

First Reading Item
California State University Dominguez Hills
Academic Senate Resolution On
Shared Governance, the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU)
and the Leadership of Chancellor Charles B. Reed
Exec 12-01 (Sent Back to Committee 02/01/12)

Resolved: That the California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) Academic Senate re-affirms the importance of shared governance to the academic mission of the California State University (CSU); and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUDH Academic Senate firmly contend that the principles of shared governance necessitate that all CSU curricular initiatives include meaningful faculty involvement at the formative stages of development; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUDH Academic Senate express serious concern about recent major curriculum-based initiatives begun by the CSU under the leadership of Chancellor Reed, the results of which were only later announced to the faculty or turned over to the faculty for implementation; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUDH Academic Senate assert that current decisions about allocations of scarce resources to the Academic Senate CSU under the authority of Chancellor Reed seriously erode the capacity of the ASCSU to function as the statewide vehicle for shared governance to the point of unviability; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUDH Academic Senate maintain that recent administrative curricular initiatives and budget cuts that erode the capacity of the ASCSU to function call into question the commitment of Chancellor Reed to shared governance; and be it further

Resolved: That the CSUDH Academic Senate express no confidence in the leadership of Chancellor Reed, given his lack of support for shared governance in the university; and be it further

Resolved: That this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Governor of the State of California, the Board of Trustees of the CSU, the Chancellor, Campus Senate Chairs, and Campus Academic Senates.

Rationale

California legislative history and Board of Trustees policy both affirm the importance of shared governance to the educational mission of the CSU. In Section 3561(b) of the California Higher Education and Employee Relations Act (HEERA), the Legislature

“...recognizes that joint decision making and consultation between administration and faculty or academic employees is the long-accepted manner of governing

institutions of higher learning and is essential to the performance of the educational missions of these institutions, and declares that it is the purpose of this chapter to both preserve and encourage that process. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to restrict, limit, or prohibit the full exercise of the functions of the faculty in any shared governance mechanisms or practices, including the Academic Senate of the University of California and the divisions thereof, the Academic Senates of the California State University, and other faculty councils, with respect to policies on academic and professional matters affecting the California State University, the University of California, or Hastings College of the Law. employees shall be preserved.”

Board of Trustees policy reflects legislative intent. In its 1985 “Report of the Board of Trustees’ Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, Collegiality and Responsibility in the CSU,” the Board recognizes and acknowledges that authority in the university derives from both the legal power of governing boards and administration, and the knowledge and pedagogic expertise of the faculty. In that report, the CSU acknowledges that faculty are assigned primary responsibility for “...the educational functions of the institution in accordance with basic policy as determined by the Board of Trustees.” The serious weight given by the Board to faculty advice is reflected in the statement that “Faculty recommendations are normally accepted except in rare cases and for compelling reasons. “

The Academic Senate CSU is to be the “official voice of the faculty in matters of systemwide concern.” (ASCSU Constitution) It is the formal body responsible for recommending policy regarding systemwide academic professional and academic personnel matters, and acts as the primary consultative body on the academic implications of systemwide fiscal decisions. The ASCSU also acts to “ensure the joint responsibility of the Academic Senate and the Trustees in criteria and standards to be used for the appointment, promotion, evaluation and tenure of academic employees. (ASCSU Constitution) The ASCSU was founded in 1963. It currently consists of fifty-three members elected by faculty at the twenty-three CSU campuses. Each campus elects two senators, and the seven largest campuses (apportioned on the basis of FTEF) elect a third. (ASCSU Website) The ASCSU is structured much the same as local senates, with standing committees recommending action in their areas of responsibility and expertise to the full senate.

In recent years, the CSU, under the leadership of Chancellor Reed, has begun many major curriculum-related initiatives, the results of which were only later announced to the faculty or turned over to the faculty for implementation. Examples include the Graduation Initiative, the Early Start Program, the SB 1440 (Star Act) community college transfer degree, the establishment of a process for waiving the American Institutions requirement, and, most recently, the CSU online initiative. The ASCSU has regularly passed resolutions raising concerns about these and other initiatives, particularly to emphasize the importance of early consultation with faculty in policies or programs with curricular implications. Despite those resolutions, the recognition of faculty authority over curricular matters, and the weight given to that authority by the Legislature and the

Board of Trustees, Chancellor Reed continues to announce major initiatives with curricular implications and then request faculty assistance in implementing those decisions.

In another sign of its disregard for shared governance, the CSU Administration, under the authority of Chancellor Reed, recently announced to the ASCSU that its budget for Spring would be cut by a significant enough amount that there would not be sufficient funds for full-assigned time for statewide Senators (.20 assigned time each). The cut will result in a reduction from .20 assigned time for each Senator to .10 assigned time. That 50% reduction translates into a change from one 3-unit course release to one-half of a 3-unit course release. The reduction in assigned time makes it more than likely that Senators will be expected to carry a full teaching load while maintaining their significant workload for the ASCSU. In all, the ASCSU has experienced a net 26% reduction in its budget from 2007-08 to 2011-12. At the same time, CSU expenditures have risen by 9% (includes 10/11 estimate, 11-12 request, source Jim Postma, Chair ASCSU). The ASCSU has engaged in significant cost-cutting measures over the last few years. However, these new cuts, combined with previous budget reductions, seriously erode, to the point of unviability, the ability of the ASCSU to fulfill its responsibilities in the governance of the CSU. Given its foundational contribution to the university, and the return it provides for the investment, shared governance should be a high budget priority of the CSU.

Taken together, Chancellor Reed's disregard for faculty authority over the curriculum and his administration's budget reductions significant enough to prevent the ASCSU from fulfilling its responsibilities call into question his commitment to shared governance and because of that his leadership of the CSU.

Sources

Higher Education and Employee Relations Act, available at:
<http://www.perb.ca.gov/laws/statutes.asp#ST3561>

Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, Collegiality and Responsibility in the CSU, contained in the document Principles and Policies of the Academic Senate,
http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/About_the_Senate/

Constitution of the Academic Senate CSU
http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/About_the_Senate/

Academic Senate Website, "About the Senate"
http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/Records/About_the_Senate/

Email from Chair Jim Postma to ASCSU, Monday, 12/5/11

Relevant ASCSU Resolutions

AS-2845-08/FA, Approved May 2008 Shared Governance, Academic Freedom and Principles Governing Systemwide Initiatives with Curricular Implications

<http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Resolutions/2007-2008/2845.shtml>

AS-2892-09/FA, Approved Unanimously, May 2009 [Faculty Control Over Course Capacities and Mode of Instruction Decisions \(.pdf\)](#)

AS-2895-09/APEP/AA, Approved, May 2009 [Opposition to Impending Implementation of Mandatory Early Start Programs \(.pdf\)](#)

AS-2959-10/AA/APEP/AA/FGA, Approved May 2010 “A Detailed Response to SB1440 (Padilla) “Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act”
<http://www.calstate.edu/Acadsen/Records/Resolutions/2009-2010/2959.shtml>

AS-2960-10/ FA, Approved, May 2010 [Objection to Unilateral Decision Making and the Pursuit of a “Culture of Compliance” in the CSU \(.pdf\)](#)

AS-2962-10/FA, Approved, May 2010 [Opposition to Participation in the Zemsky-Finney Re-engineering the Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal \(.pdf\)](#)

AS-3029-11/AA, Approved Unanimously, May 5-6, 2011 [Request to the Board of Trustees to Delay Action on Recommended Changes to the Title 5 “American Institutions” Graduation Requirement Until its November 2011 Meeting \(.pdf\)](#)

AS-3050-11/EX, Approved Unanimously November 2011 The Faculty Role and Campus Participation in the California State University (CSU) Online Initiative
<http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Resolutions/2011-2012/3050.shtml>