

To: ASI Board of Directors
From: Miguel Guerrero, CSSA Liaison
Subject: August CSSA Plenary

Fall 2022 Office Hours:
Monday: 12:00-4:00 PM
Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Thursday: 1:00-5:00/5:45 PM
Friday: 12:00-3:00 PM

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August California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

Hello everyone! My name is Miguel Guerrero, and I am your new California State Student Association (CSSA) Liaison. It is with great honor and humility to serve Sacramento State University and represent the ASI board of governors and the students, for which I will convey any and all issues to the CSSA governing board and represent them to the best of my abilities. This is the second plenary meeting of the 2022-2023 academic year, and the meeting took place virtually over Zoom on **Saturday, August 6th from 9am – 4pm** and **Sunday, August 7th from 9am – 12pm**. The plenary meeting was attended by our ASI President, Salma Pacheco, and myself.

The California State Student Association (CSSA) is a non-profit, student advocacy group that represents the 430,000 students throughout the 23 California State University campuses on issues relating to higher-education and coordinates advocacy efforts regarding these issues on local, state, and federal levels. The CSSA is organized through various committees and any actions that the organization wishes travels through these channels and is decided upon by the governing members through a systematic and democratic process of government. The CSSA then encourages the CSU campuses to follow the agendas and ideas agreed upon as a collective, to then execute and implement said ideas into their own university campuses. The CSSA is also responsible for engaging students within these campuses in civic engagement and political participation through advocacy and change.

Board of Directors Meetings

The main component of the CSSA is the Board of Directors meeting, where 23 representatives from each California State University discuss and vote on topics and issues that the organization wishes to execute or can chose to support or deny an action or cause. The Board of Directors meetings are where ideas and causes that were formed from committees appear for further deliberation and voting in these meetings. The meeting was called to order at 9:30am, right after campus connections, and the meeting at this month consisted of electing three new special officers, as well as electing governing members to serve in the Audit, Internal Affairs, and Finance committees. The three special officer positions consisted of Regional Civic Engagement Officers, divided up by the Northern, Central, and Southern regions. These are the special officers that were elected during August's Board of Directors meeting:

Northern Engagement Officer: Miguel Guerrero

Central Engagement Officer: Ignacio Castillo

Southern Engagement Officer: Obioha Ogbonna

This includes myself. I'll be serving in this role as a volunteer to CSSA to engage the following campuses: Chico, Cal State East Bay, Sonoma State and Humboldt State.

The rest of the board meeting consisted of further appointments to the other committees, while emphasizing that the Audit committee only needs to meet 1-2 times per year in order to conducts audits at the beginning of the year. The first meeting was adjourned at 10:27am.

The second board meeting consisted of member reports and a new business item that was approved from the Finance committee on Saturday that involves the recommendation of the committee to transfer reserve funds for the relocation of the Sacramento CSSA office to a new location due to security concerns. The CSU Student Trustees, Diana Aguilar-Cruz and Maria Linares, also gave brief reports on their priorities and affairs. Diana gave a report of her recent actions, notably, she will be serving on the Audit committee, Campus planning, building and grounds committee, Finance committee, and the Organization and rules committee. Her ongoing project involves "Law Enforcement Regulated Equipment and Tools", where she is participating

in an ongoing conversation on requesting a presentation to inform the public in regards to annual qualification and mental health/behavior trainings. Her priorities are:

1. To meet basic needs of students
2. To address safety, security, and income
3. Addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion practice, which supports undocumented students
4. Mental health and Title IX support through campus advocates
5. To have more transparency, education, and information within the CSU system

Maria also gave a report and she mentions that she had meetings with the CSU Chancellor, Jolene Koester, along with other confidential campus advocates groups, and she also attended the CSU Juneteenth Symposium that was hosted by Cal State Dominguez Hills, as well as the Panetta Seminar, and met with the CSSA Executive Officers and a few ASI Presidents. Her ongoing priorities include:

1. Title IX and Confidential/Campus Advocates
2. Student Parents/Students with Dependents Advocacy
3. Faculty Salary Task Force

The Board of Directors meeting continued with new business items, which consisted of approving the Budget Reserve Transfer action item (for more information regarding this item, see the Finance Committee section), brief information from Vice President Samaniego on the annual CSUnity conference taking place September 11th-12th at CSU Long Beach, and overall discussion and brainstorming on the CSSA's 2023 Policy Agenda. Ideas that were mentioned during that meeting were prioritizing housing insecurity/homelessness, which some representatives explained that those who were insecure in their housing situation often resorted to couch surfing, to which, contributed to an overall impact in their academic performance. The meeting was concluded with the CSSA encouraging students to submit their Policy Agenda Ideas by September 2nd.

Finance Committee

This committee reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Finance Committee and its members, as outlined in the CSSA constitution, Article XX – The Finance Committee. The committee also held Vice Chair elections for the 2022-2023 academic year, and also reviewed the current budget overview, as of August, for CSSA, and are currently working on budget adjustments for mid-year. We will be able to see a summary of Student Involvement and Representation Fees (SIRF) at the next plenary, which will help us better understand student opt-out rates. The committee also discussed and voted on the recommendation of a Special Reserves Allocation Budget Request action item. This item was for the Sacramento CSSA office to request a one-time reserve transfer in the amount of **\$123,095** to cover the expenditures for the office to relocate from The Forum 1107 9th St, Suite 840 to the new location: The Senator 1121 L St. This transfer was requested because of security concerns that have arisen over the past several months, and that this request would provide the following to CSSA:

1. A safer location with security
2. Closer proximity to the Capital
3. Reception space for receiving students and stakeholders
4. Conference room usage for large meetings

The committee discussed, voted on, and approved the Special Reserves Allocation Budget Request and had been sent to the second Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, where the Board also approved it.

Internal Affairs Committee

This committee built off the discussions held in August, mainly surrounding the roles and responsibilities of the CSSA special officers and Civic Engagement Officers. Since there were spaces left vacant in these roles, the committee further discussed defining what exactly each role would accomplish if elected, and how they could work cohesively with the rest of CSSA. There were no action items on reforming the CSSA constitution this month, as this is a year long process.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The committee started with brief reports from Jeanne Tran-Martin, the Executive Director of the CSSA, and Dixie Samaniego, the Chair of the committee, and there were three new business items afterward. The committee held a brief overview of the committee roles and responsibilities, as they are outline in the CSSA Constitution, Article XVI: Systemwide Affairs Committee. The committee also held elections for the position of Vice Chair for the Systemwide Affairs committee, in which Jaime Arellano, ASI President for CSU Los Angeles, got elected for. The last item of business was a committee review of the work and accomplishments of the Systemwide affairs committee during the 2021/2022 academic year, while also highlighting the Vice President of Systemwide Affairs goals and priorities:

1. Gain a better understanding of member's perspectives on CSU Board of Trustees agendas
2. Ensure President Malhotra's BOT reports include member's perspectives and narratives of CSU student's experiences
3. Provide committee with timely information on CSU and campus issues by bringing in guest speakers
4. Collaborate with Legislative Affairs Committee to recommend policies and issues to the Board of Directors and execute our policy agenda
5. Collaborate with committee on addressing issues affecting students Systemwide

Legislative Affairs Committee

As the first year of the legislative cycle has closed, CSSA took this time to review where the legislation we supported last year currently stands. The committee heard reports from Mary Washington, Assistant Director of Governmental Relations, and Trent Murphy, Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee. Mary briefly mentions the Ballot Bowl competition, which is a contest to see which campus registers the most amount of students to vote, while Trent mentions that AB 2815, which requires each of the California State Universities to establish ballot box drop-off locations, has passed, and that the CSUs should monitor the status of such implementations. The committee further reviewed the committee and governing member

responsibilities, as outlined by the CSSA Constitution, Article XV: Legislative Affairs. The committee further elaborated on related matters and responsibilities, such as reviewing the lifecycle of legislation, an overview of the Legislative Calendar, and reviewing what it means to take a stance on a bill and the processes that go along with supporting or opposing a bill. This process was explained as follows:

1. Find out and research legislation
2. Meet with stakeholder and analyze impact
3. Work with VPLA on committee agendas

Federal advocacy was also mentioned during this section, where the Chair explained that things move a lot slower in the federal level compared to the state level of advocacy, and that the typical priorities include Financial Aid, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and Title IX. The CSSA works more closely with the CSU Chancellor's office in regards to federal advocacy efforts.

The committee also held Vice-Chair elections for the 2022-2023 academic year. Salma Pacheco, ASI President for CSU Sacramento, was elected into the position of Vice Chair of the Legislative Affairs committee, and is a decision the committee decided would make sense, due to CSU Sacramento's proximity to the Capital.

The committee concluded the meeting with information provided by Chair Murphy on the committee is 2021-2022 bill positions, along with updates in regards to the status of those bills in the legislature. The complete online list has been updated to include where the bills are as of early September 2022, and can be found [here](#). All of the bills have been enrolled and are waiting to be officially chaptered into law, with the exception of AB 1746: Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Reform Act, authored by Assemblymember Jose Medina, which is currently stuck at the Fiscal committee, with the hearing of this bill getting cancelled at the request of the author.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this month's CSSA Plenary meeting focused mainly on organizational appointments and review regarding roles, responsibilities, and strategic priorities of the CSSA for this year.