

CSUEU Legislative Committee Report
April – June 2014

Endorsement Activities

The Legislative Committee attended a SEIU Town Hall to assess the various candidates seeking Union support. We endorsed the statewide officers and postponed Assembly and Senate endorsements until after the June primaries. Our post primary candidate endorsements and motion to accept Committee recommendations is attached.

Sponsored Bills Update

As was widely reported, the Committee in concert with David Balla-Hawkins, Legislative Advocate worked to deliver Lobby Day talking points that featured two (2) CSUEU sponsored bills – AB 2721 [Staff Trustee], authored by Assemblymember Dr. Richard Pan; and SB 943 [Contracting Out], co-sponsored with AFSCME and UAPD, authored by Senator Jim Beall.

At the time of this reporting period, SB 943 was defeated in the Senate Education Committee (**SEC**), due primarily to the illness of the bill's author. The Legislative Committee believes had the author been able to testify before the SEC we would have had a different outcome. The Legislative Committee will review options of resurrecting the bill in some manner in the near future.

AB 2721 was heard by the SEC [June 25th] and passed with recommendation from the Chair. The final vote count was 4 -0 with two (2) Democrats and two (2) Republicans voting in favor of our bill. We have some amendments to iron out, and we are looking forward to the next two stages of the process – Appropriations and the Senate floor.

As part of the lobbying process the Legislative Committee identified constituents of the SEC and created support email templates for their use to lobby in advance of the hearing. The Legislative Committee Chair met with the Pro Tem's consultant and SEC members as did the Statewide to secure support for the bill in advance of the hearing.

The Legislative Advocate secured all meeting dates and has already met with SEC staff to brief them on the importance of AB 2721. He has also worked closely with Assemblymember Pan's staff to keep abreast of any news – good or bad – that relates to the progress of the bill. Please see the David's 48 hour activities list.

The Committee has also developed an E-advocacy campaign focused on the Senate once the bill moves through the SEC.

CSU Budget Advocacy

We were advised by the Statewide President that our Lobby Day activities and those of the Legislative Advocate would include advocating for the CSU budget – specifically, the additional \$95 million dollar

augmentation to the CSU's budget. The Committee had a number of concerns about: the request for additional funding (given the \$142 million included in the Governor's budget), how the additional funding was to be spent, and the climate in the Capitol for the additional funding. We advised the President of the concerns and were told we needed to include an advocacy piece in our Lobby Day talking points. We did.

The Committee also advised against support of the Student Success fees that were a bone of contention within the Capitol; and was not supported by the other large CSU Union – CFA. However, the Board of Directors voted to take a neutral position, so all talking points addressing the Student Success fees were stricken from the participant packets at the Lobby Day 2014 training.

Lobby Day 2014

The Legislative Committee is very proud of the work done to deliver what we consider the 2nd best Lobby Day ever! We had, at final tally of 107 appointments, and several participants secured follow up District Office visits. The evaluations from the participants gave the training and Lobby Day activities a 4.76 out of 5 on the Likert scale. Suffice it to say we are pleased that our efforts were so highly regarded by the participants.

I would be remiss if I did not include in my report the highlight of our training day/evening – the participation of Chancellor Timothy White. The Chancellor dined with us, engaged in a Q & A from the audience, and cheerfully posed for a host of photos with the members. We are glad we invited him!

Of particular note, Lobby Day 2014 came in under budget by almost \$25,000.00. Total cost - \$55,000.00 – a very impressive achievement given the state of the CSUEU budget. The savings are attributed to the Committee's willingness to meet at CSUEU HQ and not at the hotel; the use of 5.11d release time as opposed to 5.13 release time for Lobby Day participants; and encouraging the use of the van/shuttle instead of costly Shuttle services. This particular change, the hiring of a van/shuttle, is still a work in progress...

Going forward, we anticipate additional savings as we move the compiling of the participant and leave behind packets to the CSUEU HQ staff. This substantive change will allow the Committee to use more of its time planning and developing advocacy and protocols for the CSUEU activists.

The Committee also recommends that box lunches be part of Lobby Day. We believe would also be a significant cost and time savings for the participants.

CSUEU PAC Brochure and Campaign

The Committee has also been actively involved in the revamping of the CSUEU Political Activities Committee [PAC] brochure and campaign. With regard to the brochure, we requested revised language when soliciting funds for the PAC. We have worked closely with Communications Committee to update the content and look to more adequately reflect the objectives of the PAC. As previously reported we

have worked with the Organizing Committee to develop PAC campaign timelines for launch sometime in late summer. This launch is contingent upon the completion of the Contract campaign.

General Elections 2014

This election year is pivotal for a number of reasons; most notably the entire Assembly is up for re-election and half of the Senate. All of our work to create relationships will be on the line. The Committee, while not being afforded a budget to meet, has agreed to find ways to keep in touch, this Summer and early Fall, and abreast of the pre-election activities and advise the Board of any concerns the may be looming in the future.

Committee Farewells

As reported earlier the Committee is saying farewell to Diana Balli. Mrs. Balli is the longest serving member of the Legislative Committee and more important a true advocate/activist for CSUEU. Personally, Diana is my friend, and a friend to most of the Committee members. We are sad that she is retiring and happy that she has plans to enjoy her well-deserved retirement. Her travel plans make us all envious. She has expressed she has already joined the Retirees Association in her community and will continue to be an advocate. She will be missed.

Sandee Noda and Nancy Kobata have stepped down from the Committee, and on behalf of the remaining members, we appreciate their service and support.

Respectfully Submitted by,

CSUEU Legislative Committee

Kim Harrington, Chair

Vicky McLeod, Vice Chair

Diana Balli

Chuck Constantine

Catherine Hutchinson

Pete Rauch