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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Alexander Zukas, President of CA-AAUP &
Hans-Joerg Tiede, AAUP Associate Secretary

Colleagues,

On behalf of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) and its Executive Committee, I am writing regarding two pieces of correspondence concerning shared governance in the CSU which I have received within the last week. The first is a resolution passed by the California Conference of the American Association of University Professors (CA-AAUP) and sent to CSU Chancellor White and Board of Trustees Chair Eisen on February 21, 2018. I was copied on this resolution a full eleven days after the CA-AAUP decided to take action, which is the first time ASCSU leadership learned about it. The second is a letter to Chancellor White from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) on which I was copied this morning. In both cases, I believe it is important to note that there has been no direct or formal communication with me as Chair of ASCSU, only courtesy copies via email distribution.

In the first instance, the CA-AAUP resolution notes that the group “met with members of the California State University (CSU) Academic Senate Following that meeting, the undersigned members of CA-AAUP issued this condemnation” Since this wording could imply that the ASCSU members who spoke at the Conference during a panel presentation were serving as representatives of ASCSU, I wish to make sure the record is clear: after speaking with the senators involved, they assure me and the Executive Committee that they did not claim to act on the Senate’s behalf, nor to formally represent our organization.

In the second case, today’s letter from the AAUP cites action by ASCSU in September, 2017. However, in November, 2017, the ASCSU passed a motion charging its Executive Committee to meet with Chancellor White and others in the Chancellor’s Office to discuss ways to improve shared governance. During the debate on that vote, the Senate discussed involving AAUP, and decided not to pursue that path at that time. The meetings with our Chancellor’s Office colleagues are currently underway.

I appreciate the CA-AAUP’s and the AAUP’s support for shared governance in the CSU, and the ASCSU respects the right of members of both groups to express their opinion on any matter related to shared governance. However, we must also regard the collective will of our

organization, respect our democratic processes within the ASCSU, and protect against potential confusion about the ASCSU's endorsement or intentions.

I regret deeply that ASCSU, which is the officially recognized voice of the CSU faculty in matters of shared governance, was not involved in the discussion about the CA-AAUP resolution, nor notified before it was sent to Chancellor White and Board of Trustees Chair Eisen. And I regret further that the AAUP acted on the CA-AAUP recommendation without prior notification or consultation with the Academic Senate CSU. Had either occurred, any potential confusion regarding ASCSU's involvement and intention could have been avoided, and information about our internal processes underway could have been communicated.

We expect to conclude our internal efforts by the end of the academic year. Given that, we ask the AAUP to honor our current efforts and hold further action in abeyance unless assistance is requested by the Academic Senate of the California State University.

If I may answer any questions on this matter, please let me know.

Best regards,



Christine M. Miller
Chair, Academic Senate CSU

- c: Timothy White – CSU Chancellor
Rebecca Eisen – Chair, CSU Board of Trustees
Loren Blanchard – CSU Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs
Jennifer Eagen – California Faculty Association President
Janis Lipzin – American Association of University Professors
Hank Reichman – American Association of University Professors
Rosalinda Qunitanar – San Jose State University
Nathan F. Sayre – UC Berkeley
Claudio Fogu – UC Santa Barbara
Mary Ann Irwin – Diablo Valley College
Katie Graham – Diablo Valley College
George Beckwith – National University, Vice President for Private Colleges and Universities
Antonio Gallo – California Faculty Association representative
Steven Filling – California Faculty Association representative
Karen Davis – California Faculty Association representative