Report on Academic Senate CSU Plenary Meeting  
November 5-6, 2015  
Clíona Murphy  
CSUB Statewide Senator 

Chair’s Report  
The report of Steven Filling, Chair of the Statewide Academic Senate, can be found here  
http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Chairs_Reports/ 

Chair Filling stated that the executive committee of the ASCSU continues to be alert 
about the problems of shared government on some campuses. Chair Filling has been 
visiting various campuses and plans to visit our campus in the new year. 

Campus Climates and Shared Governance 
Senator Jodie Ullman from San Bernardino provided an update on the situation at her 
campus. They are getting ready to launch a campus climate survey. The perception is 
that the situation is getting worse. There were similar reports from Chico and from San 
Luis Obispo. According to Senator Foroohar from SLO, there is extreme “administrative 
bloat” with a 40% increase in administration in the last year. She also gave examples of 
problems with shared governance, and said that when they asked the chancellor to 
investigate, he told them it was an internal issue. In the words of another senator “nothing 
good is happening.” In East Bay, it was asserted that the president, who is in his fourth 
year, won’t meet with the executive committee of the senate. There is more to the story 
there, but I don’t want to get the facts wrong. On the other hand, in San Jose State the 
morale has greatly improved under a new interim president. The entire cabinet has been 
changed, except for the provost who is well liked. 

Jennifer Eagan, CFA liaison to the ASCSU, spoke on the “Fight for Five” campaign. 
She stated that 80% of CFA voted in the recent ballot. Therefore, the 94.4% vote in favor 
of the strike was from a large part of the membership. There has been a surge in 
membership recently, but the numbers are not available yet. Sixty six percent of faculty 
are members of CFA. 

Chancellor White made a short appearance and answered some questions. 

Financial Sustainability 
The taskforce which was convened last year to work on “Financial Sustainability” has not 
yet completed its report. The task force decided to delay its report (which was supposed 
to be ready this month) in light of all the input it received. Updates will follow. 

Ethnic Studies Task Force 
The deadline for comments on the Ethnic Studies Task Force draft report was 30 
September. A representative of the taskforce, Senator Loretta Kensinger from Fresno 
State, reported that fifteen campuses shared their opinions with the task force. The report
of the task force is due shortly, although Senator Kensinger is not sure exactly when that will be.

**Background Searches**
There was lengthy discussion and criticism on both days of the plenary concerning the new Background Search Policy which has been implemented in varying degrees on different campuses in the CSU. According to one senator, it was drafted without consultation with the ASCSU. On some campuses the department chair has to do it. On others, some parents now can’t go and read and cook at children’s centers on campuses without a criminal background check. There was criticism that it slows down searches and leads to the loss of candidates not only on the campuses, but also in the Chancellor’s Office. Vice Chancellor Lori Lamb agrees that the policy has many problems and needs to be revised. She will form a task force and will listen to different campus complaints about the current policy. She gave particular attention to the president of ASI in Humboldt State, Juan Cervantes (also the president of CSSA), who addressed the plenary. He stated that, under the new policy, students now have to pay around $90 dollars for background searches instead of $15 dollars under the old policy. He claimed that this had cut the number of students from applying for internships and on-campus jobs from roughly 1,400 to 300. (A resolution was passed to suspend the present policy and revert to the 2005 policy. See Resolutions below)

**Common Human Resources System**
Vice Chancellor Lori Lamb also spoke about the completion of the CHRS project. It is a new reporting system in CSU. It will include an upgrade to newest version of PeopleSoft. It will make consistent HR practices on each campus, and streamline how we do our payroll. She admitted that some jobs may be lost, but she hoped that people would be reassigned. There were complaints from the floor about the extraordinary cost of this new system. It was suggested that the money could be used instead for more faculty positions.

**Loren Blanchard, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs** addressed the plenary. He responded to an ASCSU concern about the Chancellor’s response to a resolution from the September plenary ([http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Resolutions/2015-2016/documents/3235.shtml](http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Resolutions/2015-2016/documents/3235.shtml)). In that response, the Chancellor stated that faculty were just one constituency to consider when establishing a taskforce on the requirements of the CSU General Education Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning Credit.

Blanchard was given the opportunity to say that there was some type of misunderstanding about the Chancellor’s response, and the senators were taking umbrage unnecessarily. Essentially, he confirmed that this was not a misunderstanding on the part of the ASCSU, and it was indeed was the view of the Chancellor. As a result of this confirmation, a number of senators felt that there was an increasing dismissal of the faculty voice and role in the university. Such a conviction was reflected in the passing of a few resolutions, and in this particular case resolution AS-3235-15/AA (see below for resolutions). This extract from the resolution conveys the dismay of the ASCSU:

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**Resolutions Below**

**AS-3235-15/AA**

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RESOLVED: That the ASCSU express concern about the Chancellor’s Office Response to [AS-3230-15/APEP/AA] Establishing a Task Force on the Requirements of CSU General Education (GE) Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) Credit, which implies that the ASCSU faculty voice is one among many, rather than the most significant, “stakeholder” in curriculum design as it relates to CSU quantitative reasoning requirements;

Tenure Density
Vice Chancellor Blanchard also spoke about the CO’s efforts to increase tenure density. Senator Guerin, from Fullerton, informed him that the efforts exerted so far, and the money invested this year ($11 million) for recruitment, were not enough. She said that while it is true that 742 tt faculty were hired this year 570 tt faculty had separated from the CSU. That left us with 172 new positions, not 742. She also argued that we have to factor in FTES growth. This means that there is even lower tenure density. While we are growing enrollment, we are still losing ground. We need over a 1075 new tt faculty if we are growing FTES at 3%. She concluded that if we are growing FTES, we need a “more muscular effort to improve tenure density”.

Alumni council
Dia Pool from the Alumni Council (liaison) addressed the plenary. She informed the meeting that 100,000 alums are added every year. The 3 million mark was reached this year. She asserted that it is time for the nomination of an alumni council trustee.

ERFA
Harold Goldwater from the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (liaison) told the plenary that the composition of chapters of ERFA differs on different campuses as regards their composition. In some, staff are part of ERFA. Others are elitist and are only open to emeriti faculty. This is relevant to faculty at CSUB as efforts are underway to nourish the almost non-existent Bakersfield chapter. ERFA’s newsletter The Reporter is admirably edited (according to Goldwater), and contains worthwhile updates of interest to all faculty, especially to do with health benefits. The November issue can be found here http://csuerfa.org/pdf/Reporter-Nov-2015.pdf

ERFA is still looking for an exec director. The ad is on their website. It is a part-time position (out of Northridge and much of the work can be done online). If you know of any candidates contact ERFA.

Resolutions
The seven resolutions acted on by the ASCSU at its November 4-6, 2015 Plenary may be found at http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Resolutions/2015-2016/index.shtml

Of particular interest to CSUB faculty are the resolutions concerning open presidential searches (approved unanimously), the resolution to suspend the present policy on
background searches, and the resolution regarding the Chancellor’s response to an earlier ASCSU September resolution. These three reflect the concern of the ASCSU concerning the lack of shared governance, and the belief that the CO is not listening to the faculty of the CSU.

Below is a summary of the resolutions compiled by Catherine Nelson, SSU Statewide Senator.

Resolutions Passed

**AS-3223-15/FA Call for Suspension of CSU Background Check Policy:**
This resolution calls for suspension of the new CSU Background Check Policy and for a joint ASCSU and Chancellor’s Office task force, with the participation of the California Faculty Association, to study the policy and make recommendations about its implementation with regard to issues relevant to faculty. The rationale indicates that the policy could have significant implications for potential faculty employees’ privacy rights and hiring and attracting the strongest and most diverse faculty.

**AS-3228-15/FA Addition of a Retired Faculty Member to the CSU Board of Trustees:** This resolution advocates for the addition of a retired faculty as a voting member of the CSU Board of Trustees and urges the Chancellor’s Office to support legislation to achieve that end. The resolution specifically clarifies that the addition of a retired faculty trustee should not substitute for having a second faculty member serve on the CSU Board of Trustees as called for in AS-3017-11/EX (Rev) Addition of a Second Faculty Trustee to the Board of Trustees. Passed without dissent.

**AS-3229-15/FGA California State University 2016-17 Support Budget Preliminary Plan:** This resolution commends the CSU for its 2016-17 Support Budget Plan, which recognizes that CSU fiscal needs are significantly greater than those in the governor’s multi-year funding plan. It supports the 3% proposed increase for funded enrollment growth in the plan and strongly urges the Board of Trustees to amend the plan to provide a compensation pool increase for all employees substantially beyond the proposed two percent (2%) currently in the plan.

**AS-3231-15/FGA Commendation for Associate Vice Chancellor Ron Vogel:** This resolution is a commendation for former Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs Ron Vogel.

**AS-3233-15/EX Commendation in Memory of CSU Academic Senator Shane G. Frehlich:** This resolution honors Senator Shane G. Frehlich, CSU Northridge, who
recently passed away on September 4, 2015 due to complications of Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

**AS-3234-15/EX: Presidential Search Processes in the California State University System:** Announcement of finalists and visits to Campuses: This resolution reaffirms the position on open presidential searches expressed in AS-3035-11/FA Response to Proposed Changes to the Board of Trustees Policy for the Selection of Presidents and declares that the ASCSU stands in solidarity with the 21 campus senates that have approved resolutions in favor of the public announcement of finalists and public visits by finalists. It urges that the selection processes for the four 2015-16 CSU presidential searches provide for the public announcement of finalists and accompanying official campus visits by finalists. Finally, it urges the Chancellor and Board of Trustees to revise the BOT policy to provide for the public announcement of finalists and official public visits by finalists. Passed unanimously.

**AS-3235-15/AA Chancellor’s Office Response to AS-3230-15/APEP/AA Establishing a Task Force on the Requirements of CSU General Education (GE) Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) Credit:** This resolution expresses concern about the Chancellor’s Office Response to AS-3230-15, which implies that the faculty is one voice among many, rather than the most significant, “stakeholder” in curriculum design as it relates to CSU quantitative reasoning requirements. The resolution also urges the Chancellor’s Office to revise its response to clarify the faculty’s primacy over curriculum. It also urges the Chancellor’s Office to prioritize faculty leadership in efforts to address the larger questions of student success and inter-segmental alignment of curriculum across disciplines and segments alluded to in the response.

**First Reading Resolutions**

**AS-3236-15/FA Reaffirming the Principle of Shared Governance Within the California State University:** This resolution reaffirms the principle of shared governance contained in HEERA, and asks the Chancellor in his response to this resolution to substantiate how the principle of “shared leadership” either conforms to or differs from the definition of shared governance in HEERA and AAUP documents. It also expresses ongoing concern about the Chancellor’s response to requests for assistance from campus faculty leadership about documented violations of shared governance on their campuses.

**AS-3237-15/FGA CSU Acknowledgement of California Taxpayers as University Donors:** This resolution encourages campus Senates, campus Advancement/Philanthropy offices and the Chancellor’s office to find ways to acknowledge the role of taxpayers in funding the CSU. It recommends adding, where feasible, the phrase “funded by taxpayers like you,” to donor walls, websites, advancement brochures and other places that recognize private donor philanthropy.

**AS-3238-15/AA Role of California State University Faculty in the Evaluation of Courses for Transfer:** This resolution stems from concerns raised by campus senate
chairs about the implications for course transferability raised by AB 386, CSU Fully Online Courses, CourseMatch, and the advent of upper division GE courses in CCC BA degree programs. It affirms that campus curricula and the satisfactory completion of degree requirements are the purview of local campus faculty. It also encourages campus academic senates to develop policies or review existing policies for transfer of courses that: ensure the primacy of faculty in establishing the criteria for, and evaluation of, the transferability of courses; guarantee communication between articulation officers, department chairs and curricular and shared governance bodies; maintain a clear and transparent process to meet degree requirements; facilitate progress toward graduation; and allow for the re-evaluation of articulated courses by faculty.

**AA-3239-15/FA Inclusion of Non-Tenure Track Instructional Faculty in Faculty Orientation Programs:** This resolution advocates for the inclusion of lecturers in annual and semi-annual faculty orientation days (including these days as part of compensated contractual time). It also urges that in the context of faculty orientation, general campus resource information and specific materials relevant to the rights and benefits of CSU lecturers be made available to non-tenure track instructional faculty.

**AA-3240-15/FA/FGA Request for Joint Task Force to Develop a Vision Plan for Ongoing Tenure/Tenure Track Recruitment:** This resolution thanks the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, Governor and Legislature for recognizing the need to increase tenure/tenure-density in the CSU and for providing in the 2015-16 budget, baseline funding specifically targeted for the hire of tenure-track faculty. The resolution further calls upon the Chancellor, working with the ASCSU, to establish a joint task force for the purpose of developing a multi-year systematic plan to increase tenure/tenure-track density in the CSU.