

California State Student Association April 2018 Plenary: Long Beach

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Hello monthly readers! As everyone's terms are coming to an end in CSSA, it is now crunch time and a lot of members are pushing to get everything they wanted passed this year done. There were a lot of policy and internal changes that will be voted on next time and we also got to hear about a lot of new bills coming from the capitol. Overall it was a long, informative weekend.

University Affairs

University Affairs has drafted a CSU student's bill of rights. This mostly addresses public policy but it would ultimately give students the rights they deserve from the Chancellor's Office. Passing this would put the document in place and would be sent to the trustees, but it would also give CSSA a baseline document they can amend and update in the future. One important question that came up was if discrimination and harassment should be clearly defined instead of just stated and in doing so is there a chance that a group could be left out. This will be something they are going to think about and we will see what changes in the final draft.

For more information about university affairs, contact [Michael Pratt](#).

Civic Engagement

The committee has stressed the importance of bringing leave behinds when attending lobby visits. This helps legislators know the information and show their support to us.

We also talked about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) update. From what I understand, this is an agreement between CSSA, the CSU and the Secretary of State. The CSU has stated that they don't want any extra work to go to the campuses. They say it is not fair for them to do the extra work when there is no funding. The Secretary of State want to see more data that the last MOU was successful. They want to know if students know about this and if they use it.

An exciting announcement is that there will now be a Civic Engagement News Letter. I think this is a great idea because a lot of the information shared in this committee should be shared to all campuses. Most campuses are not as lucky as Sacramento State to have an awesome CSSA Liaison to bring the information back to them.

Of course now that there is talk about having newsletters and getting more involved with campuses, next month the Board of Directors will vote to merge Civic Engagement and Legislative Affairs. This will replace the Civic Engagement Committee and have all the information that would have been shared at the committee talked about in Legislative Affairs. This was a hot topic already because some people feel that it is a great idea because Civic Engagement is a smaller committee where a lot of the information shared has to do with all campuses. If shared in Legislative Affairs (which is the whole board) the information is likely to

reach more people. Others feel that a smaller committee is better because they can talk about the information first and decide what is shared with the whole board.

Finance

During finance committee, we talked about next year's budget where they will be in a slight deficit. A potential solution that will be voted on next time, is cutting the Greenovation scholarship, lowering the amount to spend for travel and the overtime pay for staff.

Next time they will also vote on if they want to implement the new trailer system model. From what I understand, this is another reserve that will ultimately match the current reserve.

For more information on finance committee, contact [Aaron Castaneda](#).

Internal Affairs

During Internal Affairs, we talked about major policy changes and constitutional edits. This would be an overhaul of the current policy adding items like, attendance and accountability which could get representatives removed from the board. The policy update can be viewed at Calstatestudents.org. This will be voted on in May.

For more information about Internal Affairs, contact [Alana Lim](#).

Joint Committee on Finance and Internal Affairs

Unfortunately this committee did not meet quorum.

Legislative Affairs

This was a very long meeting where we talked about all the new bills that we want to support or oppose.

AB 2220, this would give campuses more finding for division 1 and 2 athletics. Funding would come from the media revenue and contracts.

AB 2479, this bill is interesting. It would give students the option of having their tuition waved during their time in school but once they graduate and are making more than \$10,000 a year they will pay money back to their campus at a fixed percent for ten years. The percent would be an agreement between the campus and the student. If you were making \$10,000 for ten years you would not have to pay the school back much. If you were making millions for ten years right after graduating, they you would have to pay the school back at the same percent which would make them a lot of money.

AB 2785, would give access to a private room on every campus for student to breast feed. Funding will come from the general fund.

AB 3213, will change the cost of attendance to a university to be more exact adding things like, buying a computer, paying gas, driving home for breaks, ect.

AB 1961, this bill would give students the option to choose between buying a meal plan when living in campus housing or not. Currently they are forced to buy a meal plan. CSSA would like to oppose this bill because they feel that if students don't buy the meal plans, and don't have access to kitchen, this could cause more students to become more food insecure. This seems to be something that is debatable and may change when voted on. Some feel that students should always have a choice.

SB 320, would offer abortion medication on campuses. This would be funded through private finding.

SB 1182, this would double the renter's tax credit.

SB 827, this would require all areas near high frequency transit areas to have affordable high rise apartments.

All action items were passed and sent to the Board of Directors.

For more information about legislative affairs, contact [Marcos Montes](#).

Board of Directors

CSSA will vote on a new strategic plan next meeting. We had long conversation about what we would like to see in this plan.

All action items were approved with the exception of item C, D, and E.

We decided who will be awarded, President of the year, Administrator of the year, CSU Trustee of the year, and Faculty member of the year.

Other internal information was talked about and will be voted on at the next meeting.

For more information about Board of Directors, contact [Alana Lim](#).

If you have any questions or comments please contact [Payton Starke](#).

Thank you!