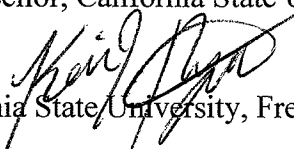




CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO

DATE: October 19, 2015

TO: Lou Monville, Chair, California State University Board of Trustees and
Dr. Timothy White, Chancellor, California State University

FROM: Dr. Kevin J. Ayotte, Chair 
Academic Senate, California State University, Fresno

RE: Resolution on California State University (CSU) 2015-16 Presidential
Searches

At its meeting on October 12, 2015, the Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno, unanimously approved the attached resolution calling for transparency in the search process and the public announcement of finalists' names in all current and future CSU presidential searches.

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California State University, Fresno, Academic Senate

Resolution on California State University (CSU) 2015-16 Presidential Searches

Whereas in 2015-16, the California State University will conduct searches for new presidents at four campuses, Sonoma State University, San Jose State University, CSU Channel Islands and CSU Chico; and

Whereas CSU presidential searches are governed by the Board of Trustees Policy for the Selection of Presidents. The Trustees Committee for the Selection of the President (TCSP) recommends final candidates to the Board; and

Whereas the campus Advisory Committee to the Trustees Committee for the Selection of the President (ACTCSP) participates in the search process, including interviews and deliberations that lead to the selection of a final candidate(s); and

Whereas the policy expresses a welcome “ deep commitment” to consultation with campus and community representatives but, rather than mandating an open search process, the policy provides that the Chancellor and the Chair of the TCSP together decide whether to schedule campus visits for presidential finalists; and

Whereas forgoing announcing finalists’ names publicly and scheduling official campus visits for them would mean less transparent search processes and less confidence in the outcomes on the part of the university community and the public; and

Whereas the thoughts of CSU Sacramento’s new president are instructive in this regard. In his Fall 2015 Address, President Robert S. Nelsen frankly expressed his dislike for the search process for new presidents. He spoke to the absence of an on-campus interview and who actually selects the president. In his words, “I hate that I didn’t get the opportunity to meet all of you during the search and that I am only meeting you now. And I don’t like it that you are only meeting me now and that the huge majority of you had no say in whom your next president would be.”¹ And,

Whereas meaningful consultation means open campus visits where all members of the university community have the opportunity to meet finalists and ask them questions in a public forum. Such visits give the university and public insight into finalists’ knowledge of the campus and their ability to unify and lead students, faculty, staff and administrators. They also give finalists insight into the university community they aspire to lead. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno calls for open and transparent search processes for the four CSU presidential searches in 2015-16, in which finalists’ names are publicly announced and official campus visits for them are scheduled; and be it further

¹ See http://csus.edu/sacstatenews/Articles/2015/08/documents/FallAddress2015_AsPrepared.pdf

Resolved: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno calls for open and transparent search processes for all future CSU presidential searches; and be it further

Resolved: That this resolution be distributed to the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, the Chairs of the 2015-16 Trustees Committees for the Selection of the President (TCSPs), the Academic Senate CSU and campus senate chairs, and the President of California State University, Fresno.