

## **Faculty Trustee's Report: Brief Summary of the September 18-19, 2012 Board of Trustees' Meeting**

This report offers a brief summary of what occurred during the Board of Trustees meeting on September 18-19, 2012. Not all Board items are included, only those in which actions occurred that are deemed particularly significant and/or of potential immediate interest to faculty. A detailed report with links and attachments will be forwarded in the near future. The full agenda can be accessed at <http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/?source=homepage> and the text of all resolutions passed by the Board is available at <http://www.calstate.edu/BOT/Resolutions/Sept2012.pdf>.

**Collective Bargaining:** Four successor contracts were ratified (CFA, SETC-Unit 6, SUPA-Unit 8, CSUEU-Unit 12) and initial proposals for a successor contract were adopted for CSUEU-Unit 13.

Public comment included:

- acknowledgement of successful contract negotiations, with understanding that there are a number of critical issues to be addressed
- several references to Prop 30 and 32 and the importance of engaging in concerted activity to ensure that voters are fully informed
- concern regarding the outsourcing of IT functions
- the need for more centralized standards regarding tobacco use on campuses

**Governmental Relations:** AVC Zamarripa reported on numerous bills, all of which are covered in the agenda posted on the [calstate.edu](http://calstate.edu) website. Concern was expressed by both Zamarripa and Chancellor Reed regarding the impact of the greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program which could cost the CSU up to \$9 million. They currently are advocating for campuses in order to mitigate the impact.

**Finance:** Item #1 was the most controversial item on the Finance Committee agenda. It included three resolutions focused upon strategies intended to address the current fiscal crisis and possible \$250 million trigger cut. Each of these resolutions engendered considerable discussion from the Trustees, the campus presidents and the public.

- Resolution #1, the “Budget Contingency Plan,” focuses upon the trigger. Discussion on this item centered primarily on the impacts to employee salaries from the health care benefit provision and on student tuition from the proposed increase. Cheyne made a motion to postpone action on the health care benefits proposal until more information was available to the Board regarding impacts on employees, especially those in the lower salary classifications. The motion failed with 6 yes and 8 no votes. Cheyne also attempted to modify the assigned time/sabbaticals provision under the “Campus Specific Strategies” section but was told the language in the document could not be amended, only the resolution. The resolution ultimately was amended to include consultation with campus faculty leadership when implementing its provisions. The amended resolution was passed with three no votes (Cheyne, Ruddell, Torlakson).
- Discussion on resolution #2, “Contingent Tuition Fee Actions,” primarily centered around impacts on students in the event the trigger cut is implemented. This resolution passed with three no votes (Cheyne, Ruddell, Torlakson).
- Resolution #3, “Modification to the Schedule of Fees,” includes three strategies: Graduation Incentive Fee (aka “Super Seniors”), Course Repeat Fee, and Added Units Fee (imposed for units in excess of 16 per semester). This item was postponed until the November meeting so that more information could be gathered regarding its potential impacts on students.

Item #2 presented what AVC Turnage described as a realistic, albeit somewhat ambitious, approach to the CSU’s 2013-14 request for funding. The proposal includes additional funding for a number of items which totals a \$421 million increase, \$336 million from the state general fund and \$85 million from enrollment growth. The plan would bring annual CSU spending to approximately \$4.4 billion.

**Educational Policy:** Item #3 dealt with the proposal to set a maximum of 120 semester/180 quarter units for most degree programs. A PowerPoint presentation addressed the amended proposal and considerable discussion ensued from the Board, campus presidents, the public, CSSA and the ASCSU. The presentation referenced faculty consultation. Chair Guerin offered a very strong statement regarding the lack of consultation on this matter (a copy of which has been distributed to the ASCSU via e-mail). Cheyne reinforced Guerin’s comments, noting that consultation had been very recent and that considerably more systemwide dialogue is needed. This will be an action item at the November meeting and campuses are strongly encouraged to offer their input on the particulars of this proposal.

Agenda item #4 provided an update on SB 1440. It was noted that 10 campuses will be open to SB 1440 students for Spring 2013 transfer: 18 transfer degrees are available; the CO currently is dealing with the problem of “false positives” and putting strategies into place to address this issue; and a website intended to promote the transfer program can

now be accessed at [www.degreewithaguarantee.com](http://www.degreewithaguarantee.com). Jim Postma indicated that the Upper Division GE issue has had a serious impact on the success of SB 1440 and that significant discussion will be needed to address the implications.

**Joint Meeting of Educational Policy and Finance:** A PowerPoint was offered describing the focus and intent of Cal State Online and the changes to Title 5 in order to include this new initiative. Additional changes are recommended to include Cal State Online in the student fee policy. CFA representative David Bradfield expressed concern that the setting of fees has been delegated to the Chancellor rather than being a matter determined by the Board so that the public, parents and students have notice and the opportunity to engage in public debate. This was presented as an information item and will come before the Board for action in November.