

Consultation Council – March, 2015
Notes by Rita M. Mize, Ph.D.

Student Senate

The students reported that a number of groups – including representatives of EOPS, veterans, Early Childhood Education, and part-time faculty – have met with them seeking their support for use of the unallocated funds in the proposed budget. The students also expressed interest in AB 798 which would require all institutions of higher education to support the development, use accessibility, and ongoing maintenance of course materials including open textbooks and other open educational resources and submit an annual report to the Legislature on their efforts. (See notes on this under “State Legislation.”)

Bachelor’s Degree Pilot Project

Chancellor’s Office staff noted that they have approved twelve of the fifteen colleges in the pilot project and are consulting with CSU on finalizing the degrees at Santa Monica and Rio Hondo, with the expectation that these two – plus one final project-college to be added -- will be approved at the May BOG meeting.

2015-16 Budget Discussion

Vice Chancellor Dan Troy provided an update on the growth formula, specifically noting that legislative and Department of Finance staff understand that the growth allocation formula needs additional work; the Chancellor’s Office (CO) will continue to work with their Fiscal Affairs Workgroup and expects to have a finalized formula in the first week of April. Their intention is to find an adequate measure (or measures) of need and balance that with a measure of demand. It is expected that this preliminary version will be in place for one year with further refinements in future years. (Note: Since the Consultation meeting, the review and discussion of alternative models by the Fiscal Affairs Workgroup, which had been scheduled to meet on March 27, has been postponed due to the inability of CO staff to complete the simulations. The meeting has been re-scheduled to April 10 so the formula will not be available until after that date.)

There was some discussion of the unallocated \$125 million in the budget with the Chancellor’s Office staff noting that these funds are essential due to the loss of 0.8% in purchasing power since 2008 (according to the LAO estimate), and the steep increase in PERS/STRS contributions required of districts. Currently, the CO is considering apportioning the funds in the base allocation on a per-FTES basis, with a disproportionate share for small districts.

The CO also is proposing to allocate the \$351 million provided for mandates on a per-FTES basis. They believe that the Department of Finance approves of doing so, but are less certain that the Legislature will support this proposal. They will continue to argue that there is no need

to allocate the funds proposed in January to particular categories since it is likely that more funds for specific categories will be available at May Revision.

Noncredit Student Success and Support Programs (SSSP) Funding Formula

The Chancellor's Office withdrew this item without discussion; it will be re-introduced at the April meeting.

Adult Education

Chancellor's Office staff reported the issues of concern for community colleges: the composition of local allocation boards, the fiscal agent requirements, and fees. Specifically, the community college positions include:

- 1) Delete the local allocation boards since the majority of members represent neither K-12 nor community colleges;
- 2) Allow each local consortia to determine its own fiscal agent;
- 3) Do not require fees of community college noncredit students because to do otherwise would require them to use their financial aid which should be reserved for credit courses.

Academic Senate representative David Morse noted that they are concerned with the difficulty of common placement, just as they are concerned about common assessment across districts and programs.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Vice Chancellor (VC) Vince Stewart reported that his office is working with CTA and CFT to fashion amendments to AB 288 (the concurrent enrollment bill sponsored by the BOG) which are acceptable to the two faculty unions.

The CO is considering sponsorship of SB 634 which would authorize the Governor to enter into an interstate reciprocity agreement for purposes of oversight of postsecondary educational institutions offering postsecondary education in states in which they maintain no physical presence provided that the agreement ensures that students enrolled in a private postsecondary education institution receive at least with a similar level of consumer protection as would be available if the institutions were regulated by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. ASCCC President David Morse indicated that neither the community college nor the CSU academic senate support this bill. The VC responded that he would share the language and information with the ASCCC.

David Morse also mentioned that the ASCCC has met with Assemblymember Bonilla on AB 798; they support open education resources (OER) but believe that selection of the text must be determined by faculty. He also noted that the author wants to publicize OER, which the ASCCC supports, but the ASCCC that the state should incentivize OER.