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Faculty Trustee's Report

CSU Board of Trustees Meeting – November 7-8, 2017

Hereby I respectfully submit a summary of the Board of Trustees meeting.

My report is largely based on the preparatory materials provided to the trustees, my personal notes from the meeting, and from 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 speakers' and presenters' intentions. If you notice any inaccuracy or misrepresentation, please let me know (Romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu).

Since this report is primarily directed to the faculty of the statewide academic senate (ASCSU), my focus on educational policies, legislative matters, and state appropriations is stronger than on other BoT agenda items.

Romey Sabalius
Faculty Trustee

San José, CA – Dec. 7, 2017

Faculty Trustee's Report

CSU Board of Trustees Meeting: November 7-8, 2017

On November 7-8, 2017, 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 Board of Trustees (BoT) met on Tuesday morning in **Closed Session** to discuss *Executive Personnel Matters, Pending Litigation, and Collective Bargaining*.
2. The **Open Session** in the afternoon began with comments from Chancellor White and President Sakaki on the devastation of the *Fires in Sonoma County* and the consequences for the Sonoma State campus. The campus had to be closed, but attempts will be made to make up missed classes. In total, 5% of housing was lost in the area, which will have an impact on the campus community for years to come.
3. The **Committee on Institutional Advancement** approved the *Naming of the Dale and Katy Carlsen Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship* (Sacramento) and the *Epstein Family Veterans Center* (San Marcos) to recognize pledges of \$6 million and \$1 million respectively.
4. The **Committee on Educational Policy** began with *Comments from the Public*. Most focused on the Graduation Initiative 2025 and the related executive orders (EO 1100-Revised and EO 1110). In regards to the elimination of remediation courses (EO 1110), speakers expressed their concern for the required "monumental change" in the given short time frame and they demanded a "staggered implementation." Jennifer Eagan, President of the California Faculty Association (CFA), reported that the CFA Assembly passed two resolutions demanding to rescind EO 1100-Revised and EO 1110 primarily due to lack of consultation in the development of these executive orders.
 - a. The first information item on the committee's agenda was *Teacher Preparation*. "Based on current trends, the shortage of teachers in California over the next three years is projected to be more than 25,000. [...] California teacher shortages are particularly severe in specific subject areas, including mathematics (58%), science (57%), special education (88%) and bilingual education." The report from the Chancellor's Office outlined CSU actions to address California's teacher shortage, which include "Multiple Pathways into Teaching," a "Fifth Year Post-Baccalaureate Program," the "CalState TEACH" program, "Integrated Teacher Education Programs," "Pipeline Programs," and "Career Changers and Para-professional Programs." I suggested to explore opportunities to recruit education students from out of state and also to award credit for practical teaching and/or training experience, which is not currently done in the CSU.

- b. *Enrollment Management* was the next information item on the agenda. Regrettably, impaction has become the norm, rather than the exception in the CSU. Impaction does not mean that a campus cannot admit new students, but that their admission is not automatic. Instead, it becomes subject to selection based on a variety of factors (local admission areas, eligibility index score, Associate Degree for Transfer, etc.). Although not explicitly discussed, it is worth mentioning in this context that, for the first time, students who apply to the CSU can submit one consolidated application form for all CSU campuses (Cal State Apply).
 - c. The information item on the *Basic Needs Initiative* presented staggering numbers of CSU students who are affected by food and housing insecurity. While “a number of campuses have emergency housing programs,” a long-term solution is not in sight and exceeds the reach of the university. However, intensive efforts are made to alleviate students’ food insecurity. “There is currently a food pantry or food distribution program at all 23 CSU campuses.” The CSU will also attempt to scale up the federally-funded CalFresh program, which is housed at CSU Chico and already works with 10 other CSU campuses. An additional goal is to reach out to affected students who are not aware of the available resources or who are reluctant to articulate their needs and to seek help due to shyness or a sense of shame.
 - d. The *Graduation Initiative 2025* was the last information item on the committee’s agenda. The goals of the GI 2025 (improved graduation rates and closing the achievement gap) and the policy changes (EO 1100-Revised and EO 1110) were presented by James Minor and Jeff Gold on behalf of the Chancellor’s Office. In my comment, I urged the CSU administration to intensify consultation and coordination with the faculty in order to assure a smooth implementation of the policy changes to the greatest benefit for our students.
5. The **Committee on Finance** began with *Public Comments*. It was depressing to hear students testify that their campus fee increase was even higher than this year’s tuition increase.
 - a. CSU San Bernardino and CSU Stanislaus received *Approval to Issue Bonds* to finance the Extended Learning Expansion (SB) and the University Union Renovation and Expansion (Stan) costing approximately \$55 million each.
 - b. The *2018-2019 Lottery Budget and Report* was approved. The adopted budget for 2017-18 was \$45.5 million and the proposed budget for 2018-19 assumes \$47.5 million in lottery funds, of which “approximately 90 percent ... are allocated directly to the campuses for instruction-related programs and activities.”
 - c. The *2017-2018 Student Fee Report* was presented by Ryan Storm (CO). It stated that
 - about 80 percent (374,000+) of all CSU students received nearly \$4.2 billion in total financial assistance,
 - 61 percent of all undergraduates have their tuition covered by grants or waivers,
 - 51 percent of CSU baccalaureate recipients graduated with zero educational loan debt, and that

- of the 49 percent who graduated with debt, the average loan debt of \$15,531 is lower than the California average of \$22,191 and well below the national average of \$30,100.

These “positive” numbers are attributed to the fact that the CSU is still on the bottom of the tuition and fee table amongst our comparable institutions nationwide.

- d. The *2018-2019 Operating Budget Request* was approved. “The expenditure plan exceeds the anticipated \$102 million from the governor’s administration for 2018-2019, but it is a reasonable representation of the university’s funding needs” of \$282.9 million. With \$19.9 million net tuition from enrollment growth, the CSU anticipates to face a \$161 million funding gap. The report states: “To ensure the university has all revenue options available to meet its 2018-2019 priorities, the CSU must regrettably continue a conversation about a possible tuition increase.” (Since the BoT meeting, the statutory process was started with a written proposal by the Chancellor’s Office to the California State Student Association [CSSA] and it is expected that it will be an information item on the next BoT agenda).
 - e. A *New Master Investment Policy for the California State University* was approved.
6. On Wednesday, the **Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds** approved *Parking Structure E* for Cal State LA, a *Student Union Renovation and Expansion* for CSU San Bernardino, and the *2018-2019 Capital Outlay Program* as well as the *2018-2019 through 2022-2023 Five-Year Facilities Renewal and Capital Improvement Plan*. The *San Diego State University Potential Mission Valley Campus Expansion* was discussed as an information item. It pertains to the possible acquisition of the former San Diego Chargers stadium and surrounding lands from the city of San Diego. The report states that “SDSU envisions potential use of the site to achieve the following goals: 1) expand its educational, research, entrepreneurial and technology transfer programs and facilities; 2) house more upper-division and graduate students; 3) provide faculty and staff housing to assist in the recruitment and retention of nationally recognized talent; and 4) build a multi-use 35,000-seat stadium for the Aztec football team and other potential sports partners.” I questioned if—despite being listed as the last of the four objectives—the planned stadium construction will be the main purpose and the major expense of this investment, and my assumption was affirmed by the presenter.
 7. The **Committee on Collective Bargaining** started with public comments. The majority of comments came from members of the CSU Employees Union (CSUEU). They called the conclusion of the bargaining talks “bitter-sweet” and lamented the 6 months-long period of bargaining, which took an emotional toll on the dedicated CSU staff. It is expected that the BoT will ratify the CSUEU contract at its next meeting in January. The committee did approve the *Ratification of the Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Bargaining Unit 3, California Faculty Association*. Prior to the BoT meeting, 98% of CFA members voted for the ratification of the contract extension.

8. The **Committee on University and Faculty Personnel** approved the *Annual Report on Outside Employment for Senior Management Employees*. “The report shows 17 senior management employees with outside employment during the reporting period for the 2016 calendar year.” The *Annual Report on Vice President Compensation, Executive Relocation and Executive Transition* was received as an information item. The BoT also received a presentation about the *CalPERS Retirement System for CSU Employees*.
9. The **Committee on Audit** received two reports by Larry Mandel, Chief Audit Officer (CO), as information items: *A Status Report on Current and Follow-up Internal Audit Assignments* and a *Report on Implementation of the New Organization Structure of the Office of Audit and Advisory Services*.
10. At 10:15, the BoT started its **Plenary Session**.
 - a. It began with a long list of *Public Speakers*. While normally 3 minutes are allotted for each speaker, the large number of registered speakers necessitated to limit their contributions to 1 minute. Some speakers pooled their time, and Chair Eisen was gracious not to cut off speakers who exceeded their limit by a reasonable amount. The majority of speakers represented the CSUEU and, again, expressed their dismay over the long bargaining process. Several students representing Students for Quality Education (SQE) spoke in opposition to a new tuition increase that may be on the BoT’s next agenda. They also demanded strong support for minority students and Ethnic Studies programs. William Blischke, President of the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (CSU-ERFA) reported on the activities of his organization, especially on the “Soles4Souls” initiative, a used shoes donation program. Professor Steven Filling, a member of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU), criticized the extent of consultation and the lack of shared governance in the development of EO 1100-Revise and EO 1110.
 - b. Prof. Filling’s criticism was echoed in the *Report of the Academic Senate CSU* by Chair Christine Miller.
 - c. BoT Chair Rebecca Eisen focused in her *Chair’s Report* on the GE Task Force and the need to reform General Education in the CSU.
 - d. In his *Chancellor’s Report*, Timothy White spoke about the urgency of the Graduation Initiative 2025 and the strong need for intensive advocacy for the CSU.
 - e. *CSSA President* Maggie White called for “a blunt and honest dialogue with all stakeholders” in any discussion of future tuition increases.
 - f. The *Alumni Council President* Manolo P. Morales reported on activities of his organization and reaffirmed the commitment of countless active alumni to the CSU.
 - g. Elliott Powell was an *Invited Guest Speaker*. He retired from an impressive career in the Navy, various positions in the Federal Government, and as the Director of the White House Situation Room. He now works as a teacher in San Marcos Middle School. He expressed his enthusiasm for teaching and illustrated the immeasurable rewards he receives when guiding students along their educational path.

- h. Chancellor White and Student Trustee Jorge Reyes Salinas spoke about *Protections for Dreamer Students, Alumni and Employees*. They stressed the valuable contributions of Dreamers to the CSU and the state of California, and they reiterated their steadfast support for DACA students and employees.
 - i. Lastly, the BoT expressed its gratitude and appreciation for the services of my predecessor Steven G. Stepanek and conferred upon him the title of *Faculty Trustee Emeritus*.
11. At noon, the BoT retreated into **Closed Session** to discuss *Executive Personnel Matters*.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2pm.