

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

Spring 2023 Office Hours:
Monday: 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Thursday: 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM / 5:45 PM (Lobby Corps)
Friday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Contact Info:
asicssarep@csus.edu
916-278-3924

January California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The January CSSA Plenary meeting was held at CSU San Jose on both Saturday, January 28th, from 9:35am – 4:00pm, and Sunday, January 29th, from 9:00am – 11:30am. Our main discussions were centered on the approving the recommendation for the CSSA to follow the framework of the Higher Education Student Coalition Convening Report, updates to the Chancellor’s search, the final application and review process for the 2023-2025 Student Trustee position, the CSSA budget and finances, and other issues that the organization is planning to achieve this academic year. The CSSA also discussed the newest bills that were introduced into the Legislative Cycle, including 4 bills regarding tax exemptions of student loans from personal gross income, and SB 11, the CFA-sponsored bill intended to block third-party, outside contracting of mental health services. The itinerary for the entire event can be found [here](#) for reference.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting consisted of electing one governing member to the finance committee, adopting the recommendation of the Executive Committee to adopt the Higher Education Student Coalition Convening Report, information on the selection process for the 2023 CSSA Legislator of the year, Mid-Year evaluations on the CSSA Executive officers, and information and updates regarding the CSU Chancellor’s search. The important things to highlight is that the adoption of the Higher Education Student Coalition Convening Report was an important discussion item during the Board meeting, as this report serves as a framework for the most impacted areas in higher education that students throughout the state are facing. This report was possible due to the feedback that was provided by the student leaders from the three statewide student associations, California State Student Association (CSSA), Student Senate for California Community College (SSCCC), and University of California Student Association (UCSA). By adopting the framework, the CSSA affirms their commitment to pursue and address the issues that are outline in the report, and will continue to collaborate with the other two

statewide student organizations in the future to address impact student issues. To see the full report and learn more, see [here](#).

To see the full Board of Directors agenda and meeting materials for more context, see [here](#).

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee started off its new business with an overview of the 2022 – 2023 Mid-Year Budget statement and a recommendation of an adjustment to the budget to the Board. This Mid-Year Budget statement highlights the budget allocation and costs from various operations of the organization, such as holding and hosting the CSUnity event, the plenary meeting costs, administrative costs, professional staff and salaries, and Systemwide Involvement and Representation Fee (SIRF) Revenues. The overview of the Mid-Year budget is that there is a surplus of \$21,342 after calculating the revenues and expenses from all of the events and operating costs as of July 2022 until January 2023. The chair of the Finance Committee explained that while the CSSA did underestimate the expected expenses that would fall under their budgeting, he did say that by having a vacant position of management within the organization, they were able to use the \$124,000 of salary that would have been given to this employee to instead be allocated to the offsets of expenses from all the operating costs of events and meetings and that the end result would be a surplus of \$21,342. The total positive budget balance had amounted to \$161,000, which included the \$124,000 from the vacant position, and the total operating expenses from 2022 would be \$139,658, resulting in \$21,342 leftover. The committee has adopted the recommendation of adjusting the Mid-Year budget by rolling over the surplus money into next year's overall budget. The full breakdown for the Mid-Year budget can be found [here](#).

The Finance Committee also reviewed the Fiscal Expenditure Statement for November and December Financial Statements, and provided an update to the Fall 2022 SIRF revenues. This committee is specifically only addressing the CSSA operating budget and its financial statements. To see the overall budget overview and breakdown of the CSSA financial accounts for the month of November and December 2022, the agenda and the meeting materials will be provided [here](#).

Student Trustee Committee

The Student Trustee Committee consisted of a brief meeting, with the only informational updates being that on Saturday, February 25th, there will be a student panel interview that will begin the process of interviewing all of the applicants who have applied to become the next Student Trustee for 2023 – 2025. Applications were due on January 30th at 5pm, so the committee will provide more updates regarding the applicants and the interview process during

the next CSSA plenary meeting. The full agenda and materials associated with the meeting can be found [here](#).

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The committee started off new business by having an election for the Vice Chair of the Systemwide Affairs Committee. The committee's previous Vice Chair had resigned from the position and was open for a committee member to get elected into. The newly elected Vice Chair of the Systemwide Affairs Committee is Robson Winter from CSU San Diego.

The second business item was a discussion regarding student experiences with on-campus dining services. The discussion was facilitated by the Chair, Vice President Samaniego, and began the discussion by asking the committee questions on the experiences that CSU representatives have faced on campus. The committee members have expressed their thoughts regarding on-campus dining services on their campuses, such as Aramark and Chartwells, stating that there are too many issues that surround these companies when it comes to serving food on campus. Some of the issues that committee members have stated are: prices are too high for food on campus, there are not enough health options, not enough good options in general, some food services don't accept food stamps/EBT, the food is of bad quality, and that some campuses have a food waste issue that needs to be addressed, among other things. Some of the committee members do not trust the business practices of Aramark and Chartwells, saying that there is retaliation of student workers for speaking out against bad business practices, dismissing student workers out of nowhere, and that there have been health issues and cases of food poisoning on campus as a result of their carelessness. These issues have been compiled by the Systemwide Affairs committee for a follow up in their next committee meeting.

The last business item involved an informational overview on the committee's review of the CSU's student participation in Policy Development policy. The CSU's student participation in Policy Development policy is a policy that was enacted by the Board of Trustees in 2021 and was spearheaded by Ray Murillo, which codifies the purpose of the Associated Student body organizations as the official representative body of the students of their respective campus, as recognized by their University President. It goes into further detail, highlighting that nominations of student representatives that are to serve on campus-wide governance committees and other external advisory groups, are to be officially appointed and recognized by the associated student body organization. The reason why the committee has decided to review the policy was because CSU students were being appointed to external governance committees from other entities and departments in the universities, such as through the faculty senate or by other committees. Review of the policy was to remind AS/I representatives that this policy codifies that AS/I student body is the official body responsible for appointing students to committees on their campuses, and that the University Presidents depend on the feedback from both the AS/I student bodies and the student representatives appointed to these committees.

The Systemwide Affairs committee concluded the meeting by having motioned to table discussion and action of the last two business items until the next CSSA plenary meeting with a unanimous vote. The full agenda and materials associated with the meeting can be found [here](#).

Legislative Affairs Committee

The Legislative Affairs Committee consisted of providing information on the upcoming California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS) 2023 conference, information regarding the new Spring 2023 CIVIC challenges, information regarding the Governor's 2023 January Budget Proposal and discussion surrounding the latest introduced bills in the Legislature. The CHESS conference will be taking place March 5th, with the CSSA plenary meeting and a reception afterwards happening on March 4th. Advocacy Day, a day where student leaders are able to engage with lawmakers and advocate on student issues, is happening March 6th at the Capitol building. For more information regarding these events, see [here](#).

The CIVIC challenges have been updated for the Spring 2023 semester, and they consist of new categories, such as meeting with our assigned legislators, as well as participating in leadership searches on campus, make public comment in a legislative committee in regards to CSSA legislation while it's being heard, and attending and participating in the CHESS conference. Around the beginning of April is the deadline to submit the CIVIC challenge points, where the winner will be announced at May's CSSA plenary meeting. As of right now, CSU Monterey, CSU San Luis Obispo, and CSU Bakersfield are the team that is currently in the lead, with CSU San Luis Obispo in first place, CSU San Jose in second place, and CSU Sacramento in third place. For more information regarding the CIVIC challenges, see [here](#).

Lastly, the Legislative Affairs Committee held a discussion where five legislative bills are introduced into the legislative cycle. These bills are as follows: [AB 26](#), [AB 35](#), [SB 1](#), [SB 25](#), and [SB 11](#). The first four bills essentially were introduced as personal income exemption bills, with different legislators working on essentially the same idea. These four bills will essentially negate student loans, either through the student loan forgiveness program, or other, yet unspecified, student loans from a student's gross income. SB 11 is a California Faculty Association (CFA) – sponsored intent bill, with further language still pending, that intend the legislature to block third party contracting for mental health services for the CSU system. There was a lot of discussion regarding the SB 11, with the main consensus of the student body being to oppose any support for the bill.

The full agenda and materials associated with the meeting can be found [here](#).