



To: ASI Board of Directors
From: Karina Arroyo, CSSA Liaison
Subject: February CSSA Report

Spring 2022 Office Hours

Tues: 8:00AM – 12:00PM

Wed: 1:00PM – 5:00PM

Thurs: 1:00PM – 5:00PM

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February California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The January CSSA Plenary was held virtually February 12-13. Our virtual meeting began from Saturday, January 12 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM and concluded on Sunday from 9:30AM to 12:00PM.

The following includes summaries of the each committee in the order they were presented. Please review the report, and feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

As an official member of the Systemwide Affair Committee, I had the opportunity to join in and participate in this month's meeting. The meeting commenced with reports of the Staff and Officers where Vice Chair Finley reported on the Admission Advisory Committee's response of amending Title 5. They are currently reviewing admission factors and aware of the elimination of Standardized Testing. The new business portion contained two information items and one action item.

The first was a presentation given by Henoc Preciado from the Chancellors Office on the CSU Basic Needs Initiative. Basic needs for this purpose, is defined as fundamental to students dignity and success through their access to food, housing, financial, health/wellness, child support, transportation, and technological needs. These needs are identified through the use of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs which include self-actualization, esteem, love and belonging,

safety needs, and physiological needs. Although the CSU campuses provide services that include Counseling & Psychological Services, Confidential Victim's Advocacy Services, Health Services, emergency grants, Cal Fresh assistance, Food Pantry Connections and many other services. The goal of the Basic Needs Initiative is to expand the programs in the future and fulfill the Graduation Initiative 2025 of Student Engagement and Wellbeing. The state has supported AB 74 which offered \$15 million for Basic Needs and \$6.5 million for Mental Health services. As of 2021, the \$15 million will be recurring funds and have supported pilot programs like the Rapid Rehousing program at Sacramento State. This program was meant to support rapid housing efforts in conjunction with existing local organizations to assist students at risk or experiencing homelessness. We are fortunate at Sac State to have the following grants in place: Seth Nelsen Student Emergency Fund, Short-term CSUS Emergency Housing and Sac State Rapid Re-Housing Fund. More information can be found on the [Crisis Assistance & Resource Education Support \(CARES\)](#) webpage of the Sac State website. The ultimate recommendation was to continue coordinating partnerships for emergency situations, provide smooth transitional support, and promote region specific strategies to better support student housing needs.

The second information item was presented by Teannae Owens, a political coordinator for a student led grassroots effort called [Free the Period](#). She defined period poverty as the lack of access to menstrual health necessities. The group is currently focusing on implementation efforts to address accessibility of AB 367 or the Menstrual Equity Act of 2021. She encouraged people to join their meetings Thursdays at 1pm.

Lastly, the committee voted virtually to support the CSUS Board of Trustee recommendation to Amend Title 5 the Elimination of Standardized Testing.

Internal Affairs Committee

The Internal Affairs committee began with an information item to address the importance of conducting a review of CSSA Policy. The discussion item specifically addressed the Scholarship Policy's compensation practice. Language was recommended to be added to the bylaws for disbursement periods and payment return in the event that an elected member steps down from their role. The last discussion item was regarding the Elected Officer Review Policy. This was an item where members who conduct the evaluation expressed frustration over the large number of members who failed to submit their evaluations. It is imperative that members submit their evaluations given that it is one of the only sources of feedback and strengthens accountability measures.

Finance Committee

After lunch, the finance committee began with a reminder that elections to fill the vacancy for their committee will be held at the Board of Director's meeting on February 13. The committee then voted on the Midyear Budget Adjustments using OnBoard. The allocated reserves now amounts to \$97,000 and there were no significant revenue loss from the Cal Pol Pomona SIRF glitch. Their meeting concluded with the Financial Statement for February 2022. Finance Committee representative Anthony Ruiz will be presenting this item at the Board of Directors on February 13.

Legislative Affairs Committee

The Legislative Affairs Committee commenced with brief reports from staff and officers. The Northern Civic Engagement Officer, Michelle Davis, announced that regional meetings will be announced soon to prepare for the California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS) to answer questions about lobbying and advocacy. Krishan Malhotra reminded everyone to submit student videos supporting Cal Grant reform and announced the Revolving Housing Loan Fund was taken back to author's office to answer questions discussed at last meeting.

Next, they discussed SB 641 Cal Fresh for College Students Act which was previously AB 1930 College Hunger Working Group (2014). This bill would require the Department of Social Services to report the number of student in Cal Fresh and convene a working group that accommodates of influx in applicants. Several members discussed their personal experience, including ASI President Elizalde. The next discussion item was AB 1655 the institution of Juneteenth as a State Holiday. This holiday would require schools to close, and time off pay.

To conclude, Chair Malhotra provided information regarding CHESS. The virtual conference will be held on March 13 and followed by advocacy week where participants will be assigned legislators to meet and advocate on specific CSSA related legislation.

Student Trustee Committee

At the Student Trustee Committee, Christopher Woolett reported that interviews for Student Trustee candidates will be held on February 26. There are 10 candidates being considered and the committee is planning to recommend between 6 and 7 to allow every candidate sufficient time to answer questions.

The committee then unanimously voted on the action item to refer names to the Student Trustee interview panel. The following is the list of candidates in no particular order: Jeremiah Finley, Ignasion Castillo, Lizbeth Cano Sanchez, Charles Marcum, Diana Aguilar, Ilk Suzer, and Michael Tejax. Members of this committee read all of the applicants experience and were scored accordingly. Those recommended were thought to demonstrate strong student leadership and

experience. Lastly, there was a misunderstanding during the information item regarding the Interview Panel Question. While the meetings are held publicly, members wanted to share the questions they had prepared for interviewees without addressing there would be an unfair advantage for those who attended the meeting. The questions were not made public and the meeting was adjourned quickly after.

Board of Directors

On February 13, 2022, the Board of Directors listened to a presentation on the Survivor Support Program instituted at San Francisco State University. Chief of Staff Bermudez explained that a survivor support would function as a central hub where staff would provide off campus resources regarding the Title 9 process and on campus student support. To learn more about the program please check out their website [here](#) or the [presentation](#).

Next, the board heard a presentation from the CSU faculty Trustee Sabalius on the issues regarding tuition increases. He strongly encouraged students to advocate for the Board of Trustees to approve tuition increases. Read more about the efforts for alternative consolation fees [here](#). As a reminder the 2022-23 Executive Office elections will open in May. Everyone is encouraged to apply and ask executive officers questions about their positions. The last information item addressed the 2022-2022 CSSA Awards which include Campus President of the year, Faculty & Excellence, and Administrator of the Year. These awards will be voted on next month, but the Legislator of the Year was voted on later in the meeting.

This meeting had four action items. The board unanimously voted to pass the CSU Board of Trustee Amendment to Title 5, the 2021-2022 Midyear Budget Adjustments, and elected Kiana Requena to fill the vacant position in the Finance Committee. Lastly, the Legislator of the Year award was given to two recipients this year for their work in higher education: Assemblymember Jose Medina and Senator Leyva. This concluded the board meeting on Sunday.

Special Notes Re: Executive Board Meeting

This month there will be a special Executive Board meeting on February 22. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about this month's Plenary.

Best,

Karina Arroyo | CSSA Liaison

Associated Students, Inc.