

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](mailto:asicssarep@csus.edu)

916-278-3924

**April California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary**

The April CSSA Plenary meeting took place virtually on April 5, with attendance from our ASI President, Nataly Andrade-Dominguez, Executive Vice Presidents Gabriel Conejo Gallegos, and myself as the CSSA Liaison. It was a one-day event that consisted of six committee meetings, a campus connection session, and the Board of Director's meeting.

**Campus Connection**

All Northern campuses met up to discuss issues pertaining to each individual campus. Each campus was able to share similar experiences or gain advice from others facing similar issues. Some of the key issues that campuses are facing include a lack of communication between administration and campus leaders, especially regarding how campuses have been handling their budgets. There was also some concern regarding the rollout of AI—whether it will cause more problems or actually be beneficial for students.

**Legislative Affairs Committee**

The consent agenda was approved with the minutes from the March meeting. There were staff reports from Mary Washington, Director of Government Relations and Advocacy, who spoke about how many of the bills that CSSA has supported are starting to go through the House legislative process. We also discussed one legislative bill:

- **AB 1098 (Fong)** *Postsecondary education: undergraduate and graduate students: pregnancy or pregnancy-related issues.*

This bill seeks to extend protections for pregnant and recently pregnant students in California's postsecondary education system. It expands on the existing provisions of the Equity in Higher Education Act to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions and mandates reasonable accommodations for both undergraduate and graduate students.

All of these legislative bills were approved by the committee and moved to be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting. There was also an update on the CIVIC competition, which is currently in 10th place in Sacramento. 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 an update from Deputy Vice Chancellor Perez of Academic and Student Affairs, who provided an update on the Year of Engagement with the committee. The Year of Engagement is evaluating where the CSU stands at the end of the Graduation 2025 period before embarking on a new reimagined vision for student success. This is part of the Graduation Initiative. There was then a long discussion regarding a resolution in support of Trans students' rights, which was presented by San Jose State University AS President Ariana Lacson. This was only a discussion of her draft resolution, and it will not be decided on until the May plenary. The meeting was then adjourned.

### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors approved the consent agenda and minutes. There were four liaison reports and four reports from staff, as the president did not present any reports. There was also an overview of CSSA elections provided by Executive Director Nino regarding the elections that will take place on April 13, 2025. The meeting was then adjourned.

This concluded the meeting notes for the April plenary. The CSSA elections will take place on April 13, and the following plenary will be held in person at CSU Stanislaus on May 3-4.

### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors held a virtual meeting for the 2025-26 CSSA Elections on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Here were the candidates for each position:

#### **President:**

**Tara Al-Rehani (San Jose)**

Nataly Andrade-Dominquez (Sac State)

#### **Chair: \***

Karen Carrillo (Sac State)

#### **Vice President of Finance:**

**Artur Gafurov (San Jose)**

Octavio Martinez (San Marcos)

**Vice President of Legislative Affairs**

Ava Alvarado (San Diego)

Gabriel Conejo-Gallegos (Sac State)

Estevan Guzman (San Jose)

Arwa Hammad (Los Angeles)

**Derrick Herrera (San Diego)**

Colson Houck Teal (Fullerton)

Ashley Lizarraga (San Marcos)

~~Nikki Majidi (Long Beach)~~

Jonathan Poston (Sac State)

Cristian Reyes (San Luis Obispo)

**Vice President of Systemwide Affairs**

Yahir Flores (Los Angeles)

**Katie Karroum (Northridge)**

Jhanella “Mae Mae” Martinez (Dominguez Hills)

Gavin Ong (Fullerton)

Excited to work with the new executive team for the following academic year and a big thank you to all the candidates.

*\*A separate election will be scheduled for the Chair role, as it remains unfilled.*

**Lobby Corps**

On March 27, Lobby Corps held a meeting with Shawki Moore, who shared his journey from being a college student to becoming the University President's Designee. He also discussed his involvement with Associated Students at San Diego State University and how it contributed to his leadership development. The meeting provided valuable insight into the importance of student engagement in campus governance. Additionally, members of Lobby Corps reviewed and approved key pieces of legislation that align with their advocacy goals.

- **SB 658 (Cortese)** – *California State University: financial aid for homeless students: pilot program*

- **SB 244 (Grayson)** – *Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments*
- **AB 556 (Patterson)** – *Public postsecondary education: waiver of campus-based fees: veterans*
- **AB 1468 (Zbur).** -*Ethnic studies: content standards, curriculum frameworks, instructional materials, and compliance monitoring*

#### **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 there last meeting Trustee Michael Benjamin II who works for City Councilmember Caity Maple Trustee Benjamin spoke of some of the work he has done he has done working with Councilmember Maple such as Faith Leader Network, Fades for Grades and tours in his districts. He was very passionate about the work his does.

#### **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 distribusting CSSA plenary reports as well as attending Lobby Corps and City Ambassadors.

#### **Events and Calendar Items**

- March 19- Board Meeting
- March 26- Working Board Meeting
- March 26- City Ambassadors
- March 27- Lobby Corps
- March 31-April 4 -Spring Break
- April 5- CSSA Plenary Virtual
- April 8- HALA meeting with Cathy
- April 9-City Ambassadors
- April 10-Lobby Corps
- April 14- Tabling for HALA
- April 16-Tabling for HALA
- April 16- Working Board Meeting
- April 21- Crochet Event with Stephine Nguyen
- April 23- Board Meeting

#### **Announcements**

- Last Lobby Corps meeting Thursday April 24 at 4:30pm
- HALA Advocacy Day on April 29.

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