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## Faculty Trustee's Report

### CSU Board of Trustees Meeting – Jan. 22-23, 2019

Hereby I respectfully submit a summary of the Board of Trustees meeting. My report is largely based on the agenda materials provided to the trustees, on my personal notes from the meeting, and on my memory.

I tried my best to accurately reflect the deliberations, and I hope to have quoted correctly and paraphrased in the spirit of the presenters' and speakers' intentions. If you notice any inaccuracy or misrepresentation, please let me know ([Romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu](mailto:Romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu)).

Towards the end of my first term as Faculty Trustee, I am proud to report that I will have visited 20 campuses in an official capacity, and I hope to attend graduation ceremonies at the other three. This semester, I am scheduled to visit the following institutions:

Jan. 24: Imperial Valley Campus

Apr. 22: CSU Stanislaus

Jan. 29: CSU East Bay

Apr. 23: CSU Bakersfield

Feb. 4: CSU Monterey Bay

Apr. 24: Fresno State

Mar. 1: Sacramento State

May 14: CSU Channel Island

Mar. 21: CSU Dominguez Hills

I look forward to seeing you when I will be on your campus,

Romey Sabalius  
Faculty Trustee

San José, CA – Feb. 13, 2018

# Faculty Trustee's Report

## CSU Board of Trustees Meeting: Jan. 22-23, 2019

On Jan. 22 and 23, the CSU Board of Trustees meeting was held at the Chancellor's Office of the California State University at 401 Golden Shore in Long Beach, California.

1. The **Committee on Educational Policy Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees** met at 7:30 am on Tuesday in **Closed Session**.
2. Subsequently, the entire **Board of Trustees** joined the **Committee on Educational Policy** in **Closed Session** for the presentation of the suggested recipients for Honorary Degrees. The names will be held confidential until the honorees have accepted the offer. They need to be present (usually at graduation) to receive the honorary doctorate.
3. The **Board of Trustees** continued in **Closed Session** to discuss Executive Personnel Matters and Pending Litigation.
4. The **Committee on Collective Bargaining** met in **Closed Session**.  
[Note: The Faculty Trustee is excused from deliberations of the Collective Bargaining Committee].

The **Public Meeting** started at 9:30.

5. **Chancellor Timothy White** delivered the annual State of the California State University Address. The Chancellor expressed his gratitude to Governor Newsom for his funding plan for the CSU. Since the allocations are proposed with the expectation that tuition will remain flat, the Chancellor announced that he will not ask the Board for a tuition increase for the coming year. [The governor's budget proposal was discussed in greater detail by the Committee on Finance on page 3 of this report].

The Chancellor reported on the results of the Graduation Initiative 2025, which resulted in the highest number of graduates in the history of our system (over 100,000). The 4-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen increased by 6% and the 2-year rate for transfer students by 7%. Furthermore, the achievement gap narrowed by almost 2%.

Chancellor White stressed that "bringing educational opportunities to all Californians" is part of the mission of the California State University and it "also reflects [his] personal commitment to equity." On the morning after Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Chancellor paid tribute to the humanitarian ideals of the civil rights leader as well as to the student protests of the 1960s, which "served as the crucible in which multiple perspectives were voiced, debates were sparked, and leadership was born and nurtured." In that spirit, we should "welcome dissent and learn from it."

Equity and compassion were the main themes throughout the optimistic address.

6. The **Committee on Institutional Advancement** began with Public Comments. Ejmin Hakobian demanded that appointees to the Board should be people who graduated in this millennium, not in the 60s. [Mr. Hakobian was listed as speaker to address every single committee of the Board. Throughout the meeting on Tuesday, he voices several grievances. On Wednesday, he was not present].
- a. The Naming of the Milton A. Gordon Hall at CSU Fullerton recognizes a donation of property with a value of over \$1 million. Dr. Milton A. Gordon was provost at Sonoma State and served as the fourth president at CSU Fullerton for 21 years.
  - b. The Naming of the Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery at Cal State LA recognizes a \$1 million irrevocable pledge. Ron Silverman was an art professor at Cal State LA from 1955 to 1988, and he established an endowed scholarship fund.
  - c. The committee received and approved the Annual Report on Donor Support for 2017-2018. The CSU received \$482 million in new gifts and pledges. Sixteen campuses and the Chancellor's Office achieved increases in giving from a total of nearly 263,000 donors (among them 94,000 alumni), which is 9,000 more than in the previous year.

Endowments grew by 6.5% in investment returns and by \$61 million in new gifts to a record high of \$1.7 billion. More than half of the endowment gifts are designated to scholarships, and \$57 million were distributed last year to fund scholarships, research, innovation, and faculty excellence. For long-term capital projects, campuses received \$22 million for major facility construction and renovation.

President Joseph Castro reported on the "Day of Giving" (DOG) at Fresno State. This 24-hour campaign generated approx. 3,000 gifts from over 2,000 donors from 42 US states and 18 countries in the amount of nearly half a million dollars to support scholarships, research, programs, and student experiences.

7. The **Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds**
- a. approved the schematic plans for the Science and Agriculture Teaching and Research Complex at Cal Poly SLO at a project cost of \$125 million. Designed for the use by all three colleges, the building will facilitate cross-major collaboration and invigorate student learning. The two-building design will allow the project to be constructed in phases if the total project funding will not be available at the start of construction, which is envisioned for June 2019 with predicted occupancy in August 2021.
8. The **Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds**
- a. gave Final Approval of a Public-Private Partnership Student Housing Development Project at Sacramento State. The \$164 million project will create 284 apartment style units with 1,100 beds for upper division students. In this innovative public-private partnership, Sacramento State will purchase land adjacent to the campus from the City of Sacramento and lease it for 85 years to a private developer, who will construct the apartments, rent, and maintain them. The campus will receive 7.25% of total revenues, which are projected to be approx. \$1 million in the first year of operation. After the termination of the lease, the university will have the right to purchase the facility via a Right of First Refusal or Right of First Offer.



9. The **Committee on Finance** began with Public Comments. Jonathan Karpf (CFA) argued for a bolder state allocation request by the Board. He urged the CSU to focus spending on its core mission: to teach. Furthermore, he would like to see enrollment growth in people, not just in FTES, supported by more faculty and more classes. Sharon Elise (CFA) mentioned student basic needs and believes that the \$15 million in the Board's budget request was not enough. She claimed that "only one CSU campus meets the recommended minimum of 1 counselor for 1,500 students." Tessy Reese (CSUEU) urged "not to farm out our students with mental health issues to outside agencies."

- a. The committee approved the 2019-2020 Lottery Budget Report. Of the estimated revenue of \$53 million, 84% will be distributed directly to the campuses for instruction-related programs and activities. The remaining funds will be allocated in approximately the same amounts as last year to four system-wide programs: the DREAM Loan Program, the Doctoral Incentive Program, the Pre-Doctoral Program, and to Summer Arts.

Trustee Carney asked whether "lottery funds that go to campuses can be used to enhance mental health services?" Ryan Storm, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget, responded that the CSU is careful not to use money from year-to-year sources for permanent commitments, such as the hiring of faculty and staff. Chancellor White added that the CSU is already increasing the amounts for mental health from a variety of other sources. For example, over \$6 million from the Graduation Initiative 2025 are being spent this year for student well-being.

- b. The committee received the 2019-2020 Operating Budget Update as an information item. There is broad-based satisfaction with the governor's proposed budget, which – if approved– would mark the single largest augmentation in the history of the CSU. The Board of Trustees' request for **mandatory cost and salary increases** was fully matched. Instead of funding an **increase in enrollment** of 5%, the governor proposed support for just 2% growth. He further allocated \$45 million for the **Graduation Initiative 2025**, which falls short of the requested \$75 million, the amount that the CSU received in previous years. In total, this constitutes an increase of \$300 to the CSU operating fund, which is expected to grow to over \$8 billion. In addition, the CSU can expect one-time allocations for our **deferred maintenance backlog** (\$247 million) and for **student basic needs partnerships** (\$15 million).

While grateful to Governor Newsom for his substantial augmentation, Trustee Sabalius, "only celebrated with a bottle of exquisite and expensive mineral water." After all, the proposed funding still falls approximately \$160 million short of the trustees' budget request, which was developed to merely cover essential needs and mandatory cost increases. Except for a reduced amount designated for the GI 2025, there are no allocations for new projects, new technologies, innovation, and expansion. Also, a requested line item of \$80 million annually to fund a bond to address the CSUs staggering deferred maintenance backlog in the amount of \$3.7 billion was not funded at all. Regarding the latter, the expectation is to place an \$8 billion bond measure on the ballot in 2020, which would be shared equally with the University of California (see following committee 10b).

## 10. The Committee on Governmental Relations

- a. approved the Statement of Legislative Principles for 2019-2020. The following constitute the core principles guiding recommendations on legislation [abbreviated]:
  - retain oversight of academic affairs and internal governance
  - preserve the integrity of the collective bargaining process
  - remain neutral on legislation of general public health and safety
  - preserve the integrity of the CSU budget process and seek adequate funding
  - seek influence on issues which would have a disproportionate impact on the CSU
  - secure representation on appropriate boards, commissions, task forces, etc.
  - recognize the Chancellor as the CSU spokesperson regarding state and federal legislative proposals
- b. approved the Sponsored State Legislative Program for 2019.
  - Occupation Therapy Doctorate
    - # the accrediting body for occupational therapy has mandated a doctorate as entry level degree for the profession
    - # San José State and CSU Dominguez Hills provide the only public occupational therapy master's programs in California
    - # employment of occupational therapists is expected to grow 23.8% by 2026
  - Higher Education General Obligation Bond
    - # sponsorship of a ballot measure in 2020 for higher education facilities
    - # \$8 billion to be divided equally with the UC
    - # 56% of CSU's academic facilities are more than 40 and 15% over 60 years old
    - # the last bond authorization for higher education was passed in 2006
- c. approved the Federal Agenda for 2019-2020. The top federal priorities are to
  - # restore annual cost-of-living increases to Pell Grants
  - # renew the expiring mandatory funding stream that promotes STEM education at minority-serving institutions

Trustee Day suggested to change a provision that prohibits applicants, who have a previous drug conviction, to receive financial aid. Students should not be prevented to afford a higher education due to a mistake in their youth. Trustee Simon supported that request to help end the cycle of recidivism. Executive Vice Chancellor Loren Blanchard noted that it would require an act of Congress to change this federal law. He added that a study indicated that about 1,000 students nationwide are affected by this exclusion.

Several trustees voiced their concern about the pending expiration of the supplemental funding for minority-serving, including Hispanic-serving institutions, which would constitute a revenue loss for the CSU in the tens of millions of dollars.

- ## 11. The Committee on Educational Policy began with Public Comments. Leland Wessel, a staff physician at San Diego State, is puzzled that the CSU does not facilitate health insurance in the student's financial aid package as the UC does. Despite the Affordable Care Act and other medical assistance programs, our campuses should not assume that students are automatically covered.



- a. The committee received a report on the Associate Degree for Transfer. In 2010, the legislature (SB 1440) required the California Community Colleges to grant an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) to students who complete a set of General Education and major courses that align with the lower-division requirements for the degree at CSU campuses. With the completion of 60 eligible units for transfer and a minimum GPA of 2.0, such a degree would guarantee admission to the CSU at the junior level. While applicants with an ADT receive priority at their local CSU, admission to a specific campus or major is not guaranteed.

An academic senate-led Intersegmental Curriculum Workgroup created Transfer Model Curricula (TMCs) to outline degree pathways that would allow a seamless articulation of courses across the two systems. Currently, there are 40 ADT pathways that account for 90% of students' preferred majors.

Of the 61,000 CCC transfer students the CSU admitted in 2017-18, so far only 22,000 had an ADT. However, the number of ADT transfers is drastically increasing. Students with an ADT have better persistence and completion rates than other transfer students.

Trustee Nilon inquired whether the growth of guaranteed ADT transfers will put a strain on our impacted system and whether we will have to turn away first-time freshmen as a result? Nathan Evans, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor for EVC Blanchard, replied that the ADTs do not increase the number of transfer students overall, but they increase the share of better prepared community college students, who are bound to transfer anyway. However, the CCCs have committed themselves to increase the amount of transfer students by 35% until the year 2023 to meet California's workforce needs. This will continue to put enrollment pressure on the CSU. EVC Blanchard added that the increase in CCC transfer students aligns with the CSU's goal to graduate up to 500,000 additional students over the next decade.

A longer discussion ensued about the need for more ADTs in STEM majors and the difficulties of developing the necessary pathways, due to the rigorous requirements for entry into the upper-division level in these disciplines.

The phasing out of regular Associate Degrees and a new funding formula are further incentives for the CCCs to develop more ADTs. Newly-elected Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis praised the cooperation of the three segments of higher education to generate greater efficiencies and to maximize the resources of both students and the institutions.

Trustee Sabalius reminded the Board that, while the impetus for the creation of the ADTs came from the legislators, it was the expertise, dedication, and hard work of the faculty, who created the educational pathways (TMCs) to obtain the ADTs, which make the articulation of courses and a smooth transfer to the CSU possible.

- b. The committee received a report on Student Financial Aid. According to the report (which was in its essence already delivered to the ASCSU the week before), 81% of CSU students receive some form of financial aid and 59% of undergraduates have their tuition fully covered by non-loan aid. As a result, more than half of CSU bachelor degree recipients graduate with zero student debt. Furthermore, the average student loan debt for CSU students is \$17,367, which is significantly lower than the



amounts for graduates from all CA institutions (\$22,785), from public national institutions (\$27,293), and from all national institutions (\$28,650).

The estimated cost of attendance for 9 months at a CSU is \$25,600 for students who live on campus, \$26,136 for those who live off campus, and \$17,422 for students living at home. The students' financial aid eligibility is determined by subtracting the Expected Family Contribution from the estimated Cost of Attendance (COA – EFC = Need).

After receiving a student's financial aid application, campuses develop an individualized financial aid package that takes the following sources into account:

- **Federal Grants** (*maximum amounts*)
  - # Pell Grant (\$6,095)
  - # Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (\$4,000)
  - # Teacher Education for College and Higher Education Grant (\$4,000)
- **State Grants**
  - # Cal Grant A Entitlement Award (\$5,742)
  - # Cal Grant B Entitlement Award (\$1,672)
  - # Cal Grant CCC Transfer Entitlement Award (*either Cal Grant A or B*)
  - # Cal Grant A and B Competitive Award (*either Cal Grant A or B*)
- **CSU Grants**
  - # State University Grant (*at least equal to amount of tuition*)
  - # Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Grant (*need-based*)
  - # Doctoral Grants (*for Education, Nursing, and Physical Therapy*)
- **California Middle Class Scholarship** (*10% to 40% of tuition*)
- **Federal Work-Study** (*federal minimum wage or higher – up to \$5,000*)
- **Loans** (*as needed – after grants, scholarships, and work-study*)

Trustee Eisen voiced her concern that applying for financial aid can be a significant “administrative barrier,” especially for first-generation students. She wondered whether there are efforts to assist students to understand and access all available programs. Dean Kulju, Director of Student Financial Aid Services and Programs, confirmed that the process is “super-complicated and highly regulated.” For example, the ‘simplified form’ to apply for financial aid has 102 questions. However, since these are required government forms, the CSU has no control over it. Nathan Evans added that universities and colleges, schools, and county offices offer workshops and conduct open houses to assist students and their parents with financial aid applications.

- c. The committee presented the Wang Family Excellence Awards. Awards in the amount of \$20,000 are distributed in the following categories (*2019 awardees, CSU*):
- Outstanding Faculty Teaching (*Thomas Fowler, IV, SLO*)
  - Outstanding Faculty Innovator in Student Success (*Stephen P. Mezyk, LB*)
  - Outstanding Faculty Scholarship (*Guadalupe X. Ayala, SDSU*)
  - Outstanding Faculty Service (*Julia E. Curry Rodriguez, SJSU*)
  - Outstanding Staff Performance Award (*Lori Beth Way, SFSU*)

12. The **Committee on University and Faculty Personnel** began with Public Comments.

Most speakers were representatives of the CSU Employees Union (CSUEU), who commented on responses to the wildfires that forced the closure of several campuses at the end of last year. Some speakers were critical of the action or in-action of campuses, others found the responses adequate. They wondered what the CSU will do to better prepare for future incidents, and they offered the union's assistance to develop appropriate disaster response plans.

- a. The committee received a report on Recommended Revisions of Title 5 regarding the Catastrophic Leave Donation Program. In essence, it should expand the possibility for colleagues to support each other by removing the maximum limit and by allowing to donate across campuses.

13. The **Committee on Audit**

- a. received the Status Report on Current and Follow-up Internal Audit Assignments by Larry Mandel, Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer. "For the 2018 year, assignments were made to develop and execute individual campus audit plans; conduct audits of Information Technology (IT), Sponsored Programs and Construction; implement continuous auditing techniques; and to provide advisory services and investigation reviews. Follow-up on current and past assignments was also being conducted on approximately 40 completed campus reviews."
- b. approved the 2019 Audit Plan. The plan includes General Audits (68%), Advisory Services (15%), Audit Support (9%), Investigations (7%), and Committee/Special Projects (1%).

Trustee Faigin reminded the audience that audit reports are posted on campus websites and freely accessible. Trustee Carney asked what happens if a misuse of funds is detected? In that case, the campus will proceed, maybe with the involvement of campus police, depending on the magnitude of the impropriety.

14. The **Committee on Organizations and Rules**

- a. received the Proposed CSU Board of Trustees' Meeting Dates for 2020 as an information item. Compared to 2019, the Board will meet earlier in May [good for trustee attendance at graduations] and later in January and September [good for statewide academic senate meetings, which are scheduled in the preceding weeks – the proposed schedule helps to avoid ASCSU meetings during the winter break or too close to the start of the fall semester].

15. The **Plenary Session** began with Public Comments. William Blischke, President of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (ERFSA), offered its members' help with lobbying for legislation and funding.

Several speakers bemoaned that the murder of David Josiah Lawson, a student at Humboldt State who was killed in 2017 at an off-campus party, still remains unsolved. Tom Parker, a former consultant in the case, criticized the incompetence of the authorities in Humboldt County during the investigation. Other speakers demanded a



safety plan for students of color, who are recruited to CSU campuses in communities that are not prepared for the influx of minority students.

Sheila Hudson, a former Senior Associate Director of Athletics and Deputy Title IX Coordinator at Cal State LA, and her legal representatives spoke about her sexual harassment law suit against the CSU that was settled for \$2.75 million.

Several CSUEU representatives reiterated the necessity to have a CSU disaster response plan. One speaker was impressed by the financial aid available to students, but wonders how low-paid members of his union will get by.

The Board received the following Reports:

- a. The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Adam Day, welcomed the new ex-officio members to the Board: Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, State Superintendent of Public Instructions Tony Thurmond, and Governor Newsom as the President of the Board.

Chair Day appointed the Committee on Committees, which will assign trustees to committees for the following academic year.

In his report, Chair Day lauded the many accomplishments of the CSU, and he singled out exceptional successes:

- the award-winning Rose Bowl float, created by students from Cal Poly Pomona and San Luis Obispo
- the Mountain West Championship of Fresno's football team, which finished the season with a 12:2 record and in 21<sup>st</sup> place in college football play-off rankings
- the Eagle Scout Award for Tom Cropper, President of the Maritime Academy
- the Excellence and Innovation Award for Student Success and College Completion for Sacramento State.

Lastly, Chair Day announced that at future Board of Trustee meetings existing rules guiding public comment will be more strictly observed. Speakers addressing committees will have to speak to items on the agenda. During the plenary session, any matter can be brought up. Also, yielding time to other speakers will not be permitted anymore.

- b. Chancellor. (There was no separate report in addition to the State of the CSU Address).
- c. The Chair of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU), Catherine Nelson, presented and explained resolutions passed at the Academic Senate's January meeting and referenced resolutions that received a first reading.

She thanked Trustee Taylor for his visit to the ASCSU meeting and for his dedication to educational quality.

Chair Nelson concluded her report with a call to confront behavior patterns embedded deeply in institutional power dynamics, and she challenged the system to self-reflect on its inherent racism, sexism, and homophobia, so that we do not perpetuate what we try so hard to combat.

- d. Joe Nino, Chair of the California State Student Association (CSSA), delivered the report in place of President Mia Kagianas. He expressed his organization's satisfaction that there will be no tuition increase. He further stressed that –despite the laudable goals of the Graduation Initiative 2025– a 4-year path does not suit every student. Lastly, he reiterated the three priorities of the CSSA: to ensure the overall well-being, health, and

safety of students; to keep the CSU accessible, affordable, and sustainable; and to enable academic success and a holistic experience for all students.

- e. The President of the CSU Alumni Council, Manolo Morales, expressed appreciation for the governor's budget proposal [as most stakeholders before] and also for the avoidance of a tuition increase. Last year, the Alumni Council helped to coordinate a successful Holiday Food Drive, requesting that donations be shipped directly to campus food pantries. He further reported that their international programs continue to grow. The Council held its first system-wide alumni reception in London and plans to meet again in Hong Kong and Taipei as well as –for the first time– in Tokyo. The organization is a true global network with of over 3.7 million alumni.
- f. State Superintendent of Public Instructions, Tony Thurmond, provided some remarks at his first Board meeting. He shared that in his youth he benefited from many public programs, such as food stamps and free lunches, and especially from public education. He applauds the state's investment in higher education and to help students with basic needs. He also praised the Graduation Initiative 2025 for not setting the bar low, but for aiming towards aspirational goals that cultivate the potential of all students.

To close the session, the Board approved all resolutions that were previously passed in the various committees.

The Plenary Session of Board of Trustees was adjourned on Wednesday, Jan. 23, at around 11 am. The Board met in **Closed Session** to discuss Executive Personnel Matters, which adjourned at 12:15 pm.

**After the Board meeting and in the presence of many trustees, the Chancellor's Office honored outstanding members of the CSU police force with a Commendations Ceremony. Four officers received a Life Saving Medal, two officers earned a Medal of Valor, and one officer received a Medal of Valor / Purple Heart.**