy also report back to the CSUB senate and the executive committee about resolutions and other issues which occur statewide. They also serve on one of the CSUB senate sub committees.

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Statewide Senate Continued

Issues which have predominated the statewide senate this year have included discussion and resolutions over community colleges offering degrees, the debate over tenure density, the questions of how many units should be in engineering programs, and ongoing dialogues on academic freedom, graduation rates, and ethnic studies in the CSU.

Please feel free to contact Frye or Murphy if you have concerns about the local or statewide senates.

Elections Task Force Report
By Debbie Boschini

The Elections Task Force was formed to address concerns that had been raised regarding university-wide and school-wide elections. The task force identified a need to establish clear policies to guide the Academic Senate Elections Committee (ASEC) and School Elections Committees (SECs).

Sections 202.6 and 202.7 are integrated into the new University Handbook language proposed to the Senate on April 30, 2015. The organization of the content is significantly changed in order to improve readability and clarify the roles of the ASEC and SECs in senate-initiated and school-initiated elections. The ASEC and SECs are addressed separately, including descriptions of composition, purpose, responsibilities, policies, and procedures. A new section dedicated to School Elections was added. Previous lack of detail related to school elections was problematic, and was primarily responsible for the original referral to the Task Force.

Notable updates:

• The ASEC now includes 5 members: the Chairs of each SEC and the Vice Chair of the Academic Senate. This change was made to ensure well-informed representation from all schools.
• The timelines for nominations and voting have been reduced from 5 to 3 days in order to expedite the process. Evidence showed that most nominations and votes are received in the first 48 hours.
• The procedure for opening school-level calls to the general faculty (after a lack of response from the school) was rewritten to improve readability.
• “Elections shall be conducted electronically” was added to the policies and procedures for senate-initiated elections to reflect the current—and preferred—practice. This also ensures campus-wide consistency in voting procedures.