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November 9, 2006

Dr. Paul J. Zingg
President
California State University, Chico
1st & Normal Streets
Chico, CA 95929

Dear President Zingg:

As you know, the California State University Board of Trustees has approved the initiation of an exercise to develop a new CSU system-wide strategic plan to succeed *Cornerstones*. This exercise, *Access to Excellence*, will focus on a few strategic areas that are central to the University's capacity for enhancing student access and success, as well as academic quality in the next decade. The planning process will be collaborative and consultative, beginning in the winter of 2006-2007 with campus conversations focused on a set of domains and issues that have been identified by the steering committee. These campus conversations may well focus on additional questions that campuses deem to be of importance, as well. I am writing to you on behalf of the steering committee to request that you personally convene and provide leadership for the conversation on your campus.

The purpose of beginning the process at the campus level is to ensure that the process leading to the next CSU strategic plan will be broadly inclusive, involving participation by the multiple constituencies that define the University and its mission. Therefore, we ask that campus conversations include all interested constituencies: faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, and – where feasible—community partners and advisors to the campus. Consistent with the CSU's commitment to shared governance, we hope that you will involve the Academic Senate and Associate Students leadership on your campus in the planning and implementation of the conversation.

As mentioned, in order to ensure a degree of commonality in the type of advice and information from these separate campus conversations, the steering committee—with the help of Academic Senate leaders and Provosts-- has developed six major domains to serve as a framework for campus-level conversations. With the help of Academic Senate leaders and campus Provosts, the committee has attached a series of questions

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to each of these domains. These domains and issues are presented on the enclosure, which is also available on the CSU System Strategic Planning web site:

http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/System_Strategic_Planning/AccessToExcellence.shtml

Our hope is that it will be possible on each campus for the conversation to take place on a single day with a culminating, large public meeting, to which we may invite two or three members of the steering committee. We will try to ensure some steering committee representation, however, whatever the format for the conversation on your campus.

All campus conversations are to take place before the second week of March 2007. It would be very helpful if you would work with your campus leadership to choose the date for the conversation on your campus in the near future, so that we may begin to schedule the attendance of steering committee members in these events. Please send this information to Executive Vice Chancellor Reichard and/or Associate Vice Chancellor Boyum, at greichard@calstate.edu and/or kboyum@calstate.edu, respectively.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership in this most important exercise. *Cornerstones* has served California State University exceedingly well as a strategic blueprint for the past decade. I'm confident that working together—and with the multiple constituencies that make up this great University—we can produce a plan for the next decade that will serve us, and the State of California, equally well.

Sincerely,



Roberta Achtenberg
Chair, Board of Trustees

Encls.: *Access & Excellence*: Domains and Questions for Campus Dialogues

C: Provost
Academic Senate Chair
ASI President