

Francisco De La Torre III
Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA)

To: ASI Board of Directors

From: Francisco De La Torre III
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Subject: 2021 End of Year Board Report

General Information

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A Special Note to Our Hornets

Hey Hornets!

With the conclusion of this Spring semester, remember to reflect on all of your accomplishments during this challenging school year we have all endured. I hope that we can use this time over the break to spend to take a moment and just relax. We all earned some time off, so enjoy this Summer break! And to the Hornets that have graduated, a huge congratulations is in order for you! You preserved through an unprecedented school year and made it to the finish line. I am proud of what Sacramento State offers for all its students, as they provide the resources necessary to succeed academically.

I also wish to express my gratitude for allowing me to represent you all as your ASI Vice President of Academic Affairs this past semester. It has been a true privilege that I am grateful for.

Internal Committee Accomplishments

Student Academic Senate

- *This past semester, Student Academic Senate successfully navigated its sudden change of chair and reviewed new academic requirements (such as the Ethnic Studies area F requirement) as well as the upcoming situation of Fall 2021's repopulation strategy. Our meetings were a great chance for me, as VPAA, to hear what students thought on all of these pertinent updates and changes through discussion.*

Green Team

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- *The past school year has been amazing for Green Team. Last semester we saw the creation of its official Instagram page, along with a couple of virtual documentary screenings. A lot of planning went into the strategies we wished to implement for Spring. This past semester, Green Team heard an update on the development of a Climate Action Plan from Sacramento State's Sustainability Department. Where we were given the chance to give feedback and share the Plan to interested students. We also got to hear a proposal about a Green Certificate Program. Green Team, in collaboration with the Environmental Student Organization (ESO), hosted a panel that featured a variety of esteemed guests discussing the topic of environmental justice in their respective careers. Present were: Kevin McCarty (CA Assemblymember D-7), Kera Abraham Panni (Senior Outreach Manager for Conservation & Science at Monterey Bay Aquarium), Brittany Ganguly (Communications Director for the Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere), Moiz Mir (Program Coordinator at 350Sacramento), and Ryan Todd (Director of Energy & Sustainability at CSU Sacramento). The event had a great turnout and positive reception from all.*

University Committee Accomplishments

Faculty Senate

- *The Faculty Senate has been faced with an assortment of issue items that would not have been debuted if not for the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. ABC/NC grading options were moved forward for Spring 2021 and Summer 2021. Other notable decisions are that the former College of Business Administration will now be known as the College of Business. There was also the re-naming of the Department of Women's Studies to the Department of Women's and Gender Studies.*

Executive Committee

- *The Executive Committee this past semester has been the ultimate source for all sorts of information from our University's Executives, but it has especially been a great chance to gather information on the status of Fall 2021's repopulation effort. Provost Perez and Ed Mills have been leading the charge on the topic, offering a few presentations during these committee meetings and once to the ASI Board of Directors. Lots of questions, such as the final status of class modalities and about vaccinations have been answered more and more as CDC guidelines get revised.*

Student Grievances Review Committee

- *A student grievance came up for review around the month of April that required the formation of the Student Grievances Review Committee. I had the pleasure of being the ASI Representative for this Committee. We met a handful of times over Zoom, along with constant email communication, to discuss the nature and validity of the complaint, and the process it was met with. We ultimately found that departmental processes should be clarified for ALL colleges, and college-level review procedures for receiving and*

considering student complaints should be established, to bring the department and the college into compliance with University policy.

2020-2021 Vice President of Academic Affairs Strategic Priorities

3.2.1 – Further outreach to Sacramento community.

- *Directors collaborated with City Ambassadors and Anchor University Committee on at least one initiative that includes outreach to the Sacramento Community.*
- *This priority was primarily headed by ASI's HHS Director (Alejandro B.), as he helped create a community health fair. Sharing resources accordingly.*

3.3.1 – Continue Don't Litter our River campaign.

- *Come graduation season, the ASI VPAA & EVP (alongside Green Team & ESO) came to share the campaign's flyer over Instagram constantly.*
- *ESO created an Instagram video about how to make leaf confetti, which was to compliment the campaign's goal of lessening the use of non-biodegradable glitter/confetti.*

3.3.2 – Partner with sustainability department to support initiatives.

- *HHS Director revealed his Green Certificate Program Initiative to Green Team and Sustainability Department, still in development. It would involve the BAC Yard Project as a potential volunteer site.*

4.2.2 - Publicize awareness of safe zone and ally trainings.

- *All involved shared flyers for the dates and times of these trainings. As a newly appointed ASI Board member, I made time to go to both trainings.*
- *Explored the concept of a "social justice month" where more trainings and other events similar to the subject matter could take place. Still needs development.*

4.6.2 – Sponsor a challenge to promote Elections for student participation.

- *Worked with Noah and Sage from Student Engagement & Outreach to develop an engaging Instagram challenge for students to share that would also promote the ASI student elections. Using funding from our Strategic Priorities, we were able to provide some cool prizes. (3 Hydroflasks, 2 The North Face backpacks and 1 HomePod Mini).*

Noteworthy Events and Initiatives

These are just a small selection of recent events that I found to be insightful and/or impactful.

- **4/8 – PRIDE Center's Safe Zone Training.**
- **4/20 – Dreamer Resource Center's DREAMER Ally Training.**
- **4/22 – Green Team & The Environmental Student Organization's Environmental Justice Panel.**
- **5/1 & 5/2 – CSSA Board Of Directors' May weekend Plenary Meetings.**
- **5/12 – Last ASI Board Meeting, followed by an appreciation celebration.**