

From: Kathryn Webb  
To: ASI Board of Directors  
Subject: April CSSA Plenary

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Office Hours:

Monday: 9-11 AM

Tuesday: 12:30-3:30 PM

Wednesday: 1:45-5:00 PM

Thursday: 2-5 PM

Friday: 8-12 AM

**April CSSA Plenary**

The April CSSA Plenary was one day, and mainly focused on taking legislative stances so that CSSA can continue to organize advocacy efforts at the capital. We were also able to sit down with Chancellor Castro and ask him questions from campus repopulation to financial aid reform. Please see below for a detailed review of each committee and a synopsis of the Special CSSA Systemwide Affairs Committee meeting back in March.

**CSSA Systemwide Affairs Special Committee- March 18, 2021**

Since there were so many important resolutions to be discussed at the Systemwide Affairs Committee, a special meeting was held on 3/18 in order to allow for a more thorough discussion. The two resolutions brought before the committee were Resolution in Support of Divesting the CSU from Fossil Fuels and Resolution in Support of Reforming University Police Departments Systemwide.

- **Resolution in Support of Divesting the CSU from Fossil Fuels-** this resolution advocates for the CSU to freeze investments in fossil fuel energy and instead redirect those funds to investing in clean energy. I voted to support this resolution and it was then sent to be heard at the CSSA Board of Directors meeting in April.
- **Resolution in Support of Reforming the University Police Departments Systemwide.** There was a long discussion on this resolution and whether or not CSSA should advocate for defunding the university police departments or if reform is enough to address the problem of police brutality on campuses. There was no vote on it as it was a discussion topic. I suggested a few edits to the resolution in the special meeting. In addition, the CSSA Taskforce on University Police has met throughout March and April in order to suggest a stance to the committee.

Unfortunately, there was no Systemwide Affairs Committee meeting in April, so we were not able to vote on these resolutions. In addition, due to time constraints we were not able to hear an update on the CSSA Taskforce. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to reach out to me.

**Legislative Affairs Committee**

This committee took stances on current state and federal legislation, please see below for the committee's discussion and stances on these pieces of legislation.

### Action Items

- **AB 1456** as introduced by Assemblymembers Medina and McCarty, is the first step to simplifying the Cal Grant and is a cost-effective solution. It will eliminate arbitrary barriers to the Cal Grant, including time out of high school and GPA, and will expand eligibility to 30,000 new CSU students. Even though the CSU is still analyzing the bill, CSSA is confident that it will benefit students. Moreover, it is supported by UCSA and SSSCC. **The committee voted to support this resolution and sent it to the CSSA Board of Directors.**
- **AB 14** as introduced by Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry, known as the Internet for All Act of 2021, would extend funds to provide grants to any community, including tribal communities, that need help in building infrastructure to ensure stable broadband connection. This bill has an emphasis on equity, and is a response to the digital divide that has been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It should be noted this is not a subsidy, just help in creating the infrastructure necessary for internet access. **The committee voted to take a support stance and sent it to the CSSA Board of Directors.**
- **SB 4** as introduced by Assemblymember Gonzalez is the state Senate version of the aforementioned assembly bill. These authors are working bicamerally to make sure there is a vehicle for this bill to be passed in one house if it fails in another. **The committee also voted to support this bill and sent it to the CSSA Board of Directors.**
- **AB 99** as introduced by Assemblymember Irwin would establish a “cradle to career” data system. California is only one of a few states that does not have this program, and if implemented, would help legislators analyze the effectiveness of educational policies, such as the Associate Degree for Transfer. **The committee voted to take a support stance and sent it to the CSSA Board of Directors.**
- **AB 543** as introduced by Assemblymember Davies would help increase awareness of Cal Fresh programs by requiring campuses to provide information on Cal Fresh during freshmen and transfer orientation. **The committee voted to support this bill and sent it to the CSSA Board of Directors.**

### Information Items

- **AB 34** as introduced by Assemblymember Muratsuchi proposes a bond, known as the “Broadband for All Bond Act of 2022”, to be placed on the ballot in 2022 as a way to raise \$10 billion in funds for public agencies to provide broadband infrastructure.
- **SB 22** as introduced by Assemblymember Glazer proposes another bond, known as the “College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2022”, which if passed by the voters would raise \$6 billion for higher education, with \$2 billion allocated to the CSU to be used for construction, maintenance and remodeling of campus infrastructure.

### Discussion Items

- **H.R. 1919** is the first federal piece of legislation that CSSA has considered this year. It was introduced by Representative Jimmy Gomez and is known as the

“Enhance Access to SNAP Act of 2021”. It seeks to address the food insecurity among college students, and would expand SNAP eligibility to 300,000 new students by including attendance at a higher education institution as a way to qualify for the program. This bill would make all CSU students eligible for Cal Fresh, and CSSA has supported bills similar to this in the past. The committee wanted to see if undocumented and DACA students would be included in this, as it was not stated in the bill.

- **AB 928** as introduced by Assemblymember Berman would simplify the transfer requirements by requiring the UC and CSU to have the same general education pathway to both university systems. This would help reduce confusion among transfer students and ensure that students can apply to both systems without needing to take different required courses.
- **AB 609** as introduced by Assemblymember Kamlager, known as the College Athlete Race and Gender Equity Act, would ensure royalties are given to college athletes for their name and image to provide just compensation for these students who put in a lot of work but are not paid for it. The bill would also prevent construction of new facilities and would allow college athletes to unionize. This bill would not apply to intramural sports.
- **AB 737** as introduced by Senator Limón, would update Cal-SOAP to create a program designed to help future students by giving them resources to understand the true cost of college, their financial options to help pay for college, and to help them file their FAFSA or CADAA.
- **AB 1277** as introduced by Assemblymember Rubio, addresses the housing crisis college students face by streamlining the litigation process for student housing projects when they meet certain requirements. If someone files a CEQA lawsuit for the project, which is under environmental complaints, local governments will receive an expedited litigation timeline so as to not prolong construction of student housing.
- **AB 1377** as introduced by Assemblymember McCarty, would establish the California Student Housing Revolving Loan Fund that will be used to help campuses develop student housing in the long run. This is another bill that seeks to address the affordability issues and housing crisis college students face, as housing is a large amount of the total cost of attending college.

### **Coffee with Chancellor Castro**

This meeting was open to the public so both governing members of CSSA as well as students from all campuses were able to ask the Chancellor questions about any topic that has been affecting CSU students. Chancellor Castro mentioned that he has had monthly meetings with the CSSA President, Zahraa Khuraibet, and has also been conducting virtual campus visits and open forums as a way to exemplify shared governance. The questions members and students asked, as well as their answers are recorded below.

1. **Will vaccines be required to be on campus?** Chancellor Castro is interested in moving along with this, but he discussed how they may have to wait until the vaccines have been

authorized for full use by the federal government in order to issue a mandate. Currently, vaccines have only been authorized for emergency use.

2. **What will commencement look like?** Campuses must follow state and federal guidelines, as well as cooperate with counties in order to determine the best path for commencement. In addition, the Chancellor encourages students to voice their opinions on this topic. Overall, the decision will be up to the respective campuses.
3. **How will campuses be repopulated?** The Chancellor has spoken to Governor Newsom to discuss how the vaccine distribution has been inequitable and is advocating for the last 9 campuses to become vaccine centers as a way to increase vaccine distribution in order to increase population on campuses.
4. **What are ways to address the cost of attendance for CSUs?** Right now, the focus is on doubling the Pell Grant at the federal level and including Dreamers in this financial aid. In addition, he discussed how campuses could increase philanthropic dollars for scholarships to help students attend university.
5. **What is the CSU position on AB 1456, which advocates for Cal Grant reform?** The CSU's position is to get as much financial aid as possible to students. In addition, the CSU would like to support the bill, however for right now they are still analyzing and modeling the bill to check for any unintended consequences. The results should be in by the end of the week.
6. **What is the plan to support Dreamers?** Right now, the Chancellor's office is working at the federal level to ensure Dreamers are eligible for Pell Grants. Since the CSU is the largest university system in the nation, their voice carries a lot of influence, and they have been advocating at Congress, the White House, and the Department of Education. Some senators, including Senator Padilla, are supportive of this initiative.

### **Internal Affairs**

The CSSA Internal Affairs Committee discussed the CSSA meeting policy, their accountability and attendance policy, as well as revising the CSSA constitution. The two biggest takeaways from this committee were the decisions to no longer require every item submitted to be on the agenda to be heard, as it could lead to meetings where the agenda has too many items and not enough time to adequately discuss them. The committee also decided to not hold a traditional plenary in June, as it has been hard to obtain representatives from each campus at this time. There will most likely still be some kind of meeting in June, but not a traditional plenary.

### **CSSA Board of Directors**

The CSSA Board of Directors heard public comment on many topics, from the resolution calling to include caste in the CSU anti-discrimination policy, to the resolution on divesting the CSU from fossil fuels. Thank you to everyone who came out to speak during public comment. Please see below for what action the Board took on legislation and resolutions.

1. **The CSSA Board of Directors voted to take a support stance on AB 14, AB 99, AB 543, AB 1456, and SB 4.** There was no discussion on these items from the CSSA board of directors, however information on these bills can be found above.
2. **The CSSA Board of Directors voted to adopt the resolution in support of SWANA students.** There was no discussion on this resolution, but information on the resolution and committee discussions can be found in my past reports from February and March. If

you have any further questions, feel free to send me an email and I will do my best to answer your questions.

3. **The CSSA Board of Directors voted to adopt the Resolution Calling For The CSU to Include Caste in Anti-Discriminatory Policy.** Members discussed how students from lower castes need protection, and by adopting this resolution it is the first step in ensuring that there are resources for them to access within the CSU system if they experience discrimination based on their caste status.
4. The Resolution in Support of Fossil Fuel Divestment, discussion on Fall 2021 repopulation, and an information item on the CSSA Constitution were tabled due to time constraints. They will be either discussed or acted upon at the last CSSA meeting in May.

If you have any questions on anything in this report, please send me an email at [asicssarep@csus.edu](mailto:asicssarep@csus.edu) and I will do my best to answer your question.

In service,  
Kathryn Webb  
CSSA Liaison