August 29, 2013

To: The Campus Community

The new school year invariably brings new committee assignments, most of which are very important to the governance and sound functioning of our university. Thank you for the committee work that you are doing now, and thanks in advance for that which you will do during 2013-14.

In the way of updates on important university-level committee work:

• Work on the Committee on Cross-Divisional Collaboration has begun with a meeting of the three, initially appointed members. They will now focus on recommending up to six others to serve on this committee – all with an eye to seeking efficiency in practices across, rather than simply within, divisions.

• We will soon move forward with the reformulated University Budget Advisory Committee. In the next few weeks, I shall appoint the Chair and Associate Chair and, working within the processes elaborated in the UBAC reformulation document, shall receive and/or make appointments of the other members of the committee.

• Looking out for each other’s health is a telling characteristic of strong communities. I am hoping that we can move further in this regard. Thus, I have asked VP for Faculty Affairs and Human Resources, Dennis Shimek, and VP for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Suzanne Espinoza, to approach Academic Senate and ASI leadership, as well as interested MPP and staff members, about initiating informal discussions of a more systematic approach to the health of the campus. Nothing will come of any recommendations from this informal discussion group without referral to the appropriate, larger consultative processes that we normally follow. However, for now,
what we need is some free thinking about how to treat health as a full community-awareness issue rather than the sum of our attention to the separate health concerns of students, faculty, and staff. If you would care to be part of this initial discussion effort, please contact VP Shimek or VP Espinoza.

- Finally, discussions with local regional groups about art donated or commissioned for temporary or longer-term outdoor display on campus grounds have made clear that we need policy and clearer guidelines if we are to avoid haphazard development of a public, external art collection. Among the important issues to be addressed are: what parts of campus are appropriate for which kinds of and how much public art, and how do we determine whether a particular piece is appropriate for this campus? Through proper consultative channels, I soon will be calling for membership of an ad hoc committee to address questions such as these. As always, your thoughts on the matter before we move to more formal consideration of it would be much appreciated. Please send them to President@csustan.edu with a “Public Art” subject line.

As always, thank you for your help with these matters.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Sheley

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