# ICAS Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 11 AM – 3 PM

Remote

**Roll Call**

(**ASCCC**) Cheryl Aschenbach, President; Manuel Vélez, Vice President; LaTonya Parker, Secretary, Robert Stewart, Treasurer; Eric Wada, North Representative; Austin Webster, Interim Executive Director

(**ASCSU**) Beth A. Steffel, Chair; Elizabeth Boyd, Vice Chair; Adam Swenson, Secretary; Thomas Norman, Member-at-Large; Gwen Urey, Member-at-Large; Reem Osman, ASCSU Administrative Support

(**UCAS**) James Steintrager, Chair, Steven Cheung, Vice Chair; Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair; Amanda Solomon, UCOPE Chair; Melanie Cocco, UCEP Chair; Monica Lin, Executive Director – UCAS

**GUESTS**: Darlene Yee-Melichar, CSU Faculty Trustee

1. **Introductions**

Welcome by Chair Steffel

1. **Consent Calendar**

* Approval of August 29, 2023, Meeting Minutes
  + Approved as amended
* Approval of the October 4, 2023, Agenda
  + Approved

1. **General Announcements**

*Beth A. Steffel, ICAS Chair, and Chair of the Academic Senate for the California State University (ASCSU)*

* The ASCSU Leadership Summit took place in August, involving discussions between the ASCSU leadership and the Chancellor's office leadership.
  + Discussion topics encompassed CSU General Education, CCC Baccalaureates, rebuilding trust within the CSU, enhancing CSU structures to remove administrative obstacles, managing enrollment and budgeting, and exploring the impact of online education.
  + The objective was to establish tangible and measurable action items for implementation within the current year.
* During their September plenary session, the ASCSU passed three resolutions:
  + [AS-3639-23/AA](https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2023-2024/3639.pdf) Separation and Timing of Title 5 Changes Relating to CSU General Education Breadth and Cal-GETC
  + [AS-3638-23/FA/JEDI](https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2023-2024/3638.pdf) In Opposition to California State University Administration Communications Regarding Bargaining
  + [AS-3641-23/FGA](https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/resolutions/2023-2024/3641.pdf) ASCSU Position on Tuition Policy Proposal
* Chair Steffel presented the rest of the ASCSU Executive Committee to the assembly.
* Ongoing discussions between the ASCSU and the CSU Chancellor's office have revolved around topics like General Education, transfer processes, and first-year requirements.
* The ASCSU is actively preparing a task force dedicated to exploring Artificial Intelligence's impact on administration, teaching methods, and learning practices.
* The CSU welcomed its new Chancellor, Mildred García, who assumed her role on Monday. Prior to this appointment, she held the position of President at The American Association of State Colleges and Universities, served as President in multiple CSUs, and contributed significantly in various other leadership capacities.

*Cheryl Aschenbach, President of the Academic Senate CCC (ASCCC)*

* The recent Chancellor of CCC has been implementing Vision 2030, which was presented for approval to the Board of Governors in September. The goals for Vision 2030 include equity, access, support, baccalaureate attainment, improving transfer, workforce needs, economic development, and the future of learning.
  + Conversations surrounding artificial intelligence are occurring at the CCC, mirroring discussions about its integration into Vision 2030. Overall, there's a notable interest in incorporating AI into the overarching Vision 2030 objectives.
    - The CCC has recognized the educational implications of this matter. To address this, collaborative efforts between the CCC, its Chancellor's office, and the CCC Faculty Association have commenced a series of webinars. Two were initiated in spring, with an additional two scheduled for fall. These sessions aim to delve into AI's role as an educational tool and its potential impact on policies and training protocols for its application.
  + The task force responsible for Common Course Numbering under AB 1111 convened in August and is scheduled for another meeting in two weeks. Their draft outline came out on August 23, and a newer version will be out next week before their October meeting.
    - The CCC aims to transition towards system-based articulation agreements instead of individual campus-based agreements.
    - President Aschenbach extended gratitude to the CSU and UC for their contributions and guidance regarding feasible approaches and ongoing discussions.
    - Anticipated by December 2023, the task force is expected to produce a report. The CCC is establishing governance structures to review the recommendations and commence implementation by January 2024.
    - A request has been made by the Task force and the Chancellor's office to extend the implementation timeline from July 1, 2024, to 2027, likely adopting a phased approach.
    - **Comment -** In light of the magnitude of the implementation process and the involvement of CSU and UC, there is a UC proposal to ensure permanent UC faculty Senate representation on the implementation committee.
    - President Aschenbach expressed gratitude to the UC for raising this matter and committed to further investigation, promising to provide updates to ICAS and the UC.
  + The AB 928 Intersegmental Committee focuses on the Associate Degree for Transfer. There is one faculty representative from each segment on this committee.
    - The committee is delving deeper into STEM unit thresholds, intending to establish seven Focused Discipline Readiness Groups (FDRGs). These groups will involve UC representatives to aid in aligning with UC transfer pathways across Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Math, Biology, and Computer Science.
    - There's a recognized need for additional faculty in these groups, particularly from CSU and UC.
    - The Intersegmental Curriculum Work Group is actively discussing improved compensation strategies.
    - Efforts are directed towards involving Senate leadership from each segment. President Aschenbach has requested assistance from UC and CSU Senate leadership in reaching out to faculty members in these segments.
    - **Comment** - suggests that beyond compensation, emphasizing the significance of these groups could positively influence retention, promotion, tenure packages, and potentially serve as an incentive for faculty engagement.

*James Steintrager, Chair, UC Academic Senate*

* UC has been actively addressing the differentiation between employment and academic progress for graduate research students as well as teaching assistants. This effort aims to establish clearer distinctions in their roles and progress within academia.
* Furthermore, UCLA is hosting a conference this week focusing on Graduate Studies. This conference aims to delve into various aspects related to postgraduate education.
  + A report by the joint Senate administrative group named "The Future of UC Doctoral Programs" is scheduled to be presented during the conference. This report might contribute valuable insights to the ongoing work within the UC Senate.
* At the undergraduate level, certain Provosts and Regents are eager to explore fully online undergraduate degree programs. This is restricted for courses mandating on-campus experiences, but programs can request exemptions.
* Chair Steintrager sought input from UCEP Chair, Melanie Cocco, regarding this initiative. UCEP is actively assessing existing online degree programs, particularly their degree and course completion rates. There's concern regarding the typically low completion rates in online university programs. However, UC has achieved completion rates ranging between 80 and 94%, which they aim to sustain. Maintaining higher completion rates enhances the educational experience and holds positive financial implications for students.
* Fully online degree programs have intersegmental impacts that necessitate consideration across different educational segments.
* [AB 1749](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1749) is suspended. However, [AB 1291](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1291) is very similar to AB 1749 and has been amended by the legislature.
* Chair Steintrager requested input from Barbara Knowlton, the BOARS Chair.
  + AB 1291 functions as a pilot transfer program, evaluating its efficacy through measured outcomes and assessing potential adverse impacts on transfer students. It aims to gather data to determine the program's effectiveness, any detrimental effects on transfer students, and the necessity for expansion.
  + Concerns have arisen regarding prioritizing ADT (Associate Degree for Transfer) transfer students, potentially displacing non-ADT students undergoing review. Such prioritization might influence the diversity of transfer students.[AB 656](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB656) would allow CSU to develop doctoral programs as long there isn't duplication. There is a review process written into the bill.
* The University of California is actively seeking Chancellors for two of its campuses.

1. **Faculty Review Groups – Cal-GETC**

* New review groups are forming to address Cal-GETC standards for subject areas not previously covered. UC aims to initiate recruitment for these groups, mainly if they follow a structure similar to that of a central committee and specialized subject standards groups.
  + Eniko Csomay, an ASCSU member, is appointed as the Chair for this group. While the structure hasn't been entirely determined yet, the suggestion leans towards adopting a system similar to the one previously used.
* In the spring, the plan was to revise the Cal-GETC standards by the conclusion of the fall semester due to its significant influence on curriculum processes.
* A motion was proposed, seconded, and approved for the CSU, CCC, and UC to nominate faculty members to the Cal-GETC subgroups. These subgroups are scheduled to convene in October, meet as necessary in November, and subsequently present recommendations to ICAS. A special meeting of ICAS is slated for mid-December to review and endorse these recommendations. The finalized standards are expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

1. **Cal-GETC Admissions Standards and Certification Procedures**

* Members discussed [IGETC Legislation](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=5.&title=3.&part=40.&chapter=9.2.&article=1); the discussions encompassed several vital points, including the anticipated implementation of Cal-GETC within CSU, the certification of Cal-GETC requirements, differentiation between Cal-GETC and CSU GE Breadth, as well as deliberations on defining and distinguishing academic requirements from admission standards.

1. **Call for CSU representatives**

* BOARS has been focused on addressing Area C mathematics requirements, defining standards for advanced math, and considering the role of data science courses in fulfilling core requirements within Area C. Concerns have been raised regarding whether students taking these data science courses might lack preparation for specific majors.
* Meanwhile, UC is in the process of establishing a workgroup that will commence meetings in the fall and continue its efforts throughout the year. Their primary objective is to evaluate fourth-year advanced math and critical math readiness for students applying to UC and CSU.
* CSU faculty will become involved in this workgroup starting in January. Although distinct from the ICAS sub-group recently appointed by CSU, there's some overlap between these groups. Chair Steffel plans to reach out to members of the ICAS mathematics subgroup to explore their potential involvement in this new subgroup. If additional members are required, she will seek further recommendations from the CSU Math Council.

1. **Interest in setting up a network of in-person testing centers**

* Members deliberated on the potential establishment of a network comprising testing centers specifically for online courses. These centers aim to tackle the challenges related to academic integrity commonly associated with fully online courses.
* Testing is a valuable tool for assessing students' needs within a course and evaluating their comprehension of the material.
* Proposals were made to utilize on-campus testing centers for midterms and final exams, with faculty or staff providing proctoring. However, concerns were raised regarding the availability of facilities and transportation for students accessing these centers.

1. **Planning for AB 656/process for assessing**

* AB 656, anticipated to be signed by the Governor, enables CSU to establish doctoral programs as long as they don't replicate those already available at UC.
* To ensure non-duplication, CSU will collaborate with ASCSU, and UC will engage with ASUC to create criteria for assessing duplication.
* Members have discussed the importance of proactive planning, suggesting the convening of Senate leadership from both segments to outline a schedule and workflow for the duplication assessment process before administrative engagement. This proactive approach aims to propose a transparent process once administrative involvement begins.

1. **Baccalaureate Degree Duplication Sub-Group**

* For this subgroup, a UC representative was required. Member Urey mentioned a recent email identifying Katie Harris as the new UC representative. Dr. Harris' email was shared in the meeting chat, and President Aschenbach plans to contact her promptly to expedite coordination. This initiative aims to facilitate swift progress so that committee members can provide updates to their respective administrations.

1. **Adjournment**