

To: ASI Board of Directors
From: **Caroline Tah-Espens, CSSA Liaison**
Subject: Advisor Reports

Spring 2025 Office Hours:

Monday: 10 am -3 pm
Wednesday: 12-2pm
Friday: 10 am -12 pm

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March California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The March CSSA Plenary meeting took place at Sacramento State on March 8, with attendance from ASI Presidents, Executive Vice Presidents, and myself as the CSSA Liaison. The event was also joined by many members of the Board of Directors and our Legislative Affairs and Civic Engagement Coordinator. This one-day event featured five committee meetings, a student trustee open forum, and a Board of Directors meeting.

Legislative Affairs Committee

The consent agenda was approved with minutes from the February meeting. Mary Washington, director of Government Relations and Advocacy gave staff reports. Some of the main legislative bills discussed included:

- **SB 323 (Perez):** *Student Aid Commission - California Dream Act Application*
This bill expresses the Legislature's intent to require the Student Aid Commission to amend the California Dream Act application by the 2026–27 financial aid cycle. The amendment ensures that any eligible student can use the application for state financial aid programs, regardless of federal aid eligibility.
- **AB 95 (Fong):** *Postsecondary Education - Coordinating Commission for Education in California*
This proposal aims to establish the Coordinating Commission for Education in California, replacing the defunded California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC).
- **AB 850 (Pacheco):** *Institutional Debt Transparency*
This bill seeks to regulate how California higher education institutions handle institutional debt—debts owed directly to institutions rather than federal or private lenders.

All of these legislative bills were approved by the committee and moved to be discussed at the Board of Director's meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The consent agenda, including the minutes, was approved. Reports were presented by Genesis Jara, Assistant Director of Systemwide Affairs, and Tara Al Rehani, Vice President of Systemwide Affairs.

There was a presentation from Selena Hernandez of San Jose State University's Campus Survivors Advocate, who discussed the role of survivor advocates within the CSU system. Survivor advocacy work usually falls outside the scope of the Title IX office. Selena emphasized the lack of funding and minimal support from the Chancellor's Office. She asked for CSSA's support in urging CSU leadership to commit to more stable funding for survivor advocacy programs. The Campus Survivors Advocate at Sacramento State is WEAVE.

ASI President Andrade-Dominguez introduced the final draft of the resolution to establish an Undocumented Student Advisory Committee. This committee would address issues affecting undocumented students and advocate for the CSU Chancellor's Office to create a comprehensive list of policies that protect undocumented students and staff. Key provisions include ensuring access to mental health resources and developing protocols for handling immigration enforcement.

Lastly, there was a presentation by San Jose State University AS President Ariana Lacson, who provided background on a draft resolution in support of trans students' rights. Following this presentation, the meeting was adjourned.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors approved the consent agenda and minutes. Four liaison reports and six reports from staff and various offices were presented. The Board of Directors focused on electing the recipients for the 2024–2025 CSSA Bob Linscheid Trustee of the Year, Administrator of the Year, CSSA Robert C. Maxson President of the Year, and the CSSA Faculty Excellence Award. The meeting was then adjourned.

This concludes the notes from the March plenary. The next plenary will be held virtually in April.

California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS)

CHESS was a two-day event held on Sunday, March 9, and Monday, March 10, 2025, at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel.

On Sunday, participants heard from special guests, networked with student leaders from across the state, and prepared for advocacy efforts scheduled for the following day at the State Capitol.

Advocacy efforts focused on opposing the proposed budget cuts and supporting the following bills:

- **AB 791 (Berman):** *Cost of Attendance*
- **SB 98 (Perez):** *Immigration Enforcement Notification*
- **SB 271 (Reyes):** *Student Parents*
- **SB 323 (Perez):** *Student Aid Commission – California Dream Act Application*
- **AB 95 (Fong):** *Postsecondary Education – Coordinating Commission for Education in California*
- **AB 850 (Pacheco):** *Institutional Debt Transparency*

All attendees had the opportunity to lobby against the proposed budget cuts and to support these bills during meeting with legislators at the Capitol.

Lobby Corps

On February 27, Lobby Corps held a meeting with Mayor McCarthy, who shared his journey from being a CSU student to becoming the Mayor of Sacramento. Following his remarks, Mayor McCarthy opened the floor for questions from students, providing valuable insights of his journey. Lobby Corps also participated in CHESS, where all members had the opportunity to meet with legislators to advocate for key issues.

Some of the key pieces of legislation approved by the committee include:

- **AB 9 (Quirk-Silva):** *University of California and California State University: Transfer Students*

- SB 98 (Pérez): *Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Education: Immigration Enforcement Notification*
- AB 90 (Jackson): *Public Postsecondary Education: Overnight Student Parking*
- SB 271 (Reyes): *Public Postsecondary Education: Students with Dependent Children: Childcare Services, Resources, and Programs*
- AB 49 (Muratsuchi): *School sites and Day Care Centers: Entry Requirements: Immigration Enforcement*
- AB 1098 (Fong): *Postsecondary Education: Undergraduate and Graduate Students: Pregnancy or Pregnancy-Related Issues*
- AB 700 (Caloza): *Student Loans: Public Service Educational Loan Forgiveness Program*

City Ambassadors

This committee has recently resumed after being inactive for a few semesters. City Ambassadors are responsible for advocating on behalf of students, raising awareness about higher education issues, and assisting in voter registration for both state and national elections. At their last meeting Councilmember Roger Dickinson came to speak to the committee about his journey in the city council.

Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA)

My duties in the OGA office have been daily tasks that continue to support and supplement the work for the ASI Board of Directors. My task includes attending CSSA plenary, creating and distributing CSSA plenary reports as well as attending Lobby Corps and City Ambassadors.

Events and Calendar Items

- February 17 – OGA meeting
- February 19- Board meeting
- February 20- meeting with HALA
- February 26- Working Board meeting
- February 26-City Ambassadors
- February 27- Lobby Corps
- March 5- Board meeting
- March 8- CSSA Plenary meeting
- March 9- CHESS
- March 10 Advocacy Day
- March 12- City Ambassadors
- March 12 -Working Board meeting
- March 12- Lobby Corps

Announcements

- City Ambassadors meets every other Wednesday from 12-1pm
 - They will be having Councilmember Eric Guerra
- Lobby Corps will be having President Wood at our March 27 meeting from 5-5:30pm.

If there are any questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to the CSSA Liaison, Caroline Tah-Espens at asicssarep@csus.edu and I will get back to you with the appropriate response as soon as possible. Thank you.