

Postdoc Academic Chat #8

Teaching in the CSU (California State University) System

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Readings

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#1 The California State University System

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The California State University (CSU) is a public university system in the U.S. state of California. It is one of three public higher education systems in the state, the other two being the University of California system and the California Community College system. It is incorporated as The Trustees of the California State University. The California State University system headquarters are at 401 Golden Shore in downtown Long Beach.[1] The CSU system is composed of 23 campuses and has over 400,000 students supported by 47,000 faculty members and staff.[2] It is the largest senior system of higher education in the United States.[3]

CSU prepares about 60% of the teachers in the state, 40% of the engineering graduates, and more graduates in business, agriculture, communications, health, education and public administration than all other California universities and colleges combined. Altogether, about half the bachelor's degrees and a third of the master's degrees awarded annually in California are from the CSU.

Since 1961 nearly 2.5 million alumni have received a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from the university system. CSU offers more than 1,800 degree programs in some 240 subject areas.

Differences between the CSU and UC systems

Both university systems are California publicly funded higher education institutions. Despite having fewer students, some individual UC campuses, as a result of their research emphasis and medical centers, have larger budgets than the entire CSU system. CSU's Chancellor, Dr Charles B Reed, pointed out when delivering his Pullias Lecture at

USC, that California was big enough to afford two world-class systems of public higher education, one that supports research (UC) and one that supports teaching (CSU). However, student per capita spending is stretched far thinner at the CSU, and the lack of a research mission or independent doctoral programs under the California Master Plan leads to a perceived lack of prestige among some academics.[4][5] For many of the CSU system's early formative years, the more powerful UC system was able to delay or prevent the CSU campuses from gaining the right to grant bachelor's degrees, then later master's degrees and now doctorates in most fields. Thus while similar campuses in other states (e.g., Arizona State University) eventually grew from normal schools into research-oriented state universities, the UC system's powerful research university monopoly has successfully prevented the CSU from experiencing a similar development. Librarian Emeritus Kevin Starr has described the CSU as "in so many ways the Rodney Dangerfield of public higher education." [6]

According to the California Master Plan for Higher Education (1960), both university systems may confer Bachelors or Master's degrees as well as professional certifications, however only the University of California has the authority to issue Ph.D degrees (Doctor of Philosophy) and professional degrees in the fields of law, medicine, veterinary, and dentistry. As a result of recent legislation (SB 724 and AB 2382), the California State University may now offer the Ed.D (also known as the Doctor of Education or "education doctorate degree") and DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) degrees to its graduate students. Additionally, the California State University (CSU) offers Ph.D degrees and some professional doctorates (for instance, audiology, Au.D) as a "joint degree" in combination with other institutions of higher education, including "joint degrees" with the University of California (UC) and accredited private universities. This is why, for instance, San Diego State can qualify as a "Research University with high research activity"[7] by offering 16 doctoral degrees.

There are 23 CSU campuses and 10 UC campuses representing 460,000 and 238,700 students respectively. The cost of CSU tuition is approximately half that of UC. Thus, the CSU system has been referred to by former California State University authorities as "The People's University." [8]

CSU and UC use the terms "president" and "chancellor" internally in exactly opposite ways: At CSU, the campuses are headed by "presidents" who report to a systemwide "chancellor"; but at UC, they are headed by "chancellors" who report to a systemwide "president".

CSU has traditionally been more accommodating to the older student than UC, by offering more degree programs in the evenings and, more recently, online. In addition, CSU schools, especially in more urban areas, have traditionally catered to the commuter, enrolling most of its students from the surrounding area. This has changed as CSU schools increase enrollment and some of the more prestigious urban campuses attract a wider demographic.[9] [edit]Admission standards

Historically the requirements for admission to the CSU have been less stringent than the

UC system. The CSU attempts to accept applicants from the top one-third (1/3) of California high school graduates. In contrast, the UC attempts to accept the top one-eighth (1/8). In an effort to maintain a 60/40 ratio of upper division students to lower division students and to encourage students to attend a California community college first, both university systems give priority to California community college transfer students.

References

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#2 Shrinking Cal State Online

insidehighered.com

The California State U. System scales back plans to enroll a quarter of a million students through a centralized online portal -- a goal that failed to attract interest across its 23 campuses and that many professors questioned.

July 22, 2014

By Carl Straumsheim

The California State University System is replacing its distance education portal with a shared services model less than two years after its launch, as the system's campuses decide they would rather do the work on their own.

The system founded Cal State Online in 2012 in response to dual concerns. Its crowded campuses were turning away tens of thousands of qualified applicants each year, and while many of the campuses already offered online courses and degrees, the system

lacked an overarching strategy on distance education. Meanwhile, some administrators were nervously watching institutions such as Penn State University and the University of Massachusetts, which had already established online divisions.

Cal State Online, a centralized gateway to all of the system's online offerings, could have addressed both those challenges. The system set a long-term goal of enrolling more than 250,000 "over the next several decades," as per **early plans**, and found a partner in eCollege, the online enabler owned by Pearson. But many faculty members objected to the plan, saying a push for more distance education would directly compete with face-to-face instruction. To assuage those concerns, the system decided all participation would be voluntary.

But a year and a half after the first courses launched, Cal State Online features only five bachelor's degree programs, two master's degree programs and four general education courses. All five of the bachelor's degree programs require students to transfer in with at least 60 credits, or half their degree, already completed.

Of the 23 campuses in the university system, only five -- Channel Islands, Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Humboldt State and Monterey Bay -- have participated.

Now, Cal State Online is to undergo a "re-envisioning," according to a June 13 **memo** to campus leaders from Ephraim P. Smith, the system's executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer. Instead of operating as a stand-alone unit, Cal State Online will be folded into the academic technology services department of the chancellor's office. "The CSU believes it can be more successful supporting campuses' fully online degree, credential and certificate programs by focusing on a shared services strategy," Laurie Weidner, assistant vice chancellor of public affairs, said in an email. "The new model will enable the campuses to grow their online programs more successfully and in a timely manner."

The move to a shared services model "will include a shift to a communication, consultation and services strategy for fully online campus degree programs, credentials, certificates and courses supported by opt-in shared services," Smith wrote in the memo, which was obtained by the higher education blog **e-Literate**. "The Chancellor's Office will continue to support campus degree programs currently under Cal State Online as we migrate to the next phase of support services."

While the system is sticking with "re-envisioning," education consultant Phil Hill wrote, "Some services will continue and CSU may keep the name, but it's the end of Cal State Online as we know it."

The system does not yet appear to have decided what the "next phase" entails. The office has formed a Commission on Online Education and embarked a "listening tour" to its campuses, and will release a summary of its findings in September. In a section of the memo titled "looking ahead," Smith writes that the system "will consult with campuses to identify the next set of priorities to pursue systemwide strategies, services and contracts

to support campus success.”

Ruth Claire Black, currently executive director of Cal State Online, “will be providing research services on the role of online innovations in education for the Chancellor’s Office,” Weidner said. Gerry Hanley, assistant vice chancellor for academic technology services, and Sheila Thomas, state university dean of extended and continuing education, will take over leadership duties.

Despite the low number of degrees offered through Cal State Online, campuses in the system are independently running more than 100 online programs, Weidner said.

That may point to one of the reasons why the system has decided to scale back Cal State Online. By the time the portal launched, many campuses in the system had already established their procedures for developing online courses and programs, said Jim Postma, a professor of chemistry at California State University at Chico. A founding board member of Cal State Online, Postma said the online arm may face difficulties in its attempts to standardize distance education across the system and compete on a national and international level.

“I’m not convinced that the founders of CSO recognized this reality as they envisioned a very entrepreneurial enterprise for CSO,” Postma said in an email. “Also, it was never clear how the quality-control mechanisms for the curriculum which are currently established at the campus level would accommodate the CSO model.”

The system’s partnership with Pearson may also explain the lack of faculty buy-in. When the partnership was announced, the California Faculty Association, the system’s faculty union, **criticized** then-chancellor Charles B. Reed for “funneling revenue away from the CSU into for-profit companies’ coffers.”

The California Faculty Association did not respond to a request for comment on Monday, but its members have **long criticized** the role of for-profit vendors in higher education.

Pearson’s role has since diminished. Since the fall of 2013, Weidner said, campuses have been free to use the learning management system of their choice -- as opposed to eCollege’s. A spokesman for Pearson said the company continues to power courses offered through Cal State Online and provides technical support.

“For any business -- be it nonprofit or for-profit -- to succeed, it must have the three Ps: the right people, the right products and the right process,” said Kenneth Hartman, a senior fellow for the consulting firm Eduventures. “In this case, they were never able to achieve the right products, the process was not -- in spite of two years working on it -- in place... and there was tremendous uncertainty and a lack of buy-in.”

Hartman, former president of Drexel University Online, said Cal State Online still should have received more time to sort out its issues.

“This decision doesn’t change the fact that the marketplace for nontraditional and traditional students is crying for high-quality online courses and degrees,” Hartman said. “If Cal State doesn’t step up to the plate and fill that void, no one else will.”

#3 SJSU Policies on Office Hours, Retention, Tenure, Promotion, Sabbatical

http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/policies/pol_ofc_hrs_retent_tenure_promotion/