

ASCSU September Plenary Report

September 6-8, 2023

This report is longer than typical, as we spent considerable time discussing key issues heading into the 2023-2024 academic year from the systemwide perspective. The two areas in which we focused the most attention were AB 928 discussions and the Title IX/DHR Implementation Teams (Imp Teams or I-Teams) based on the Cozen report and the State Auditor report. Several other issues were discussed and will likely take more focus as the year progresses (see below).

AB 928 update: The Board of Trustees will begin the process of approving [the Title V change](#) to the California legislative code that includes Cal-GETC as the approved GE transfer pathway from the California Community Colleges into the CSUs at their November 2023 meeting. (This will replace [IGETC](#) for students entering the community colleges in Fall 2025.) Changes to [admissions requirements](#) will also be proposed to align with the new transfer pathway. This is the final, pro forma step that concludes the work we did last fall in reviewing and approving the new transfer pathway that is also being adopted by the CCC and the UC.

We also heard from several member of the Chancellor's Office about the impact of Cal-GETC on CSU lower-division GE breadth. The ASCSU's position remains that there is no impact: the law specifically speaks to transfer pathways; the law ([AB 928](#)) is written from the perspective of the community colleges; Cal-GETC is administered by a 3-system consortium that does not supercede the CSU's control of its own curriculum; and unless there is explicit legislative requirements (rather than assumed intentions), curriculum legally remains the purview of the faculty per [HEERA](#). Please also see the First Reading Waiver resolution passed below.

Title IX update: We had a report from Leora Freedman about the work that has begun in implementing the recommendations of the [Cozen Title IX / DHR Report](#). (The CA [State Auditor](#) report was briefly mentioned in passing; also see the [BOT presentation](#) (particularly the question/comment period all the way to the end) as well as the [JLAC \(Joint Committee on Legislative Audit\)](#) hearing. VC Freedman noted JLAC questioned the CSU's ability to address the issues raised in the auditor's report. JLAC provided a letter with demands regarding deliverables; VC Freedman must submit a response by October 1st. One recommendation was MPPs lose retreat rights. (Side note: this seemed like a big deal, that was sort of made to sound like a standard thing/no big deal.) Auditor's reports usually occur with there are red flag (time and money are a factor) and questioning an organization's ability to follow through is a big deal.)

While culture change was mentioned, focus remains primarily on compliance – use of standardized templates, a systemwide case management system, data recording standards, reviewing education programming, oversight and accountability processes, more resources to the CO and to campuses to support Title IX infrastructure, and 5 regional managers assigned to campuses by the CO to give counsel and advice day-to-day about individual cases. Note the CO has begun to call the Implementation Teams I-Teams. Campus presidents are responsible for vetting members of the I-Teams, and we were told that

if there is a concern about a member to report it to the chair of the I-Team. If the concern is about the chair of the I-Team report it to VC Freedman (head of Human Resources at the CO).

The CO continues to work with Cozen, and has contracted with them (in addition to their existing contracts) to assist with a CO Implementation Team until a new AVC can be hired to lead this team.

There was a call by ASCSU Senators for more faculty representation in the Title IX Implementation Teams, particularly faculty with subject matter expertise in this space. There was also many questions and much discussion about culture shifts, and questions about changes made in processes to ensure similar incidents could be prevented in the future (such as the Castro incident). The lack of trust continued to be a theme in the questions.

Other items of interest:

- There is a systemwide workgroup focused on strategic enrollment management, as the CSU has not reached their enrollment targets for 23/24 under the CSU Compact nor under the 23/24 state budget;
- CO acknowledged they need to do more to disaggregate data and send it to campuses to improve enrollment management and other enrollment-related challenges;
- The CO is already drafting the next iteration of the Graduation Initiative once GI 2025 ends. It is “meant to be a shared vision to guide conversations for a year of engagement.” A draft document will be shared for input – we need to be ready for that engagement and to participate once this document is shared;
- Work remains on the changes to ADTs as required by AB 928;
- The CCC and CSU are working on a process for what happens when a proposed BA degree is found duplicative under AB 927;
- CSSA spoke to us about their position on the multi-year tuition increase [which the BOT approved the week after our ASCSU plenary], as well as the work they did in negotiating changes to the details of this plan so that, if passed, some of the impacts could be minimized;
- During the [ERFSA report](#), the CalPERS cybersecurity breach in June 2023 was discussed – this was far more widespread than initially thought! See if you got a notification from CalPERS that your account was compromised and/or contact CalPERS if you have any questions. CalPERS is offering 1 year credit monitoring to those affected.

Resolutions:

- [AS-3638-23/FA In Opposition to California State University Administration Communications WAIVER](#)

In light of recent communications from Interim Chancellor Koester to faculty employees about bargaining issues, this resolution insists that the CSU Administration refrain from directly communicating with faculty employees about bargaining with the California Faculty Association, the authorized representative of unit-3 faculty. Management communications that bypass union representatives to speak directly to employees can be interpreted as infringing on the requirements of

good faith bargaining under National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and California Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) rules.

Waiver approved without objection; **Resolution unanimously approved.**

- [AS-3639-23/AA Separation and Timing of Title 5 Changes Related to General Education Breadth and Cal-GETC](#) WAIVER

The ASCSU was a strong partner in creating and supporting the development of a singular GE transfer pathway from the community colleges as required by AB 928. This resolution 1) urges the Board of Trustees to expediently approve Cal-GETC based on the recommendations of ICAS; 2) calls upon the Chancellor's office to refrain from creating the impression that alignment with CSU GE Breadth and Cal-GETC is inevitable or even desirable; and 3) asserts no changes to CSU GE Breadth should occur without robust faculty consultation and a resolution from the ASCSU.

Waiver approved; **Resolution unanimously approved.**

- [AS-3641-23/FGA ASCSU Position on Tuition Policy Proposal](#) WAIVER

The Board of Trustees of the California State University (CSU) has on their agenda for the September 10-13 meeting a vote on a CSU Tuition Policy and another vote on a Multi-Year Tuition Proposal. The ASCSU supports the move to create a Tuition Policy proposal, but has concerns that the choice to bring this to the Board of Trustees for the first time in July, when classes are not in session, did not allow robust feedback from students and faculty before a September vote by the Board of Trustees.

Therefore, the ASCSU requests that the Board of Trustees defer the vote on the Multi-Year Tuition Proposal until the impact of such a tuition increase on enrollments and diversity has been analyzed and reported upon. Further, the ASCSU requests that the Chancellor's Office never bring future tuition increases to the Board of Trustees for a first reading during May or July Board of Trustees meetings so that robust student and faculty input can be obtained via the regular shared-governance procedure.

Waiver approved without objection; **Resolution approved.**

First reading items:

- **AS-3642-23/AA Request to the California State University Board of Trustees not to Make Changes to CSU GE Breadth in Title 5 until the ASCSU has Spoken** WAIVER (failed)

This resolution asks the Board of Trustees of the California State University (CSU) not to make changes to CSU GE Breadth in Title 5 until the ASCSU has spoken through a resolution on CSU GE Breadth.

This will return as a Second Reading item in November.

- **AS-3643-23/AA On CSU GE and the Tenets of Shared Governance** WAIVER

This resolution articulates concerns about the possibility that the Board of Trustees will be asked to consider changes to CSU GE without accommodating time for the ASCSU to weigh in on the matter. The ASCSU would consider such an action as a serious violation of the Tenets of Shared Governance and faculty purview on curricular matters under HEERA.

Waiver passed, but the concerns led to a committee of the whole discussion, and the return of DVC Evans to discuss our issues with the conflation of Cal-GETC and CSU GE breadth by the CO. This will return as a Second Reading item in November.

- **AS-3644-23/JEDI/AA Strengthening California's Inclusive, Multicultural Democracy by Eliminating Legislation and Policies that Ban Books and Block Citizens' Rights and Engagement**

This resolution strongly supports the Governor and the Legislature of the State of California's AB 1078 Instructional Materials and Curriculum: Diversity. AB 1078 (if signed by the Governor) will amend Section 234.1 of the Education Code to prohibit the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of any textbook, instructional material, or other curriculum or any book or other resource in a school library on the basis that it includes a study of the role and contributions of any individual or group consistent with requirements relating to instruction in social sciences and the adoption of instructional materials that accurately portray the cultural and racial diversity of our society. The resolution encourages the creation of bills that promote the "freedom of public libraries, library systems, and educational institutions to acquire materials without external limitation and to be protected against attempts to ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to books or other materials."

This will return as a Second Reading item in November.