



Academic Senate • 1000 E. Victoria • Carson, CA 90747 • WH-A420 • (310) 243-3312

## **ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY END OF YEAR REPORT MAY 2020**

As one of our campus representatives I am pleased to share the work of the ASCSU on behalf of over 27,000 faculty who have stepped up to deliver courses during these unprecedented challenging times. Many of the areas in which we worked pivoted to address the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Below are some of the most important resolutions passed during the 2019-20 Academic Year.

### **Accommodations to Faculty Due to the COVID-19 Emergency**

Campuses are working through these important issues, and we encouraged the Chancellor's Office and Presidents to consider the impact of the COVID-19 emergency as they adapt and reconsider their policies for faculty.

### **Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Within the Academic Senate CSU**

I led the drafting of this resolution to change our own ASCSU practices as an important reflection of our commitment to advancing equity, diversity and inclusion. The committee has been named and is now working on reviewing our Bylaws and practices to further advance the goals of this resolution.

### **Land Acknowledgement and Statement**

The California State University system remains committed to creating an inclusive learning environment for all students. This commitment is reflected across the various cultural initiatives undertaken across the state including the CSU's Native American Initiative and we endorsed making land acknowledge statements at the beginning of each academic year on every campus, as began this practice for the ASCSU.

### **SAT/ACT**

The CSU recently announced its decision to suspend the use of the SAT/ACT as an entrance requirement for admissions during the Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and Spring 2022 admissions cycles, and move to a-g GPA and supplemental criteria as the basis for admissions decisions for that time frame. The Executive Committee, joined by APEP Chair Sue Holl and Vice Chair Rick Ford consulted with the Chancellor's Office (CO) prior to that decision. Much of our feedback was focused on the impact of the change on applicants/transfers from first generation, low income and underserved populations and the nature of the supplemental criteria as they would benefit those same students. We ultimately agreed that the standardized tests, and thus the current CSU eligibility index, should not be used to determine CSU eligibility for Fall 2021. We also agreed with the proposal to replace the eligibility index with a 2.5 a-g GPA, with special emphasis on the importance of supplementary criteria and admissions exceptions to admit students with a 2.0-2.499 a-g GPA. Finally, we recommended that the CSU not automatically revert back to the current eligibility index for Fall

2022 admissions. Rather, we urged the CO to use Fall 2021 admissions data to revisit how CSU eligibility should be determined for Fall 2022 and beyond.

### **Ethnic Studies**

The Chancellor's Office plans to take proposed Title 5 language regarding an ethnic studies and social justice requirement to the Board of Trustees in May as an information item (a first reading). The item would then go forward as an action item (a second reading) in July. The Executive Committee talked to EVC Blanchard, AVC Wrynn and AVC Van Cleve about the proposal on Wednesday April 22. We were joined on a second Wednesday April 29 conversation by Academic Affairs (AA) Chair Susan Schlievert, AA Vice Chair Janet Millar, General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) Chair Mark Van Selst and Nathan Evans, Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser, Academic and Student Affairs. The ASCSU was invited to participate in the presentation of the item to the BOT. The April 22 conversation was about areas of agreement and disagreement between the ASCSU (AS 3403 and 3420) and the CO (EVC Blanchard's March 17, 2020 memo). The CO identified points of agreement about the requirement, including a 3-unit lower division course in GE, a campus option to implement an upper division reflective component, the implementation of the requirement using campus curricular approval processes and a start date of Fall 2023. Areas of disagreement they identified were the title and the role of learning objectives in Title 5 language. The CO argued that learning objectives are not included in Title 5 descriptions of GE areas/units, so they should not be included for this requirement. From the CO perspective, campuses should develop their own learning objectives. This differs from the ASCSU official position.

Their working title for the requirement is Ethnic Studies and Social Justice.

The proposed language would be included in Title 5, Section 40405.1 CSU General Education – Breadth Requirements, and within that framework, in the 39 lower division units of the CSU GE Breadth Requirement. The key elements of the requirement would be included in a mandatory revision to EO 1100. The elements recommended by the Chancellor's Office of the requirement will include:

- Title: Ethnic Studies and Social Justice
- a 3-unit lower division course GE requirement
- a campus option for an upper division reflective requirement
- implementation in the 2023-2024 academic year
- implementation of the requirement through campus shared governance processes
- campus development of learning objectives

### **Notification of Tenure-Track Openings to Incumbent Contingent Faculty, Librarians, Coaches and Counselors**

In appreciation of the work of our contingent faculty and the value they add to our campuses. We are pleased that the CO will be engaging in further discussions here about sending open job announcements within the CSU to all contingent faculty. As they work on technical and policy issues, we advise potential applicants to utilize the *CSU Careers* website regularly and sign-up for the alert function.

### **Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU) Endorsement of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Statement “*In Defense of Knowledge and Higher Education*”**

This statement from AAUP raises important issues about teaching, learning and research. Although given the date of its release they could not have anticipated the current pandemic, the role of knowledge

(across a wide range of disciplines) must be at the heart of any response to COVID-19. This makes the original AAUP statement and the ASCSU endorsement even more timely and relevant.

**Exploring Common Pathways for Transfer to the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC)**

We are pleased that the Chancellor agreed with the need to continue to include CSU faculty in all decisions about Transfer Model Curricula (TMCs)/Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) as transfer pathways for California Community College students to the CSU. The ASCSU will work to encourage additional faculty to serve as part of this process as it is a significant service to their campus and the system.

In conclusion, let me thank you for the opportunity to serve our campus these past three years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas J. Norman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas J. Norman, Ph. D.

Department of Management and Marketing