

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

Fall 2022 Office Hours:

Monday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Thursday: 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM / 5:45 PM

Friday: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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October California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The October CSSA Plenary meeting was held virtually for one day on Saturday, October 8th, from 9am – 3:45pm over zoom. Our main discussions were centered on the CSSA going over the systemwide issues regarding SAP qualifications, Blended Degree programs, Academic Preparation, a Student Trustee position vacancy, the Cal Grant Equity Framework, the CSSA budget and finances, and other issues that the organization is planning to achieve this academic year. The CSSA also discussed the Policy Agenda draft, and asked the Board on any other ideas that should be included in the Policy Agenda, to which should be finalized by the next plenary meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors started their meeting with reviewing the [CSSA Plenary Calendar for the 2023/2024](#) academic year. The planned Plenary meetings are noted in black, with other relevant dates sorted in the document. The planning of the calendar for the plenary meetings is essential to begin planning for the directors who will succeed the responsibilities from this year's governing body, and gives a rough outlook for future events to come. After a thorough discussion, the Board of Directors have decided to unanimously pass the CSSA Plenary Calendar for the next year.

The next item on the agenda was for the Board of Directors to elect six governing members to serve on the 2022/2023 CSU Student Trustee Committee. This committee's purpose is to review and measure the capabilities of all Student Trustee applicants for the open position of Student Trustee for the 2023-2025 term. These six committee members will be in charge of submitting a list of applicants to the CSSA Student Trustee Interview Panel, as well as have the opportunity to participate in the interview process in an advisory role. Once the six governing members were appointed, the next item of the agenda was to appoint a chair of the committee from those six members. After careful deliberation, Krystal Alvarez, ASI President from CSU

Chico, was appointed to become the Chair of the Student Trustee Committee. To see more information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the committee, refer [here](#).

The final item on the agenda for the Board of Directors was to review and approve the 2023 Policy Agenda. A second draft version of the strategic priorities of the Policy Agenda for the CSSA was reviewed by the Board, and was also approved by the Board to adhere to these priorities for the CSSA's mission. For more information on the Policy Agenda draft, refer [here](#). Please note that the Policy Agenda has not been finalized as of this time, and any final updates and changes will be reflected in the next CSSA Plenary meeting.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee started procedure as usual: going over the consent agenda, which approved the agenda for the committee meeting, as well as the minutes for the September 10th meeting, Public Comment, and reports from the members of the committee. There was a new business action item that the committee went over, which was information regarding the September 2022 closing financial statement, and an overview of the 2022/2023 CSSA budget and reserves.

One thing to note is that this fiscal expenditure has had a few differences in finance expenses that are reflected in this month's statement. The synopsis of the budget overview is that during the month, the total difference in expenses for this month have totaled \$144,622. At the beginning of the month, the total budget for the CSSA was \$1,693,732, and now, their total balance left is \$1,549,110. These program expenditures were a result of increased spending from the following accounts: CSU Unity conference (3321), CSSA Orientation (3206), the Plenary Meeting (3217), operations expenses (660), and salaries and benefits of the CSSA staff.

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 September 2022, the statement will be provided [here](#).

Internal Affairs Committee

This committee built off of the discussions held in September, with the Chair going over new business items informing the committee on updates regarding the 2022/2023 CSSA policy review process, and the discussion regarding amendments to the policies in regards to defining the attendance standards for CSSA governing and committee members. Some highlights from this discussion center around defining absences and tardiness, and establishing parameters in determining what constitutes a tardy and what constitutes an absence. These are as follows:

- Tardy: was not present on time, but still came within the first 20 min. of the meeting.
- Absence: not present for more than 20 minutes of the meeting.
- Three absences per term could be considered a "negligence of duty", and can be removed from membership from the respective body.

These amendments were agreed upon by the committee to establish these amendments and add finalized versions to amend the CSSA constitution for the upcoming meetings. The Accountability and Attendance Policy can be found [here](#) for more detailed information regarding their processes. There were no action items on reforming the CSSA constitution this month, as this is a yearlong process.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The committee started off a presentation by the Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Dr. Nathan Evans, in regards to information on Academic Preparation. In brief, his presentation was about providing more information about academic preparation, a step involving degree completion and part of the Graduation Initiative 2025 plan, with the goal of expanding student access and equality, ensuring that students with quantitative and analytical preparation experience greater success. This involves improving system policies and programs, such as restructuring developmental education, improving placements and assessments, strengthening the Early Start Program, and promoting four years of high school math and quantitative reasoning. This would also consider the need for Title 5 change in 2022, with the fall 2027 effective date, and would also require the CSU Chancellor to submit a progress report to the board in regards to this approach. The CSU Chancellor's office recognizes the impact the pandemic had on learning and student success, and will employ multiple strategies to prepare students with critical skills necessary for a full range of academic pursuits and professors. Reach out to me if you would like to know more information regarding this policy review.

Next, Assistant Vice Chancellor and State University Dean of Academic Programs, Dr. Brent Foster gave his presentation on information regarding revisions to the Blended Degree Programs Policy Review. To briefly summarize, the "Blended" Degree Programs are CSU undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered to students through simultaneous matriculation, meaning that a student in such programs can simultaneously take certain Master's degree classes alongside finishing the Bachelor's degree classes for a seamless transition into finishing both Bachelor's and Master's degree programs. The [draft](#) for the policy is in relation to the implementation of these programs establishes systemwide minimum processes and requirements for these programs. As of October 5th, Sacramento State only has one major, Mechanical Engineering, with three specialized concentrations available as a Blended Degree Program.

Lastly, the committee held a discussion on the implementation progress of bills: [AB 1460](#), [AB 367](#), [AB 928](#), and [SB 24](#) on CSU campuses, as well as talk about Basic Needs funding. In regards to Basic Needs funding, in the 2021/2022 fiscal year, the CSU was provided \$15 million in recurring funding for basic needs, while in 2022/2023 the CSU was provided an additional \$10 million in recurring funding for basic needs. The CSSA has requested us to email our campus administration (President or Vice President of Student Affairs) regarding the state recurring budget allocations in regards to Basic Needs Initiatives and the status of those initiatives on our campuses.

Legislative Affairs Committee

The Legislative Affairs Committee started off with a presentation by the Chair, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Trent Murphy, on an overview of the 2022 Legislative Cycle which ended September 30th, which includes the legislation that the CSSA has taken a position on. The bills and the positions the CSSA took regarding the legislation they took for the 2022 Legislative Cycle can be found [here](#). One thing to note is the Cal Grant, in which the Cal Grant Equity Framework language in the 2022-2023 budget was accompanied with “budget trigger language,” meaning that funding for the framework will be triggered upon the implementation of the 2023-2024 budget, granted there is no major economic downturn in California or in the global economy.

Chair Murphy also presented an informational overview of the legislative proposal involving Student Financial Aid Access: Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). To provide a brief overview, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements are in place to ensure eligibility of receiving federal financial aid which include variables such as cumulative GPA, how many credits a student has completed, whether an incomplete class, withdrawal, repeated class or a change of major can affect this progress, etc.¹ The Legislative Proposal put forth by the CSSA identifies that many public postsecondary institutions across California impose a range of additional barriers in their SAP policies beyond what is required by law. This results in denial of access to financial aid to students who may already be experiencing significant barriers to their academic success. The CSSA’s solution would be to address these issues by requiring postsecondary institutions in California that participate in state-authorized student financial aid programs to adhere to a common set of standards that fall within the parameters already established by federal regulations. For more information regarding the full legislative proposal, please refer to it [here](#).

Conclusion

In conclusion, this month’s CSSA Plenary meeting was more productive in terms of gathering the research from various parties in order to address certain systemwide issues and priorities. The Policy Agenda is in its second draft phase, and will be finalized by the next meeting. Thank you for your time in reading my report, and if you have any questions about anything mentioned in this report, please feel free to reach out to me and I’ll be more than happy to explain anything to you.

¹ “Federal Student Aid.” Federal Student Aid, <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/staying-eligible>