



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

ASD 13-163

A.S. Approved Unanimously 11-7-13

Dear Colleagues,

Like other universities in our system, CSU Fullerton faces significant challenges and opportunities. Demands for accountability and improvements in retention and graduation rates, debates about the effectiveness of online education as opposed to more traditional models, and proposals that would move public higher education towards privatization and a decreased reliance on state funds loom. Beyond these overarching issues CSUF, like most colleges and universities, is being asked to respond in multiple ways to the complex needs of students from diverse backgrounds. Within this dynamic landscape we have initiated implementation of our five-year strategic plan, an undertaking that requires the engagement and support of the entire CSUF community. Thus, more than ever we must understand and participate in shared governance, and work together to ensure the success of students, staff, faculty and administrators.

Shared governance, an essential component of academic life, is the means by which the university community charts its direction, effects change, and reflects on successes and failures. In Spring 2013, the Academic Senate Executive Committee prepared and submitted to the Academic Senate (AS) a resolution regarding shared governance and adherence to the policies and procedures articulated in our University Policy Statements (UPS). This resulted in a discussion on the Senate floor between then-Chair Bedell and Provost Cruz and an agreement to continue conversations with the members of the Executive Committee and present a report to the Academic Senate by November 1st. This is the report.

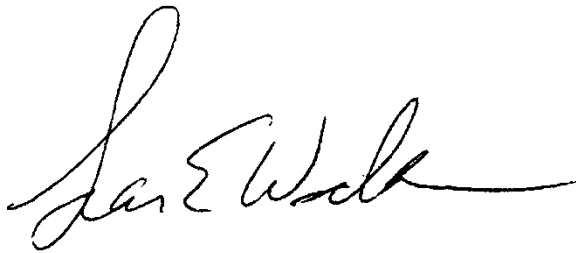
Mindful of the urgency of implementing the Strategic Plan, the Office of the Provost and the Academic Senate Executive Committee already are prioritizing work, streamlining processes, and collaborating to build trust among the constituencies and facilitate communication among all the stakeholders. Examples of our work to date include:

- The Academic Senate Executive Committee through its liaisons seeks to improve the information and training of standing committee chairs.
- The AS and AS Executive Committee receive regular reports from the Provost, and the AS Chair meets with the ASI President and Vice President on a regular basis.
- The AS Chair continues to meet regularly with President García, the President's Advisory Board, and the Provost. The Provost and the AS Chair work to increase communication and collaboration between the AS and the Council of Deans.
- The AS Executive Committee continues to initiate appropriate revisions of University Policy Statements (UPS) documents. Through this work, we explore how best to address

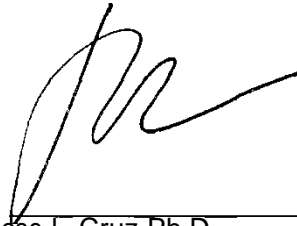
instances where our academic policies are in conflict with our academic and administrative practices- either by revising the former or adjusting the latter- as seems best suited to advance the mission of the University.

In addition to these specific measures all parties continue to look for opportunities to engage in constructive dialogue and to create new channels of communication. We look forward to continued, fruitful university-wide discussions, both large and small, formal and informal, as we move toward the future.

Best Regards,



Sean Walker, Ph.D.
Chair, Academic Senate



Jose L. Cruz, Ph.D.
Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs