Report on ASCSU Plenary September 2-4, 2015

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Among the topics Filling spoke about were CCC Baccalaureate Programs. His comments are paraphrased in the paragraph below.

**CCC Baccalaureate Programs**
The CCC continues to move forward with development of the 15 pilot baccalaureate degree programs. Last spring Chancellor White and CCC Chancellor Harris agreed that CSU and CCC would engage in further conversations about four of the programs in pursuit of resolving concerns about duplication of CSU programs and curriculum. The ASCSU will be contacting the campuses objecting to those four programs in the next few weeks to begin that process. The four programs are Automotive Technology [Rio Hondo College], Interaction Design [Santa Monica College], Occupational Studies [Santa Ana College] and Respiratory Care [Modesto Junior College].

Senators voiced concern during the plenary about Community Colleges offering Bachelor’s degrees. The worry was that the CCs are ignoring the opinions of the CSU. Nevertheless, there were discussions on the general floor and in committees about how to maintain a meaningful dialog with the CCs in order for the CSU to have a future input and say in their Bachelor’s programs. The discussion is ongoing. A question which has come up before, and came up again this time, is if community colleges are offering degrees, how is their upper division GE to be measured?

**Bad Campus Climate**
The bad campus climate at Chico, San Bernardino, and San Luis Obispo came up in Chair Filling’s report, and in comments by various senators from the relevant campuses. That climate is characterized by lack of shared governance, which in the case of San Bernardino is demonstrated by the president refusing to speak to the senate. In San Bernardino a popular provost was dismissed. Senator Ullman (from that campus) gave us a brief update on the situation at San Bernardino.

In Chico an interim provost was made permanent without consultation, and in complete violation of policy. Senators Schulte and Selvester from Chico gave a brief update on the situation at Chico.

There was discussion about sending an ASCSU senate delegation to the troubled campuses. This has been put off until the next senate meeting in November.
Jennifer Eagan, CFA liaison to the ASCSU, spoke on the “Fight for Five” campaign. The CFA wants a 5% increase for faculty to make up for inflation. So far the Chancellor is not amenable.

Chancellor White made a thirty-minute appearance. He spoke about a new CSU mission statement, and about the four current presidential searches. The issue came up about whether presidential searches should be open or closed. He argued that if they were open many viable candidates would not apply. However, Steven Filling in a recent email to CSU senators states, “I encourage faculty at campuses in the process of searching for a president to strongly assert the need for open searches that allow the campus community to fully participate in the process. How else are we to do our best to ensure a good fit of candidate and campus?”

Financial Sustainability
The Chancellor convened a taskforce last year to work on “Financial Sustainability”. The report may appear at the November meeting. A report on the work of the taskforce was provided by Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer.

There were comments from senators that the term “sustainability” was a decoy, and excused the state from granting adequate support to the CSU. Instead, the implication was that somehow if the money was redistributed within the system money would be found. The implication, some believed, was that money was being mismanaged, wasted, and, if applied correctly, we would be self-sufficient and “sustainable”.

Draft Report of the Ethnic Studies Task Force
Chair Filling convinced the leadership of the task force to extend the deadline for comment on the draft report to 30 September. Campuses should share their opinions with the task force committee before 30 September. There were concerns among some senators about the report to do with ownership of courses, and the role of ethnic studies faculty.

Other ongoing issues are how to fix the problem of tenure density in the CSU. Even though the CO states that it is doing as much as it can, not everyone remains convinced since we are still very much behind the 2009 level.

Background Searches must now be conducted on all new employees of the CSU. This measure has been introduced since early August. It was criticized as it may slow down sudden hires.

Resolutions
The individual resolutions (five) acted on by the ASCSU at its September 2-4, 2015 Plenary may be found at http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Resolutions/2015-2016/index.shtml
Among the interesting resolutions were those on the cessation of the High school exit exam, support for a gun free school zone, and one that stated that the ASCSU appoint a
taskforce on the requirements of CSU GE Mathematics/Quantitative reasoning credit. CSUB Senator Stephen Frye will elaborate on these resolutions at our Senate meeting on Thursday, September 17.