

**May 19-20, 2015 CSU Board of Trustees Meeting  
Faculty Trustee's Report**

**Steven Stepanek**

The week after the May 2015 ASCSU Plenary session, the CSU Board of Trustees met on May 19-20, 2015. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

1. The Board of Trustees spent the morning of the first day in closed session to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation.
2. The Committee on Collective Bargaining adopted the initial CSU proposals for the re-opener contract negotiations with Bargaining Unit 3, CFA.
3. The Committee on Institutional Advancement approved the naming of the Brazil Program at San Diego State University as the J. Keith Behner and Catherine M. Stiefel Brazil Program in recognition of their commitment of an additional \$2.5 million to assist the program. The committee also approved the naming of a facility at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona – one half of building 73 will now be called the Marriott Learning Center in recognition of the Marriott Foundation's \$2 million investment in the expansion of The Collins College of Hospitality Management.
4. 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/may15/govrel.pdf>

Of particular note is the status of Board sponsored bill SB 634 (Block) – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) which has become a two-year bill with no additional action planned for this legislative cycle. SARA was created in response to new Federal regulations requiring every campus that offers online programs to be authorized to do so in every state where enrolled students reside. Adoption of this state bill would allow California to participate in the SARA collaboration between states with a single program authorization covering all states participating in SARA. The opposition to the state bill comes from local consumer advocates who want California to regulate all out-of-state, for-profit institutions in the same way the state regulates those institutions physically located in California. The bill will return for legislative consideration in January 2016.

Two other Board sponsored bills, AB 819 (Irwin) – California State University and University of California Alumni Affinity Programs, and SB 462 (Wolk) – Sonoma State Green Music Center Ad/Sponsorship Allowances, are progressing through the legislative process.

After discussions with the Department of Finance and the State Treasurer's Office, the CSU concluded the best approach for increasing the system's investment earnings through a broader range of investments (seeking authority similar to the UC's) will be through budget trailer bill language rather than as separate legislation.

5. The Campus Planning, Building and Grounds Committee amended the 2014-2015 Capital Outlay Program so CSU, Stanislaus may proceed with the renovation and infrastructure upgrade of its existing Physical Education Pool Facility which was constructed in 1977. The approved funding proposal calls for the campus to set aside \$1.5 million in operating funds and the \$2.7 million balance will be financed through the CSU Systemwide Revenue Bond program.

The committee also approved San Diego State's proposed campus master plan revision dated May 2015 and approved an amendment of the 2014-2015 Capital Outlay Program for the design and construction of the Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences Complex which will involve the demolition of some existing engineering buildings and the construction of a new 81,900 GSF facility which will link with neighboring buildings and also provide for event space. Demolition will start in June 2015 and the projected date for completion is January 2018. The funding for the project will consist of \$50 million from CSU Systemwide Revenue Bonds, \$25 million from campus auxiliary reserves and \$5 million from other campus reserves or sources.

6. The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel approved the executive compensation for the incoming President of California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Robert Nelsen will receive an annual salary of \$303,850, an annual housing allowance of \$60,000, and an auto allowance of \$1,000 per month. This salary is equivalent to the previous incumbent's pay.
7. The Committee on Educational Policy heard reports on the Cal State Online Initiative and on Academic Efficiencies and Effectiveness. The update on Cal State Online started with a brief history of the project and then proceeded to an update on its activities and the influence of legislation on the project. In terms of online degree programs offered by the CSU there are currently 118 fully online degree programs with 4,320 students graduating in 2013-2014 and 76 hybrid degree programs with 1,045 students graduating in 2013-2014. CourseMatch listed 77 courses in winter and spring 2015 for cross-campus enrollments. In fall 2015, campuses participating in CourseMatch will hold at least 15 open seats in each course session for cross-campus enrollment. As a reminder, CourseMatch courses are "high demand, high success" courses that automatically articulate

across the CSU; CSU students in good standing can enroll in one CourseMatch course per semester as part of their regular tuition fees. The Chancellor's Office will pay campuses for CourseMatch cross-campus enrollments. The impact of AB 386 to provide students with a listing of all fully online courses offered by all CSU campuses by the beginning of fall 2015 is expected to yield about 3,000 online courses. For these courses there is no promise of available seats for cross-campus enrollment. The presentation recognized the "shifts in strategy" during the life of the Cal State Online Initiative.

The presentation on Academic Efficiencies and Effectiveness was a follow-up to the report to the Finance Committee on Administrative Efficiency Initiatives given at the March 2015 Board of Trustees meeting. Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Ephraim Smith and Senior Director of Student Engagement and Academic Initiatives & Partnerships Ken O'Donnell gave a balanced report, stating several times the difficulty in providing actual dollar amounts to the savings. Efficiency was described as "more outputs per input" with a stress on the importance of "opportunity, quality, and success" in the projects initiated. Here are some of the projects mentioned:

- \$30 million in saving for students from rent digital program, used book programs and book buy back programs
- \$1.6 million savings in plagiarism detection software through system licensing
- \$10 million savings in single application for admission
- \$500,000 savings in system licensing of eAdvising system
- savings by reaching out to high schools and community colleges to improve student readiness for entry into the CSU (vs. the CSU handling all additional courses a student may need to be college ready)
- use of hybrid and virtual science labs
- use of Supplemental Instruction courses
- CSU libraries agreement to adopt a single virtual platform to catalog their separate collections
- economy of scale savings for CSU initiatives such as: Institute for Teaching and Learning, international programs, academic technology projects, student academic support, CSU Summer Arts, and Cal State TEACH
- graduation initiatives

It was stated that many of these initiatives not only save money but also directly contribute to improved student performance. During the Q/A session, Trustee Peter Taylor (his 2<sup>nd</sup> BOT meeting since being appointed) reflected back on statements made during the Cal State Online initiative that multiple LMS platforms are being supported and asked if we had considered adoption of a single standard LMS environment for the entire system. It should be noted that Trustee Taylor's previous employer was the UC, which is in the process of implementing their own software for a LMS that will, in theory, replace all existing proprietary LMS systems used within the UC. Ken O'Donnell gave an appropriate response on why the system currently negotiates system licensing for three distinct LMS

systems with the individual campuses (and their faculty) making the final decision regarding which LMS environment to adopt. During Steven Fillings' ASCSU report, Steven also commented on the importance of supporting multiple LMS environments.

8. The full Board conferred the title of President Emeritus to Alexander Gonzalez in recognition of his distinguished service to the CSU and as President of California State University, Sacramento, and the title of Trustee Emerita to Talar Alexanian for her service as student trustee and leadership within the CSU.

The full Board received the report from the Committee on Committees regarding the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, and trustee committee assignments for 2015-2016. Lou Monville will continue as the chair of the Board, and Rebecca Eisen will be the vice-chair. If I continue to serve as a trustee, my committee assignments will be:

- Campus Planning, Building and Grounds
- Educational Policy
- Institutional Advancement (as committee chair)
- Governmental Relations
- Organization and Rules (as committee vice-chair)