

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

Contact Info:

asicssarep@csus.edu

916-278-3924

January California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The January CSSA Plenary meeting took place at San Francisco State on January 25-26, with attendance from ASI Presidents, Executive Vice Presidents, and myself as CSSA Liaison. The two-day event featured six committees and a Board of Directors meeting. The Finance Committee discussed SIRF funding updates, contracts, and fiscal policies. The Legislative Affairs Committee focused on issues like House budget cuts for financial aid, including changes to Pell Grants, scholarships, and student loans, and approved legislative recommendations to support student success and housing for those with foster care or homelessness experience.

The Systemwide Affairs Committee addressed affordable housing for students and the creation of a White Paper resolution on the topic, while also discussing textbook equity. The Board of Directors approved their consent agenda and heard reports from staff and officers. Some of the main concerns brought up during were budget cuts at Sonoma State, where 15 majors cut and the entire athletics department. A student-athlete from Sonoma State requested CSSA's support in advocating against these cuts. The meeting concluded with an attendance policy review, and the next plenary will be held virtually in February.

February California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The February CSSA Plenary meeting took place virtually on February 14, with attendance from the ASI President, Executive Vice President, and myself as the CSSA Liaison. The one-day event included five committee meetings, campus connections, and a Board of Directors session. The Joint Committee of Internal Affairs and Finance discussed changes to the CSSA budget. The Legislative Affairs Committee focused on supporting SB 9, which would require immigration officers to announce their presence on campus, SB 271 to expand childcare services under basic needs, and AB 313 to extend the California financial aid application deadline by one month for the 2025–26 award year, among other legislative proposals, all of which were supported through resolutions.

The Systemwide Affairs Committee discussed a resolution to establish a system-wide CSU undocumented student advisory council, proposed by ASI President Andrade-Dominguez, to provide comprehensive support. The meeting then moved to the Board of Directors, where various staff reports were presented. The meeting concluded with announcements for the next plenary meeting, which will be held in Sacramento for CHESS in March.

Lobby Corps

This semester, I have attended two Lobby Corps meetings as Vice Chair. For our first meeting, we had a guest speaker, Carol Gonzalez, who shared her experience working in lobbying and how she achieved success in the field. She is also an alumnus to Lobby Corps. The legislation we discussed at our last meeting includes:

- AB 9 (Quirk-Silva) - University of California: 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

City Ambassadors

This committee has recently resumed after being inactive for a few semesters. The 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.

Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA)

My duties in the OGA office have been daily task 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

- January 21- Start of Spring Semester
- January 25-26- San Francisco State CSSA Plenary Meeting
- January 29- City Ambassadors
- January 29- Working Board meeting
- January 30- Lobby Corps meeting
- February 5- Board Meeting
- February 12- City Ambassador
- February 12- Working Board meeting
- February 13-Lobby Corps
- February 15- CSSA Plenary meeting (virtual)

Announcements

- City Ambassadors meets every other Wednesday from 12-1pm
- Lobby Corps will have Kevin McCarthy as a guest speaker on February 27, 2025 from 4:30-5:30pm.