

March 24-26, 2014 CSU Board of Trustees Meeting Faculty Trustee's Report

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The week after the March 2014 ASCSU Plenary session, the CSU Board of Trustees met on March 24-26, 2014. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

1. The Board of Trustees met in closed session on the morning of March 24 to interview the finalists for the position of President of Humboldt State University. On March 26, it was announced that Lisa A. Rossbacher had accepted the position. She will be the university's seventh, and the first female, president to lead Humboldt State in the campus' 100-year history. Rossbacher previously was the President of Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta, Georgia. This appointment will mark the return of Rossbacher to the CSU as she previously served as a professor of geological sciences (1984-1993) and as an associate vice president of Academic Affairs (1987-1993) at Cal Poly, Pomona.
2. The Committee on Educational Policy Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees met in closed session to review and approve several campus and Board nominations for honorary degrees to be awarded towards the close of the current academic year. The next step is for the nominees to be asked if they are willing to accept; the names of those who accept will then be made public by the nominating body.
3. During the public comment period of the meeting of the Committee on Collective Bargaining the main topic was bullying by CSU employees. Committee Chair Lou Monville commented that a review of current CSU policies on bullying will be scheduled for the May BOT meeting. Other topics during the public comment period involved praise of the open process regarding the emergency closure of the science building at SF State for health safety reasons, poor faculty salaries, and the issue of removal of s-factor courses.
4. The Committee on Institutional Advancement approved the naming of a campus program and a campus facility:

- a. CSU Northridge – naming of the College of Business and Economics at CSU Northridge as the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics in recognition of the \$10 million contribution by David Nazarian to the College to support strategic initiatives and priorities. In addition, Mr. Nazarian is committed to helping the College raise another \$15 million in the next three to five years. Members of Mr. Nazarian’s extended family were present at the Board meeting to hear a presentation by Mr. Nazarian, and the speeches by the Chancellor and CSU Northridge President Dianne Harrison in recognition of Mr. Nazarian’s commitment to the College.
- b. CSU Fresno – naming of the Softball Diamond in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at CSU Fresno as the Margie Wright Diamond in recognition of the support Coach Margie Wright provided to the sport over the years. Margie Wright, who retired in May 2012 from coaching softball at Fresno State, was present to receive recognition by the Chancellor and the CSU Fresno President Joseph Castro for her overall leadership in NCAA softball activities and her oversight in the design and construction of what is considered a premier collegiate softball stadium.

The report on measuring advancement appearing on the March committee agenda was delayed until the May BOT meeting.

5. The Committee on Organization and Rules met to approve the modified Rules Governing the Board of Trustees. The changes were needed to reflect the new title and reporting structure of the Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer who reports jointly to both the Chancellor and the Board, and some accompanying changes to the structure of the Committee on Audit. The Committee on Organization and Rules also reviewed the purposed 2015 meeting calendar for the Board. Approval of the calendar will occur during the May 2014 Board meeting.
6. The Committee on Finance met to hear a presentation from CSSA requesting a systemwide voluntary \$4 student fee to cover CSSA expenses – “Student Involvement and Representation Fee (SIRF).” This was a first reading for potential action during the May BOT meeting. The fee would replace the current funding structure for CSSA which is approximately half funded by the Chancellor’s Office and half funded by a student population based fee each campus student government organization pays to CSSA. ASCSU Chair Diana Guerin briefly spoke in support of this proposal. During an open comment period various representatives from campus student government organizations spoke both in favor and in opposition of the proposal with the majority of the comments being in favor. The major concern of some was just how voluntary the fee was; the plan is to provide students with an opt out option otherwise the fee is automatic. For the May discussion, I requested a cost analysis on the implementation of the fee in CMS.

The report on annual debt appearing on the March committee agenda was delayed until the May BOT meeting. The request to issue systemwide revenue bonds to cover the renovation of San Diego State University Zura Hall was approved; Zura Hall houses 600 beds for freshmen. Conceptual approval was given for San Francisco State to develop a public/private partnership for a mixed-use development of a campus site that currently houses 68 resident beds; the plan is for a replacement structure that would house 225 beds above the ground floor and provide 40,000 square feet of ground level retail space to benefit student needs.

7. The Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning met to discuss capital financing and the proposed 2014-2015 Governor's budget proposal to increase the CSU support budget to fund previously approved capital outlay projects and to provide the CSU with greater authority to finance/refinance capital projects. Concerns were expressed by members of the Board regarding the risks to the CSU of a constant funding model by the state when the CSU has a variable annual debt based on when bonds become due and future market interest rates. The plan is for the system to receive roughly \$297 million in General Funds annually to cover debt service with a possible increase to \$315 million starting in 2017-2018 in recognition of an improving state economy and some estimated peak years of debt in 2016 and 2020 when even \$315 million will not cover the amounts currently predicted to come due (if not refinanced at lower rates). The issue of deferred maintenance costs was raised both within the CSU system and throughout the entire state.
8. The Committee on Planning, Buildings and Grounds amended the 2013-2014 state and non-State funded capital outlay programs to include the following projects:
 - a. CSU Northridge Career Center renovations to the fourth floor of Bayramian Hall (\$1.7 million non-state funded)
 - b. San Diego State renovations on the first and third levels of the Student Services East building to create the Page Pavilion as a hub for students, faculty and alumni of the College of Business Administration (\$3.1 million non-state funded)
 - c. CSU San Marcos expansion of Field House to provide a multipurpose venue for sports, enabling the campus to achieve NCAA Division II membership standards (\$11.4 million non-state funded)
 - d. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo improvements to campus utilities to improve efficiency and operation (\$4 million state funded through 0-1% interest rate loans from Calif Energy Commission and Pacific Gas and Electric)

The CSU seismic safety program report appearing on the March committee agenda was delayed to the May BOT meeting. The committee heard a report on the CSU sustainability goals and proposed policy revision. The proposed policy aims to expand sustainability practices and principles beyond facilities operation and campus development in include incorporation of sustainable principles into academic curriculum in alignment with ASCSU resolution AS-2800-07/FGA/AA, May 10-11, 2007. During the public comment period, a number of students called for “real food” to be required on all campuses and a report on implementing a sustainable food policy in the CSU was distributed by students involved with the “Real Food for CSUs core planning team”. San Francisco State was recognized as being in the forefront of the green movement.

9. The Committee on Educational Policy heard reports on the progress of the Early Start Program and reducing bottlenecks. Early Start is a trustee initiative approved in May 2009 with the mandate that beginning with the class of 2012, all new freshmen who do not demonstrate college-readiness in mathematics and/or English be required to begin to address these deficiencies either at a CSU campus, at a community college or at high school before they start their first term at a CSU. This initiative actually built on prior projects with K-12 to enable students to arrive at the CSU proficient for college-level work. The performance of students who participated in the 2012 and 2013 summer Early Start Program was reported. Overall, the data shows that even with 15-hour Early Start summer courses, Early Start participants had a shorter average time to proficiency than their “should-have” peers. For the 2013 fall term, 57% of all entering freshmen were considered proficient in both mathematics and English. One unexpected fact was that 10% of Early Start participants during both 2012 and 2013 did not enroll in the following fall term.

The reports on reducing bottlenecks focused on the student survey results, the department chair survey results and current actions to improve student success in these areas with a focus on the use of technology. The current Course Redesign Project was covered which integrates the use of technology to redesign bottleneck issues in courses from over 25 disciplines. CourseMatch, which allows students from one CSU campus to take online course from another CSU campus, was discussed. How technology is being used to support virtual labs in STEM disciplines was addressed and the redesign of academic advisement through the use of advanced, computer-based tools was commented on. I reminded the presenters and the trustees that technology can assist in solving the bottleneck problems but it is not a replacement for the hiring of tenure-track faculty, especially in growing disciplines.

The report on the CSU Graduation Initiative appearing on the March committee agenda was delayed until the May BOT meeting. The one action

item by the committee was the approval of the updated CSU Academic Master Plan Ten-Year Overview of Future Programs document listing programs planned for implementation between 2014-2015 and 2024-2025. As part of the discussion on the Academic Master Plan was an update on the current Title 5 requirement regarding 120 semester/180 quarter units being the ceiling for all B.A. and B.S. degree programs. Most of this conversation focused on the issue of engineering programs and their difficulties in achieving this goal. The Chancellor discussed his plans for the creation of an advisor group to review the overall needs of engineering towards making a recommendation to him regarding how engineering can meet their accreditation and professional need requirements while achieving some measure of progress towards a reduced time and units to graduation. Current plans call for me to service on this advisory group.

10. The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel approved the executive compensation packages for the President of CSU Long Beach, the Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer and the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer.
11. The Committee on Audit reviewed two reports: current and follow-up internal Audit assignments, and corrective actions on university A-133 single audit reports and auxiliary organization audit reports for fiscal year 2012-2013. A report was also heard on compliance with NCAA requirements for reporting financial data.
12. The Committee on Governmental Relations heard from Garrett Ashley, Vice Chancellor, University Relations and Advancement, and Karen Zamarripa, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations on legislative initiatives for the 2014 state legislative session of interest to the CSU. Of special interest are the two Board sponsored pieces of legislation: AB 2324 (Williams) Faculty-Trustee Holdover Appointment and AB 2736 Committee on Higher Education, Williams) Postsecondary Education: California State University. AB 2324 extends the appointment of the Faculty Trustee for up to two years in the absence of a new appointment by the Governor. AB 2736 cleans up three reporting dates in existing legislation by establishing more practical reporting deadlines.
13. As a Committee of the Whole, the Board heard the General Counsel's Report and a joint presentation from CSU Chancellor White, UC President Napolitano and CCC Chancellor Harris. The three system leaders all started in their positions within the last 12 months. They discussed the need to revitalize collaborative efforts between the three systems and pointed out that common contracts are already in place for some common support services including travel management (CSU/UC), energy efficiency projects and computer hardware/software contracts. UC President Napolitano commented on the need for that system to streamline transfers. The CCC

Chancellor Harris covered some of the challenges of the 112 community college system, such as: restoring the loss of access that occurred in recent years, the importance of transfer degrees, and outreach to high schools being expanded to 7th grade on the importance of higher education being in their future. Assembly Speaker Pirez complimented the three leaders on the new height of cooperation between the systems. Trustee Monville asked Chancellor Harris about the electronic transcripts from CCC project. Chancellor Harris commented that the big issue is the integration of existing CCC data and record keeping practices. In closing, Harris expressed concerns regarding the state's expectations from higher education and the capacity handling abilities of all three systems; and Napolitano commended on the need for the state to invest in higher education.

14. During the full Board meeting on Wednesday, Chair Linscheid commented on the recent passing of Trustee William Hauck and the Board posthumously conferred the title of Trustee Emeritus to William Hauck. Trustee Hauck's wife was present to hear the commendations made in his honor and to receive his emeritus plaque.

During the Chancellor's report, Chancellor White announced the return of the Wang Family Excellence Award after an extended absence (https://www.calstate.edu/faculty_staff/wang-awards/).

As part of ASCSU Chair Diana Guerin's report, she introduced Professor Sue Holl from CSU Sacramento. Dr. Holl received the 2013 CSU Sacramento Livingston Award and is the chair of the mechanical engineering department. Dr. Holl spoke on the impact of the Title 5 requirement for engineering programs to reduce to 120 semester units.

15. During the public comment opportunity with the full Board, the following topics were raised:
 - a. Students and faculty spoke both in favor and in opposition to the right of the CSU to pass boycott measures
 - b. Students spoke on the issue of tobacco-free campuses and concerns about electronic cigarettes
 - c. Students spoke about "Real Food" and the desire that 20% of all campus food be from sustainable sources by 2020
 - d. There were student activists both outside and inside the Dumke Auditorium protesting the implementation of campus-based student success fees; inside the auditorium, students spoke both in favor and against the fees and several instructors spoke in favor of the fees; a representative from the CSU Fullerton Veterans Center spoke of the importance of the fee to support the center
 - e. Speakers from Cal State Los Angeles stated the importance of ethic studies and advocated for it being a systemwide general education requirement

16. At the conclusion of Tuesday's Board session, the CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST) and the Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI) hosted a student-faculty research poster presentation and reception where outstanding student researchers and their faculty mentors from all 23 campuses were present to discuss their marine, coastal and freshwater research.