

From: Kathryn Webb, CSSA Liaison
To: ASI Board of Directors
Subject: August CSSA Plenary & CSUnity

Fall 2021 Office Hours:

TBD

Contact Info:

Email- asicssarep@csus.edu

August California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary and CSUnity

The August CSSA Plenary was held virtually for one day on August 7, 2021. Below you will find a synopsis of each committee, and I recommend looking over these reports as they contain information on advocacy efforts in the CSU. In addition, CSUnity was held August 8-9. This was a great opportunity to meet with representatives from the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor's office. A review of the event and our advocacy meetings can also be found at the end of this report.

Finance Committee

This month the finance committee presented an overview of CSSA's budget as well as an update on SIRF. For the 2021-2022 school year, CSSA has a budget of 1.98 million dollars, allocated among compensation, operations, and reserves. The audit draft for CSSA will be completed by August 30th, and the CSSA Board of Directors will review it at next month's meeting.

SIRF, or the Student Involvement and Representation Fee is a voluntary, opt-out \$2 fee that students pay per semester. It is a way to ensure there is a stable source of funding for CSSA so that we may carry out our advocacy work. In 2020, 28,517 students at Sacramento State paid into the SIRF fee, which amounts to \$57,034. There will be more information coming out on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected SIRF revenue.

Legislative Affairs Committee

This committee got information on the Ballot Bowl that will happen this year, since there is a recall election in September. The Ballot Bowl is a systemwide competition held by the

Secretary of State to encourage civic engagement in elections. Make sure you are registered to vote, and then vote by September 14th! You can register to vote and check your voter registration [here](#).

The California state legislature is currently in summer recess, and will resume their legislative session on August 16th. Before the legislature goes into recess this fall, we will have an opportunity to advocate on behalf of legislation CSSA took a support stance on last year. If you would like to see which bills CSSA supported last year, please send me an email and I will be happy to help.

The vice president of Legislative affairs, Krishan Malhotra, also stated he will be sending out a form to all Lobby Corps at the respective CSU campuses in order to get more information on these groups and in turn see where CSSA can better support campus Lobby Corps.

The committee also elected Michelle Davis from Chico State to be the Civic Engagement Officer for the Northern California Region. She will work closely with the northern campuses lobby corps, including Sacramento. Unfortunately, there were no eligible applicants for either the Central or Southern Civic Engagement Officer positions, so these will remain vacant until further notice.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The committee heard reports from Chris Woolett, the CSSA Associate Director. He informed the committee that CSSA will be hiring a Communications Specialist in the next month. In addition, the 2022-2024 student Trustee application opens this Friday, August 13. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve CSU students and be a voice on the statewide Board of Trustees. More information will be sent out later this week. If you are interested in applying and have any questions, feel free to reach out and I will be happy to assist.

The committee also elected Ignasio Castillo from CSU Bakersfield to serve as the Social Justice and Equity Officer for CSSA. Since no one applied for the CSSA Sustainability officer position, this will also remain vacant until further notice.

Student Trustee Committee

This committee heard a timeline for the Student Trustee application process. Applications will open this Friday, August 13th and close January 31, 2022. The Student Trustee position is an important role in ensuring the student voice is heard. Whoever is selected will serve as a

voting member on the Board of Trustees, which oversees and makes policy for the CSU system. There are two student trustees, and one position is vacant. The finalists for the position will have their resumes and other materials sent to the Governor's office for final approval. I will continue to update everyone on this process, but if you would like more information follow CSSA's Instagram account, @csustudents, for more information as they will be promoting this on social media.

CSSA Board of Directors

Before discussing the CSSA policy agenda, the Board of Directors were able to hear reports from CSSA executive officers. I would like to note that the written public comment system that the CSSA Chair, Guan Liu, started has been drafted and is currently under review by legal counsel. More information on how this new public comment system will work is going to be shared in September. This written public comment is a step towards ensuring long term accessibility for CSU students. In addition, the agenda item request process is being reviewed, and we will hear an update on its changes in September.

CSSA also discussed how to develop the policy agenda for the 2021-2022 year. In order to hear a wide variety of student's feedback, they will open a policy agenda item form that students can fill out before August 30. In addition, we participated in breakout room sessions where we met with CSSA executives to voice what we believe should be in the CSSA Policy Agenda. There were different topics, including basic needs, sustainability, modernizing the CSU, inclusivity and social justice. Both the ASI President and I were able to speak in each room, highlighting topics such as mental health, basic needs, and sustainability on campuses among other topics. It should be noted we can submit as many ideas for the policy agenda as we want, and the form is open to all students. It is critical that CSSA hears from as many students as possible in order to truly reflect the student voice. The form has not been uploaded yet, but once it is I will be sure to send it out. The first draft of the policy agenda will be completed by September.

CSUnity 2021

The ASI President, Samantha Elizalde, and I were able to attend this year's CSUnity, which is a two-day event where students from across the CSU learn how to be a student advocate at the CSU level, followed by a day of advocacy where students meet with representatives from

the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor's office. It was a wonderful weekend, filled with lots of great information and opportunity to elevate the student voice.

Samantha and I were able to advocate alongside the student delegation from Chico State, and we met with representatives from the Chancellor's office, including Sylvia Alva, the Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, James T. Minor, the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Senior Strategist, and Chenoa Woods, the Assistant Director of Research & Programs. Our campuses highlighted three main topics that we believe were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including access to Wi-Fi and technological resources, accessibility to and quality of education, and community engagement. Under these topics, we discussed how internet access has become a basic necessity, how virtual environments make a college education more accessible to students, and how the CSU can continue to support transfer students. The overarching theme of the meeting was reimagining the CSU to be more accessible for all students. CSSA will continue to work closely with the Chancellor's office over the next year. These meetings were a great opportunity to share how the student experience was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and what lessons we can take from this past year into the future.

Should you have any questions about anything in this plenary report, or anything related to CSSA, feel free to reach out and ask me.

Best regards,
Kathryn Webb
CSSA Liaison