‘Charter campus’ concept explored

CSU Chancellor Barry Munitz has asked Cal Poly to develop a plan to become a “charter” campus of the California State University.

The charter concept was announced recently by Munitz as a means of providing greater educational and budgetary flexibility in order to encourage innovation and increase efficiency.

A universitywide task force will develop a proposal and make a recommendation as to whether the campus should participate.

The governor’s 1993-94 budget message urged the Legislature to provide the CSU with autonomy and flexibility so it “can explore new ways to manage its resources to better serve students, faculty and staff.” The charter campus concept, which would require legislative approval, is a vehicle for achieving that flexibility.

It is anticipated that Cal Poly would ask for the flexibility to manage its own funds, curriculum, programs, enrollment, human resources, physical assets, and academic calendar. The charter concept presumes the campus would receive the same state allocation, but would possibly be free to set its own fees.

In return for increased management flexibility, Cal Poly would seek to improve educational quality, increase graduation rates, improve the success rate of all students, increase diversity, improve services to students, optimize the use of the physical plant and the academic calendar, and improve collegial governance.

Cal Poly’s Charter University Task Force is chaired by Robert Koob, senior vice president, and includes three other university vice presidents and representatives from the Academic Senate, Staff Council, Associated Students Inc., Deans Council, department chairs, and collective bargaining units.

The task force’s plan and recommendation will be forwarded to President Baker before the end of February. It is anticipated that a charter campus bill would be introduced in the Legislature in March.

Have an opinion on the quarter system?

What do you think of the quarter system? Should it be changed in any way? Would you like to see Cal Poly switch to a semester system? Would the semester start in August or September? What about a trimester calendar?

Questions like these are being discussed by a new Committee to Study the Calendar System. Made up of three faculty members, representatives from Academic, Business, and Student Affairs, and one student, the committee is charged with recommending whether to (1) keep the quarter system “as is,” (2) keep it with changes, or (3) convert to a new calendar.

Subgroups are focusing on the impact of calendar change on curriculum, scheduling, and facilities (physical plant, energy). Faculty and staff surveys will be conducted this month, and student concerns are also being identified.

If you want to express an opinion, contact your student representative on the Study Committee, Alissa Neilson via ASI Academic Commission c/o Curriculum.

Cal Poly to plan cut of up to 7.5 percent

Cal Poly will plan for a 1993-94 cut in budgeted expenditures of from 5.9 to 7.5 percent.

President Baker last week said each campus division will be asked to provide a prioritized list of possible reductions of up to 7.5 percent. No academic programs or administrative departments are targeted for elimination or disproportionate sacrifice, he said. However, such proposals could come out of the review process the president set in motion.

The size of the cut, coming after two years of similar reductions, means enrollment will shrink by an estimated 400 students to a total of about 15,900.

A plan to make the estimated $6.9 million to $8.7 million in reductions must be sent to the California State University chancellor’s office by early March.

This is the first step in an ongoing process. The CSU Board of Trustees will address the budget issue in March. One option might (Over)

Applications accepted for kindergarten

The ASI Children’s Center is accepting applications for kindergarten-age children for the 1993-94 school year.

Offering a hands-on approach and small groups, the center offers individual attention, specialization of tasks, and freedom of choice. Emphasis is on wonder, discovery and experience.

For an enrollment application, call the Children’s Center at ext. 1267.
Poly Reps seeking 15 new members

Poly Reps is seeking qualified students to fill an expected 15 vacancies for the 1993-94 academic year.

The 30 members of Poly Reps help promote Cal Poly to prospective students and their parents and to alumni and potential donors. It is co-sponsored by the Alumni Relations Office and University Outreach Services. Activities include giving campus tours, making presentations about Cal Poly at high schools and community colleges, and representing Cal Poly students at campus public-relations events.

A Poly Rep needs a sincere desire to represent Cal Poly, effective speaking ability, ability to adapt to a variety of situations, and ability to work well with others. Extracurricular activity experience is not required. Poly Reps seeks to reflect the diversity of Cal Poly.

For applications and information, call or visit University Outreach Services (Adm. 206, 756-2792).

... Budget cut

be a proposal to increase student fees.

Gov. Pete Wilson has proposed a 4.5 percent decrease in funding for the CSU. Baker said Cal Poly needs to aim for a minimum 5.9 percent cut because of impending mandatory increases in such costs as employee benefits and lease bond payments.

Several assumptions in Wilson's budget create a great deal of uncertainty. Those include relying on $1.5 billion in additional federal health and welfare funding and a $1.6 billion shift in property taxes from local governments to schools and community colleges. The state's 1992-93 budget deficit is also expected to be larger than Wilson's new budget assumes, Baker said.

Baker said he is limiting the reduction to 7.5 percent because deeper reductions would cripple the university, which has already experienced significant curtailment of programs, services and enrollment.

After Cal Poly program managers submit their priorities, the President's Advisory Committee on Budget Resources and Allocations will consolidate the recommendations into a comprehensive proposal. Before Baker signs off on the plan, it will be reviewed by the Associated Students Inc., Academic Senate, Staff Council, and faculty and staff union representatives.

Cal Poly's 1992-93 budgeted expenditures are expected to total $116.5 million. The 7.5 percent cut would reduce the 1993-94 figure to $107.8 million. The budgeted expenditures figure is derived by adding what the campus is expected to receive from its two main sources of support: the state general fund and student fees.

ASI to poll students on budget cuts, fees

in the face of budget cuts that President Baker has said could be as high as 7.5 percent, ASI is preparing a survey to gauge student opinion on academics and fees.

About 2,000 surveys are to be distributed as one tool to open discussion on impending budget issues. The survey will cover a variety of areas from academic programs to athletics in order to determine which areas students consider most important.

The results will be distributed to the Academic Senate, Academic Affairs office and college deans and will help guide ASI President Kristin Burnett in budget deliberations.

ASI urges students to become involved in the budget process and express their opinions to their college representative or Burnett.

Job-hunting tips told in presentation

Career Services is sponsoring a presentation, "Job Hunting Strategies in a Tight Economy," from 3 to 4:30 pm Thursday, Feb. 18, in Staff Dining Hall B.

Dr. Timothy Kersten, Cal Poly professor of economics, will be the guest speaker, and a panel of representatives from a variety of industries will be on hand.

This is a valuable opportunity for students to gain some insights about the economy and its effect on the job market and to learn some employer-recommended strategies for job hunting.

For more information, contact Shel Burrell, Career Services, 756-5974.

Resident advisor positions available

The Residential Life and Education Department (the new name for Housing) is recruiting resident advisors for the 1993-94 academic year.

This one-year leadership opportunity develops skills such as advising, public speaking, small-group communications, multicultural awareness, limit-setting, and programming. Interested students should call ext. 1226 for more information.

Trip to Russia set for June 19-28

A limited number of spaces for qualified students are available on the London Study Program's June 19-28 trip to Russia. Students can earn one or two academic credits.

The cost of $1,790 includes all basic expenses. Contact Carroll McKibbin in Political Science, ext. 2975, or at 544-9319.