

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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September California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The September CSSA Plenary meeting was held in-person for one day on Saturday, September 10th, from 9am – 4pm at CSU Long Beach. Our main discussions were centered on the CSSA going over the approval of logistics, finances, and issues that the organization is planning to achieve this academic year. The CSSA discussed the Policy Agenda draft, and asked the Board on any other ideas that should be included in the Policy Agenda. They also discussed and approved the Audit reports and financial statements for 2022, shared and discussed the 2023/2024 Plenary Calendar, and further discussed accountability within the governing members of the CSSA. There was no Legislative Affairs Committee meeting this plenary, and Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Trent Murphy, will provide further updates regarding the logistics and preparation of the committee for the start of the next legislative cycle.

Board of Directors Meeting

Brief disclaimer: The Board of Directors meeting was the last formal meeting at the CSSA Plenary meeting. Many of what was talked about in this section of the report involves context from the other committees that was brought into the discussions of this meeting.

Following the context by committees in order is as follows: 1. Executive, 2. Internal Affairs, 3. Systemwide, 4. Audit, and 5. Finance.

The Board of directors meeting started off with approval of the consent agenda, which was just approving the agenda for the meeting, as well as the minutes for the previous three Board of Directors meetings. Afterwards, there were Liaison reports, which were verbal reports

on what each partner organization has been doing over the last month. There was also a [report](#) by CSU Student Trustee, Diana Aguilar-Cruz, which highlights in detail what meetings and events she has attended, as well as the ongoing projects and priorities she is undergoing. There were also reports by the staff and the heads of the various committees from the CSSA, and more details regarding their activities will be outlined further into the report.

The Board of Directors also conducted new business actions during the meeting. The Board approved the Audit Committee's recommendation regarding the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 CSSA Audit. There was also information regarding a draft of the upcoming Plenary [Calendar](#) for 2023 and 2024 that was shared and discussed as the CSSA provides a roadmap of the future plenary meetings, as well as information regarding the search, requirements and deadline for the position of CSU Student Trustee for 2023-2025. There was information about a temporary and advisory joint task force on advocacy efforts that involves collaboration with the CSSA, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC), and the University of California Student Association (UCSA). The [draft](#) for the Policy Agenda was also discussed that outlines the CSSA's strategic priorities for 2023. Overall, the Board of Directors addressed the start of the 2022/2023 fiscal year with an agreement of the budget provided by the CSSA and the CSU, and also established their principle actions as the CSSA moves forward with addressing logistics and agreeing on priorities while preparing for the start of the year.

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 August 6th meeting, Public Comment, and reports from the members of the committee. There were new business action items that the committee went over, including information regarding the August 2022 financial statement, and an overview of the 2022/2023 CSSA budget and reserves. The synopsis of the budget overview was that there were program expenditures that were taken from account 43644 – CSSA Operating Fund that included expenditures of conferences that took place from 2021 and 2022, including the CSUnity and CSSA CHESS virtual events, the budget that supported the CSSA Plenary Meetings, Scholarships provided by the CSSA, Federal and State advocacy efforts, and the budgets for other internal programs, such as public relations and campaigns. SIRF revenue for the 2021-2022 fiscal year reported a negative growth of income

compared to the previous years before, around \$1.6 million, but it was explained at the committee meeting that this was a result from the decrease in enrollment within the CSU system, and that effectively, there was also a decrease in spending for those same programs. This means that the CSSA, as well as the CSU system, while there was a decrease in enrollment and revenue that was coming in from the SIRF, there was also a decrease in spending and allocation of resources for those students, meaning that the CSSA and the CSU system were able to save money from their overall budget. This committee is specifically only addressing the CSSA operating budget and its financial statements, whereas the CSU system's overall operating budget is addressed in a presentation in the Systemwide Affairs Committee. To see the overall budget overview and breakdown of the CSSA and the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the statement will be provided [here](#).

Internal Affairs Committee

This committee built off of the discussions held in August, with the Chair going over new business items informing the committee on the 2022/2023 CSSA policy review process, as well as discussion regarding the policies that will be reviewed in the October Plenary's next committee meeting. Some highlights from this discussion center around tardiness and absences of the CSSA Governing Board, as well as for the committee members, the requirements to remove a governing member and the procedures that follow such action, accountability and oversight for the CSSA and its members, the attendance and removal of the CSSA Executive and Special Officers, the Code of Conduct, and the acceptable use of CSSA Resources. 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 year long process. This meeting went by quickly, lasting less than 10 minutes.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The committee started off with brief reports from Jeanne Tran-Martin, the Executive Director of the CSSA, and Dixie Samaniego, Vice President of Systemwide Affairs, as well as the Chair of the committee. There were two new business items afterward. The committee held a discussion regarding the September Board of Trustees [agenda](#), which also included a presentation by the Assistant Vice Chancellor Ryan Storm who briefly touched on the state of the CSU budget. The Vice Chancellor talked about how this fiscal year's proposed increase for

their operating budget would be \$716 million, and that their total operating budget will consist of \$8.1 Billion. The proposed increase would be allocated towards a variety of different categories and priorities for the CSU system: the Graduation Initiative 2025 (10.5%), Student Basic Needs (2.8%), Bridging Equity Divide through Technology (10.5%), SB 169 State University Grant Requirement (2.3%), etc. The Vice Chancellor also touched up on CSUCCESS, which aims to see a 40% graduation rate among 4-year first time students, and a 45% graduation rate among 2-year transfer students by 2025. To see more information about the initiative, statistics, data, and the proposed budget for 2022/2023, the report can be found [here](#). The committee also held a discussion regarding possible topics that the Systemwide Affairs Committee can address for 2022/2023. The topics that were most brought up and agreed upon were addressing mental health, adequate child-care for students who have children, and addressing parking, where the pricing can vary by campus, as well as inadequate infrastructure to address higher enrollment numbers post-pandemic.

Legislative Affairs Committee

For September's CSSA Plenary meeting, the Legislative Affairs did not convene. However, the Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Trent Murphy, emphasized that there will be one at next month's Plenary meeting. As the Legislative Cycle for this year comes to a close and the Bills that were approved by the Legislature are awaiting enrollment and signature by the Governor, the next Legislative Affairs Committee meeting will start preparing for the 2023 legislative cycle, as well as coordinate any advocacy efforts and advise the CSSA on which bills the organization should support/oppose and conduct meetings on the legislators who author those bills.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee consisted of a special presentation from the Auditors of the CSSA, Vasin, Heyn & Co., where they conducted an external audit for 2021-2022 fiscal year and addressed an Audit Exit Conference protocol. The Audit consists of dense and long reports of information regarding the external accountability of the CSSA, the external management of their finances, fraud prevention, risk management and assessment, accounting estimates, audit adjustments, etc. To see the full reports and documents regarding the exit conference pool, the [agenda](#) of the Audit Committee will have links to each individual report that was presented.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee was brief, and only consisted of two new business informational items. In the first item, President Krishan Malhotra presented an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee by referring to the section in their constitution regarding Executive positions. The second item also provided some information on appointments towards the CSSA committees. This meeting overall lasted around 15-20 minutes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this month's CSSA Plenary meeting was focused on the starting processes, planning, and execution of the organization's actions. The strategic priorities that were highlighted in the CSSA's Policy Agenda have been discussed and agreed upon within the organization, and the President, Krishan Malhotra, will have a finalized version of the Policy Agenda by the next plenary meeting. The rest of the weekend was centered on the CSUnity conference, where governing members were encourage to make connections with each other, as well as listen to presentation by guest speakers of officials within the CSU system, attend breakout rooms regarding various topics, and further collaborate and discuss among each other the different priorities and advocacy efforts in which each member can potentially make an impact within their own campus. 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.