

To: ASI Board of Directors

From: Kathryn Webb, CSSA Liaison

Subject: October Board Report

Office Hours:

Monday: 8AM- 10:15 AM

Tuesday: 12:30- 3:30 PM

Wednesday: 1:45-5 PM

Thursday: 2-5 PM*

Friday: 12:30-3:30 PM

Contact Info:

Email: asicssarep@csus.edu

Phone: (916) 278- 3925*

California State Student Association (CSSA)

The September CSSA Plenary was held for one day on September 19th. In my last board report, you can find a brief synopsis of every committee meeting. Here, I would like to focus on the two pieces of legislation the CSSA is currently considering and acting upon.

- First is proposition 16, which will be on the ballots this upcoming election in November.

If voted in by the public, it will reinstate affirmative action in California. The CSSA took a vote to support this proposition. The Board of Trustees meeting took place after the CSSA plenary weekend, and they too took a supportive stance of Proposition 16.

* Only during scheduled Lobby Corps Weeks. For a schedule of Lobby Corps Meetings, please see <https://asi.csus.edu/post/lobby-corps>

* I will be working at home due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and therefore will not be available at this phone number for a call. If you would like to call me, please email me so we can set up a Zoom meeting.

- Second is the Filipino Human Rights Act. This was brought to CSSA's attention by CSU students, and the two groups are currently working together to create a piece of legislation that clears out a concrete path for CSSA to advocate for these students. The bill calls for a suspension of US military aid to the Philippines until the human rights violations have ceased and the state is held accountable. The students who brought this legislation up are concerned for their safety, as well as the safety of their friends and families. This fear has affected their mental health and wellbeing. The CSSA wants to support this legislation anyway they can, so they are currently working with student activists to create legislation the CSSA can follow through on.

It is also important to note that the way CSSA plenaries will be held is changing. Due to the virtual environment, the CSSA has noticed zoom fatigue among its participants. To combat this, they will be holding the October Plenary over a week. Some meetings will take place during the week, others will still be on the weekend. The goal of this is to spread out the information, so that members and participants are not overwhelmed, and can focus better on the tasks at hand. I will send you an updated agenda and plan when they have released one. The plenary in October is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of the 17th and 18th.

The new CSU Chancellor was also announced at the Board of Trustees meeting in September. His name is Joseph Castro, and he was the president at Fresno State. He is the 8th CSU Chancellor and the first Mexican American CSU Chancellor. He met with a group of student representatives after the announcement to discuss concerns the students have noticed on

their campus. I was able to attend. Much of it had to do with COVID-19 concerns over physical and mental health, safety, as well as basic needs distribution to students. He will officially become the chancellor on January 4th, 2021. For more information on upcoming CSSA plenaries visit this website: <https://calstatestudents.org/>.

For CSSA's statement on the new Chancellor follow this link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A4NsYfBGLIZJG_iY8uWnbhRQAjUZMnSB/view.

Lobby Corps

The first Lobby Corps meeting was held on September 17th. We had guest speaker Mike Schariff talk to the committee about his time working for ASI and the Office of Governmental Affairs at Sacramento State University. His largest project here was the science building on campus. The former ASI president, CSSA Liaison, and him lobbied their student trustee to start construction on the building. They did, and he was able to see them break ground on the project. He then discussed how to lobby and advocate in a virtual world. Ways to get involved virtually:

You can make phone calls to legislators and call into committee hearings once the legislature is back in session. He also stated that no one else has ever experienced this, so everyone is on the same playing field. Other ways to get the word out to vote include sending postcards to voters, texting, and having a car campaign, where you decorate your car with voting messages and drive around!

During this meeting I also gave a presentation on CSSA to inform our members on what CSSA does, and how I can help advocate for the students within this organization. The Chair of Lobby Corps, Ethan Gould, also gave a presentation on what Lobby Corps is and how we serve the students.

Our meeting on October 1st was filled with information. Our guest speaker was Nathan Diedrich, the Director of State and Federal Relations for Sacramento State. He has been working here for 5 years and his role is to support Sacramento State in government projects and works with OGA and ASI! In his presentation, he discussed possible lobby days in collaboration with Lobby Corps. The biggest topic he discussed is the budget for Sacramento State for the near future. The new base budget for Sacramento State from 2020-2021 is \$299 million less than the year prior. Sacramento State has taken a cut of \$18 million. The Board of Trustees requested a \$237.5 million increase. He also discussed the CARES Act, and how the CSU is advocating for \$47 billion in emergency aid for higher education from the federal government. The final amount and the share allocated to Sacramento State is still to be determined. He also discussed legislation that was supported or opposed by the CSU system. They are listed below:

- ACA5- Prop 16. CSU Supported
- AB 1460- Ethnic Studies. CSU Opposed
- AB 685- COVID-19 Notification. CSU Opposed
- AB 2288- Emergency Nursing Regulation. CSU Supported

Nathan also asked the committee questions about how he can support goals from Lobby Corps and ASI. He also wanted to know what bills ASI supports. Another point of interest from his presentation is the vote center that will be held on campus. Sacramento State will be a venue for a voting center, and will be open for four days, October 31 to November 3rd. It will close at 5 PM on election day. There will also be a drop box at The Well if you wish to drop your vote-by-mail ballot here.

Our meetings in October will be held on the 15th and 29th. On October 15th, we will be holding a “Know Your Rights” training. Ethan, Alejandro, and I have been discussing what it

will look like. On October 29th, we will be hosting a CSSA Day. We will have four guest speakers attend and talk about different aspects of CSSA, the Board of Trustees, and how you can get involved! Our speakers will include President Zahraa Khuraibet, Chair Diana Vicente, Policy Analyst Hannah Bragstad, and Student Trustee Maryana Khames. I highly recommend that you attend this event, as it will be both informative and inspiring.

OGA Activities

The Office of Governmental Affairs had a group meeting on September 10th, where we discussed our different roles, how we can support each other, and what we would like to accomplish this year.

We are also currently working on creating a webpage to acknowledge the hard work of our Election Ambassador volunteers.

On September 22nd, we celebrated National Voter Registration Day. This was a part of the CSSA Civic Challenge but was also a great opportunity to spread the word about the upcoming election. Our Civic Engagement Coordinator made some great posts on Instagram to spread awareness. We are currently in third place in the ballot bowl with 777 registered voters. We are behind CSU Fullerton and UC San Diego.

Events and Calendar Items

- 9/9 Attended ASI Board Meeting
- 9/10 Attended OGA Team Meeting
- 9/14 Attended Government Office Staff Meeting
- 9/16 Attended ASI Working Board Meeting
- 9/17 Attended Lobby Corps Meeting
- 9/18 Attended the Students Learn, Students Vote California Summit

- 9/19 Attended CSSA Plenary
- 9/23 Attended ASI Board Meeting
- 9/23 Met with Director of Health and Human Services to discuss strategic priorities
- 9/24 Attended Chancellor Select Meeting to Meet New CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro
- 9/30 Attended ASI Working Board Meeting
- 10/1 Attended Lobby Corps Meeting
- 10/2 Met with ASI President to discuss strategic priorities

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask. I am also available during my office hours if you would like to schedule a meeting via Zoom.

In Service,
Kathryn Webb
CSSA Liaison
She/Her/Hers