

March 23-25, 2015 CSU Board of Trustees Meeting Faculty Trustee's Report

Steven Stepanek

The week after the March 2015 ASCSU Plenary session, the CSU Board of Trustees met on March 23-25, 2015. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

1. The Board of Trustees met in closed session on March 23 to interview the finalists for the position of President of California State University, Sacramento. On March 25, it was announced that Robert S. Nelson, Ph.D. had accepted the position. He will be Sac State's eight permanent president, succeeding Alexander Gonzalez who will retire at the end of June 2015 after 12 years as president. Dr. Nelson served as president of University of Texas-Pan American from 2010 to 2014. He stepped down as president of UT-Pan American in 2014 as a result of his efforts towards the establishment of a new UT campus, UT-Rio Grande Valley, which brought together the students, faculty, resources and assets of UT-Pan American and UT-Brownsville.
2. The Committee on Collective Bargaining ratified the collective bargaining agreement with Unit 8, Statewide University Police Association, and approved the adoption of the initial proposals for successor contract negotiations with bargaining Units 4 and 6.
3. The Committee on Educational Policy approved the annual academic planning documents that establish the CSU Academic Master Plan of academic degrees, and the modifications to campus academic plans. The updated list of new academic programs being planned by CSU campuses and lists, by campus, of all existing programs can be viewed at:
<http://www.calstate.edu/app/programs/amp/index.shtml>

Twenty-nine potential new programs were added to the CSU Academic Master Plan and sixteen, planned but never developed, programs were removed from the Master Plan. Thirty-nine existing degree programs have suspended new admissions – existing students in these programs will be allowed to complete their degree objectives within a reasonable timeframe; these programs remain on the Master Plan because the campus may decide to reinstate admission during a future academic term. Seventeen existing degree programs were removed from the

Master Plan after their discontinuation by the campus – these programs no longer have active student enrollment.

To put this into perspective, there was a net increase of 13 to the list of proposed new programs and 17 existing programs were removed.

Information about currently accredited CSU academic programs and departments was presented to the committee. The list of accredited programs can be viewed in Attachment C (starting page 82) of the document:

<http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/mar15/edpol.pdf>

The committee also heard reports on the status of the CSU Institute for Palliative Care at CSU San Marcos, the Early Start Program, academic preparation trends, and the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025.

Of particular note regarding academic preparation, the CSU freshmen class has grown from about 48,000 students in 2010 to about 63,000 students in fall 2014. The percentage of the entering freshmen class determined to be college-ready in both English and mathematics at the time of high school graduation has increased from 43% in fall 2010 to 54% in fall 2014. The percentage of entering freshmen needing additional preparation in both English and mathematics has declined from 28% in fall 2010 to 21% in fall 2014.

4. The Campus Planning, Building and Grounds Committee amended the 2014-2015 Capital Outlay Program so Cal Poly, Pomona can proceed with the design and construction of an underground parking structure as part of the Administration Replacement Building project and so Sacramento State may proceed with the design and construction of organic chemistry lab renovations.

The committee approved the schematic plans for Fullerton's Titan Student Union expansion, Pomona's Administration Replacement Building, and Sacramento's student housing project phase II.

The committee approved broad criteria and categories for project proposals requesting to be included in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program 2016-2017 through 2020-2021. The categories and criteria are:

- a. Critical Infrastructure Deficiencies – such as structural, health and safety code deficiencies
- b. Modernization/Renovation – use of group II funds for equipment/furnishings and replacing utility services/building systems to improve infrastructure
- c. New Facilities/Infrastructure – based on instructional and support deficiencies caused by campus growth

As an informational item, the committee was briefed on the potential transfer of ownership and operation of a 287-acre State facility containing the Lanterman Developmental Center to Cal Poly Pomona. This property is located adjacent to the campus property known as Spadra Farm. The Calif Dept of Developmental Services is in the process of vacating the Center and Cal Poly Pomona has for some time used portions of the property for academic activities including agriculture and animal grazing. The California Conservation Corps utilizes a small area of the facility and would be encouraged to continue their operation there. The California Highway Patrol had a small substation on the property near the 57 Freeway and is in discussions with Cal Poly Pomona to swap the use of that property for some campus property close to both the 10 and 57 Freeways.

5. The Committee on Governmental Relations received an update on pending legislation. For a listing of the legislative actions being monitored by the CSU, view: <http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/mar15/govrel.pdf>
6. The Committee on Organization and Rules (chaired by Faculty Trustee Stepanek) met to approve the schedule of Board of Trustee meetings for 2016: <http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/mar15/orgrules.pdf>
7. The Finance Committee had the following action items: approval to issue Systemwide Revenue Bonds for Sacramento State's Student Housing Phase II Project, approval of Cal State Los Angeles' corporation request to purchase property adjacent to the campus, approval of Cal State Northridge's corporation request to purchase property adjacent to the campus, and conceptual approval of a Channel Islands' request to form a public/private partnership to build a multi-family housing development on campus property.

The committee also heard a report from Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, on CSU administrative efficiency initiatives. He discussed the CSU's commitment to effectiveness driven by a constrained budget coupled with a need to accommodate more students. Some of the areas where savings were achieved are listed below.

- Information Technology: \$37M was saved since 2011 by the system purchase of networking equipment; no annual cost increases occurred during the past 10 years as demand for wide area network usage increased; \$2M was saved annually since April 2012 from moving the CSU data center to cloud facility; \$2.5M in costs was avoided over 5 years from enterprise software consolidation.
- Financial Services: \$2M was avoided over the past year from operating and upgrading common financial system; \$51M in cost reduction occurred over the past year through strategic debt refinancing; \$7M in reduced insurance claims over the past year occurred from cost management strategies; there was a \$4M reduction in current-year property insurance rates; \$7M in workers compensation costs was avoided in past year

through collaborative training, medical cost containment and focused claim resolution programs.

- Energy and Sustainability: \$16M in costs was avoided annually as a result of efficiency projects; \$19M in incentive funding was received from Energy Efficiency Partnerships; \$18M in savings occurred since 2010 from electricity purchase contracts.
- Academic Support: \$9M in annual costs was avoided via the use of electronic library resources; \$3.9M in costs savings was accomplished through academic technology contracts including learning management systems; \$3.6M in savings on medical supplies for student health centers was achieved through consolidated purchasing arrangements.
- Shared Services Between Partnering Campuses: shared payroll processing and security services; coordinated citation processing; consolidated police dispatching; collaborative construction management.

During the Q/A that followed the presentation on CSU administrative efficiency initiatives, Chancellor White spoke on the issues of efficiency and academic excellence. He stated – “You cannot efficiency your way to academic excellence. You cannot efficiency your way to building instructional and directed research capacity. You cannot efficiency your way to mitigate California’s impending drought of a college-educated citizenry. ... It’s the truth that the quality has been affected in the CSU. ... You cannot tell me that the increased number of students in classes that are designed for discussion improves instructional quality.” His full remarks on this topic can be viewed on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/qnxc51XbROA>

8. The Committee on Institutional Advancement approved the naming of an academic college and two campus facilities: the Honors College at San Diego State as the Susan and Stephen Weber Honors College, the Education 1 building at CSU Long Beach as the Bob and Barbara Ellis Education Building, and the Sacramento State Alumni Center as the Leslie and Anita Harper Alumni Center.
9. The full Board conferred the title of Trustee Emerita to Roberta Achtenberg who is departing the Board after 16 years of dedicated service.