November 7, 2014

To: The Campus Community

**Possible New Committee**

Seeking to enhance the college experience of undocumented students, members of our Student Affairs staff (Noelia Gonzalez, Amye Leon, Luis Arrizon, Araceli Garcia, Carolina Alfaro) have been reaching out during the past year to Dreamers on campus. Dreamers also often are referred to as AB540 students, reflecting the state legislation that permitted their attendance, as state residents, at California public universities. Advisors have been meeting with Dreamers to make certain that they feel both welcome and informed regarding legal, financial-aid, and academic resources and requirements. Workshops and presentations have been held; more are planned. A website is being constructed. Outreach to regional prospective students is planned. Seeking to broaden their efforts, the Student Affairs staff members have suggested that we form a Dreamers Committee by adding two Dreamer students and two faculty members to their number. The expansion would enhance structure, system, outreach, and effectiveness of the committee. As always, before moving in this direction, I seek input from the campus community. Please email your comments to president@csustan.edu (subject line: Dreamers) by November 18.

A quick update on the various University committees actively pursuing their charges this year:

**UBAC**

With the budget now in place for the year, UBAC will soon begin looking at 2015-16 finances. Some membership changes have occurred. Julia Reynoso (Facilities Planning & Finances) has agreed to fill the position of Associate Chair left vacant by the departure of Carl Whitman. William Foreman (Department of English) has replaced David Lindsay as the representative from the Faculty Budget Advisory Committee. Brian Duggan (OIT) has
agreed to fill the open Administration Representative position. I expect soon to receive the recommendation by ASI regarding the open Student Representative position. My thanks to each of these members for their willingness to serve and in advance to the entire committee for their hard work in 2014-15. UBAC will begin meeting soon.

**Strategic Priorities**

The Committee to Implement and Prioritize the Strategic Plan (CIPSP) has been meeting weekly since mid-September. The main focus of its work has been upon the recommendation of five strategic priorities upon which to focus University attention over the next two years. Meetings with campus stakeholder groups will occur soon. CIPSP not only seeks to identify priorities but also possible means by which to improve strategic planning processes on campus. In this vein, given our financial limitations, a major goal of the committee is to develop approaches to strategic planning that do not place undue burdens upon members of the faculty, staff, and administration.

**Parking**

The Ad Hoc Task Force on Parking is working its way through some of the toughest issues on campus – not only the matter of the cost of parking for the individual member of the campus community but also the cost of maintaining parking lots and providing security, ease of use, one-time permitting, options for permit holders, and so forth. This is a very important conversation, and I look forward to receiving the task force’s report and recommendations this spring.

**Advising**

The University Task Force on Advising came together for the first time recently to review its charge and initiate its effort with an eye to completion of a report and recommendations in early 2015. It will focus on advising needs, innovations, and best practices on campus in addition to gaining a sense of effective advising strategies being employed elsewhere. The task force’s goal is the recommendation of advising models that are practical in resource implications, able to bridge the gap between general education and major advising, sensitive to differences across colleges, and focused on a mix of effective information transmission and hands-on engagement. Finally, I have asked the task force to consider ways by which to extend our advising effort to external audiences -- K-12 and community colleges -- in order to assist future students in their preparation for study here.

**Cross-Divisional Collaboration Committee**

Last year we launched the Committee on Cross-Divisional Collaboration, the aim of which is identification of efficiencies (hopefully cost-savings but certainly better outcomes) across rather than within divisions. The committee has been quite active. Members addressed every suggestion submitted to CCDC. Major committee attention has been devoted to streamlining processes regarding employee fee waivers and clearance and separation of exiting employees. Additionally, CCDC has been soliciting feedback from the campus
community concerning campus-wide communications and currently is focused upon this area.

Public Art

The Ad Hoc Committee on External Public Art has been at work on a report and recommendations regarding a master plan for the systematic development and placement of public art outdoors on campus and the composition of a committee and related process by which to evaluate individual pieces of art for external public display on campus. The report and recommendations should arrive before semester’s end.

Thanks, as always, for your attention. Enjoy your autumn weekend.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Sheley
President