ASCUS May 2014 Meeting Minutes

CSU San Marcos is closed due to fire; commencement and finals are postponed.

CSU received funding from Bechtel to prepare new generation of educators. Vice Chancellor Young indicated that the Bechtel funding will support 6-8 campuses with teacher preparation programs at approximately $300,000 each to transform teacher preparation. Young also reported that CSU has been transitioning to Common Core State Standards (CCSS); 300,000+ high school students took Early Assessment Program (EAP) in 2014, and CSU will examine EAP against Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) to ascertain its alignment for future use.

Ken O’Donnell met with the Math Council and noted questions around intermediate Algebra for college students. He also noted that the Linked Learning Pathways RFPs have gone out and Webinar will be held in June to help campuses write the proposals.

Eric Forbes noted that the Early Start in English will be mandatory beginning summer 2014. He also noted that the campuses have received funding for e-Advisor initiative and CO is awaiting for campus status reports.

Merryfield noted a major improvement in increase of new faculty hires in the CSU--campuses conducted 770 searches for positions this past year, and CO is hoping this will result in at least 600 successful hires. Merryfield also noted that the CO continues to struggle with academic freedom policy.

Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee (FGA) has requested that a task force formed to study pros & cons of Student Success Fees. FGA teleconferenced with the State Dept of Finance and learned that the State’s $2.4 billion surplus is already spoken for and no extra dollars is anticipated for CSU. Chair of FGA also reported that the Dept of Finance is interested in CSU focusing on the 4-year graduation rate and creating sustainable universities. FGA held an Advocacy Day in Sacramento—met with many legislators, including Speaker Perez, and made CSU more visible.

Senator Gubernat, who has been heading up the ASCSU Newsletter, asked senators to submit articles, Op Ed pieces, and/or letters to the editor; deadline for submission is 2 weeks after the May Plenary.

Senator Yee-Melichar thanked senior senators who helped mentor new senators and thanked everyone for a very successful networking dinner series this year. She noted that a SAVE THE DATE card for the 2014 ASCSU academic conference is ready for distribution.

CSU Faculty Trustee, Steven Stepanek, Report/Updates: There’s been three presidential investitures this spring--CSUDH, CSULA, and CSU Fresno. He noted issues around discipline councils – there are about 13 discipline councils, other than math and English, that meet annually; Presidential interviews probably will continue to remain confidential. He reminded the senators that the BOT will be meeting next week and asked senators to let him know of any questions or concerns they foresee with the BOT agenda items before the BOT mtg.

In regard to the 120-unit limit for engineering programs, Chancellor White did not want to rush through establishing an advisory committee; the current plan is for the advisory committee on the broad scoping issues of engineering to meet in the fall. Chancellor White has encouraged that when issues/concerns are brought to his attention, possible solutions also be presented.

In regard to the issues around bullying of employees by employees, BOT and the Chancellor commented that they’d look into the issue/concerns; Trustee Stepanek noted that this topic may be addressed at the BOT in the future meeting. Trustee Stepanek asked senators to review the written report he’s distributed for more details or goto: http://www.clastate.edu/AcadSen/Records/Faculty_Trustee/index.shtml.
Bettina Huber, Institutional Research CSU Northridge and Edward Sullivan, Institutional Research & Analytical Studies CSU Fullerton: A short video clip depicting the success of the Early Start (EA), specifically at Fullerton, CSUN, and SJSU, was shown to the BOT. Bettina Huber reported on the summary of EA findings at CSUN; all CSUN students chose to do the 1-unit online option; CSUN is a stretch campus which complicated full roll out (According to LAO’s report, 15,214 participated in EA in 2012, with CSUN having the largest EA students); approx. 2,000 students were exempt from EA out of 4,000+ entering Freshman class; almost all summer bridge students were PELL Grant recipients. She noted on the immediate effect of summer bridge at CSUN: 1) a very few students were able to complete their remediation requirement, 2) summer bridge students less likely to reach the 24 unit mark by the end of the first year than those that were exempt from EA; 3) comparison of ‘should haves’ who completed EA and those ‘exempt’ are in par; and 4) gains in persistence is impressive (a jump of 4% from 74 to 78, reflecting the highest increase since 2009. In short, EA resulted in gain scores of 5 points for traditionally underserved student population and a gain score of 1 point for those better served students. Survey of EA completers clearly delineate that students’ takeaway from EA participation include: a) that they actually need to turn in their work in order to receive credit, and 2) recognition and assurance that mastery of summer work leads to college success.

Sullivan from Fullerton reported that only 25% of all entering freshman needed remediation in math and English, and students were allowed to take 1 or 2 course sequence to get to proficiency. He noted that a 1-unit EA course would have been detrimental to those who needed and would have benefited from a 3-unit or a 1 or 2 course sequences in remediation. He observed that there’s a higher likelihood of students completing 12+ units by the end of first semester if they were college ready upon entry and/or have participated in EA during summer prior to the fall entry. He noted that Fullerton started offering freshman orientations in Spanish to increase the number of first time college going Latino students.

Ephraim Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer. Although Chancellor White noted in his address that CSU will increase grad rates by 10% each year for the next 10 years, Ephraim noted that the grad rate at CSU was 46% ten years ago, and he hopes to reach 54% in year 2025. Jeff Gold’s Dashboard is being shared out with Presidents. In regard to closing the achievement gap, he noted that a couple of pilots are to begin with EA students.

SB 1440 – 3 new curricular areas developed, bringing the total to 32 disciplines; CSU received approx. $600,000 for 1440 and CSU used it for marketing.

Gerry Hanley is overseeing bottleneck courses, in juxtaposition to course redesign, to increase course passage rate, especially in STEM areas. The goal of the e-Academy goal is to redesign courses in STEM areas but also to decrease failure rate. However, he noted that a recent PPIC (PPIC.ORG) publication of online courses at CCCs delineated online course failure rate to be 11-14% higher than face-to-face courses.

CSU received numerous grants: $4.5 mil from Helmsley to support CSU STEM; $200,000 from Gates to work across the systems (40 systems across the nation applied for the grant and CSU is one of the 12 grant recipients); $1 mil from Bechtel to improve teacher prep programs—under Joan Bissell and Bev Young leadership a work group is being constituted and will begin meeting in July, 2014; and received funding from the Dept of Labor to expand Merlot.

CCC and their quest to achieve BA granting status – CO made it clear that it opposes CCCs’ offering of BA degrees that are already being offered or have future desires to offer at CSUs. Ephraim noted that the CSU has capacity to expand offerings in Nursing degree--just need more $$ to increase seat offerings.

Forbes is working on increasing computer infrastructure to increase online offerings; this summer, we will be listing and publishing all Extended Ed course listings online.

Commission on Online Education Advisory Committee (17 member committee) will be chaired by President
Rush from CSUCI, with broad charges to overlook all 108+ online programs in the CSU, COURSE MATCH and concurrent enrollment, and policies as needed. Its first meeting may be by teleconference.

**Katherine Harris - Chair, California Open Education Resources Council (COERCE)/ English & Comparative Literature, San José State University:** The goal of the COERCE is to increase faculty adoption of high quality, affordable or free course materials to save students money. CSU is in charge of the grant received from the Hewlett Packard ($500,000) and Gates ($500,000) with the state matching funds—eventually there will be a RFP for faculty to create course materials; A 9-faculty members from CCC, UC, and CSUs will be formed by January 2014 to address all that ICAS has to set up for the California Open Educational Resources Council (COERCE). Deliverables per Hewlett—surveyed the faculty (900 faculty) and administrators and students (100), and setting up reviewer panel now. Need help in increasing student survey respondents. Selected 50 courses included highly enrolled courses in critical thinking, oral communication, quantitative reasoning, and written communication; faculty may augment the open textbook; 5 courses selected of the 50 include public speaking, microeconomics, US history, and introductory Chemistry. Many faculty did not use textbook but rather combinations of ancillary texts.

**Agatha Gucyski, CSSA Liaison Report** – Gucyski reported that CSSA plenary was held at CSUSD in April, 2014; last meeting of the year will be held at CSUCI in May, 2014. CSSA passed a resolution regarding student success fee, specifically asking the Chancellor to study success fees across campuses. She congratulated Senator Pasternack for receiving Faculty Excellence Award in student advising (CSSA awards two faculty per year—one in technology and one in student advisement.)

**William Blishcke, CSU ERFA Liaison Report** – Susan Menkes, spoke at ERFA meeting about medical fraud, that is costing billions of dollars in medical costs. ERFA worked very closely with Retired Public Educators Association (RPEA) throughout the year and contributed a small donation.

**Ethnic Studies Committee (Senator Kensinger)** – committee thanked ASCSU for the resolution in support of ethnic studies; it was very helpful to the committee and their work; data on these programs across CSU are available and the committee is now thinking about how best to get the data out to campuses; surveys are going out now—please help get the surveys to the chairs.

**Gerard Hanley - Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Technology Services:**

COURSE MATCH – opportunity for CSU students to take the comparable course online offered through any campus; requesting for campuses to provide courses for fall 2014. Currently there are 39 courses listed on the Course Match, and 197 students actually took the courses in fall 2013, which is going to meet the mandates addressed in the SB 386 and SB (2 BILLS). Incentives are available for campuses to make additional seats available for the course match courses, and this will not impact campus enrollment target. The purpose of this legislation is to provide place-bound students options to graduate.

COURSE MATCH SUMMER – slightly different than the course match; course match summer will provide one consolidated list of all the extended ed programs of fully online program courses at ONE PLACE on the Website so students can see (approx. 450 courses offered by extended ed across CSU);

Online degree granting program -- as these are rolled out, students’ needs must be met so they can be successful; there will be a simple self-checklist to see if students are ready to take fully online courses and be successful.

At the BOT meeting next week, Hanley will be presenting about bottleneck courses and several faculty will provide course redesign poster sessions; focus will also be on student success.

**Steve Relyea – Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Financial Officer:** He shared that he visited quite a few
number of campuses since his appointment and looks forward to working closely with the ASCSU. He promised to work with senate and legislator to ensure PERS is secure.

**CSU Chancellor Timothy White:** Chancellor thanked Senator Postma and Senator Yee-Melichar for serving on search committees. AVC Smith will retire in December 2014 and search comm needs to be formed very soon for the national search; White asked senator to provide him feedback on experiences, skill sets, attributes they’d like to see in the next AVC and asked to email them to Jessica Daran Jdaran@calstate.edu by the end of May, 2014; he also asked senators suggest names of those who might be a good candidate for the new AVC.

He noted that presidential search process for Pomona is moving well – several hundred people came and spoke about what they want in the next President; faculty presence was LOW.

Hats off to CSUSM faculty and staff in securing the campus and working with other CSUs and other personnel to secure security and safety to address the fire; campus will not be open for a while; some issues and concerns with student housing and their personal belonging; their commencement activity postponed to Memorial Day weekend.

Academic Conference Retreat – Chancellor is looking forward to the conference in fall, and noted that he and his wife Karen may host the ASCSU end-of-the-year mtg at his home sometime spring 2015.

Questions/Comments from the Senate Floor:

A question was asked about Obama’s initiative on sexual assaults on campuses—Chancellor noted that CSU will be responding to the policies and requirements as spelled out by Dept of Ed; much summer time will be devoted to thinking about this with campus leaders.

Question about the executive team and his vision for the next 2-5 years at CSU – many leadership and faculty changes occurring now at campuses; interested in CO facilitating value-added to each of the campuses, e.g., taking care of policies, increasing the importance of CSU in the society, infusion of technology, increased accountability, meeting the increase of degree demand, and supporting support campuses’ individual and diverse needs.

Questions about the RISK MANAGEMENT problems; Chancellor noted high cost of CSU insurance.

SJSU thanked Chancellor White for his responsiveness to the concerns over shared governance.

Question about GE Package in juxtaposition to 120-unit limit to Engineering--White would like to meet with several provosts, academic affairs folks, and key faculty to dialogue about what the missing pieces are around the 120-unit limit over this summer; he feels that informal dialogue, agenda free, is missing to clarify issues/concerns.

White feels that BOT floor is not the place for the debate; he rather that we dialogue with the Chancellor on measures that are important to students.

**Resolutions Passed:**

**Advice Regarding Unit Limit Exception Requests AS-3166-14/AA (Rev) (approved unanimously) -- Urging Chancellor to prohibit campus administrators from blocking requests for exceptions to 120-unit limit and making a unilateral decision against exceptions to 120-unit limit.**

**Creation of California State University Discipline Councils – 3167/APEP/AA (approved) -- urging CO to help facilitate creation of and support of discipline councils in academic programs; examples already in**
existence are the English and math councils.

Commendation in Honor of Trustee A. Robert Linscheid (approved)

Designation and Compilation of Online Course Modalities (approved) -- urging that students be informed about the course modality and technology needs prior to start of online courses.

Recommendations Regarding Changes to Title 5, Section 40510, The Master’s Degree (approved unanimously) -- requesting language changes to the Title 5 to include, a) 70%+ be completed at college of residence, b) courses be designed primarily for graduate study, and c) that 50% to 60% of coursework be required for the degree.

In Support of AB 2324 (Williams) Pertaining to CSU Faculty Trustee (approved) -- Thanking BOT for including the Faculty Trustee Holdover appointment proposal in their Legislative Program for 2014 and expressing appreciation for Assembly member Das Williams for introducing AB 2324.

Eligibility Status for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Awards (approved unanimously) -- Thanking Chancellor White for reinstating Faculty Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA) program and for recognizing that the funding be based on all fulltime equivalent faculty (FTEF), and requests that campuses allow faculty of all ranks be eligible to receive RSCA funding.

ASCSU Calendar of 2014-15 (approved).

Formation of a Task Force to Assess the Role of Student Success Fees Across California State University Campuses AS-3175/FGA (approved unanimously) -- Urging CO to form a task force to assess role of student success fee across CSU campuses.

Request for Annual Progress Reports on Access to Excellence Strategic Plan through 2018 – AS-3178-14/EX (approved) -- Requests for a waiver as it is found on the BOT’s agenda next week; reminding BOT to reduce the number of access to excellence indicators and to include faculty in the review.

Newly Elected 2014-15 ASCSU Executive Officers & Committee Members:

- Chair: Steven Filling
- Vice Chair: Christine Miller
- Secretary: Susan Gubernat
- Member at Large: Soni
- Member at Large: Chisolm

Respectfully submitted by Sandra B. Chong, Shane Frehlich, and Adam Swenson.