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To: ASI Board of Directors
Subject: July CSSA Plenary

Fall 2021 Office Hours:

TBD

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July California Student State Association (CSSA) Plenary

Welcome back everyone! My name is Kathryn Webb, and I am the CSSA Liaison. The California State Student Association (CSSA) met from July 9-11 through Zoom. Since this is the first plenary of the 2021-2022 academic year, the plenary mainly focused on giving an overview of CSSA and its committees. I was able to attend all meetings along with our ASI President, Samantha Elizalde.

There is one big change to CSSA's public comment. Starting August 2021, there will be a new written public comment feature available to students who are not able to attend the meeting but still wish to make their voice known. There will be a form on the CSSA website, where a student can write down their comment and contact information so that their respective ASI representative can follow up with them. I will make sure to share this link once it is published.

Below you will find a synopsis of what happened at each CSSA committee. Please look over these discussions as CSSA discusses topics within higher education, and provides helpful insight on issues students face.

Board of Directors Meeting #1

The ASI President, Samantha Elizalde serves on this board as a governing member. This meeting focused mainly on the election of governing members to each CSSA committee, including the Audit, Finance, Internal Affairs, and Student Trustee committee. Even though neither Samantha or I will serve on any of these internal committees, we will regularly attend them in order to stay updated on their discussions.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The Systemwide Affairs committee focuses on advocacy within the CSU system. For example, last year we discussed how to address food insecurity brought on by COVID-19. If an issue affects a majority of campuses, it falls under the purview of this committee. The Vice President of Systemwide Affairs is Fabiola Moreno Ruelas from SDSU, and the Vice Chair is Jeremiah Finley from Humboldt State University, who was elected over the weekend. I serve on

this committee as a governing member, so if you would ever like to discuss this committee or bring an issue to my attention please contact me at asicssarep@csus.edu.

We were able to receive an update on the CSU Board of Trustees (BOT) from our Student Trustee Krystal Raynes. The Board of Trustees meeting is today, July 13 and tomorrow July 14. We were informed that the CSU was given a historic amount of funding. For example, the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025 received \$30 million to go towards basic needs and mental health. Project Rebound received \$5 million. There is now a focus on recovery in a post-pandemic world, and the BOT has been discussing how to recover with equity, how community has been redefined, and how to address holistic wellness for all CSU students.

The last discussion we had was on advocacy across the CSU system. Within the context of this committee, the focus will be on ensuring our advocacy efforts fit within the CSSA mission and CSSA policy agenda. I was able to discuss some ideas with the Vice President of Systemwide Affairs as well. As mentioned before, if you have a topic that you believe Systemwide could advocate for please do not hesitate to reach out.

Legislative Affairs Committee

This committee makes recommendations on state and federal legislation after carefully analyzing legislation. The Sacramento State ASI President, Samantha Elizalde serves as a governing member on this committee. The Vice President of Legislative Affairs is Krishan Malhotra from Stanislaus, and the Vice Chair is Dixie Samaniego from Fullerton, who was elected over the weekend.

The committee went over the California Legislative Calendar, as well as the positions this committee can recommend. After a position is recommended and voted on by the board, then advocacy work on behalf of CSSA can begin. If you are interested in legislation, there is public comment at all CSSA meetings, and you can reach out to me with any comments or questions. At the federal level, CSSA mainly focuses on financial aid, DACA, and Title IX. The VP of Legislative Affairs mentioned we would probably see more federal advocacy this year.

There are current legislative advocacy efforts within CSSA. These include the Fix Financial Aid coalition between all three segments of California higher education (CSUs, UCs, and CCCs), Double the Pell, and the yearly CSU Budget Advocacy. The student voice is critical to these advocacy efforts, so if you are interested please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Internal Affairs Committee

The Internal Affairs committee is responsible for holding the CSSA Board accountable and reviewing governing documents, such as the policy agenda and constitution. The constitution is the guiding document for CSSA, and outlines the organization's structure. Internal policies outline specific CSSA procedures, and the CSSA Policy Agenda is updated annually by the president and board to help guide advocacy. This year the committee will focus on major constitutional review modernizing the student trustee selection process.

Finance Committee

The finance committee for CSSA works to protect CSSA's financial affairs and ensure all finances are legal, efficient, and sound. There is a \$300,000 rollover from last year's CSSA budget, and there is an estimated \$1.63 million coming in from SIRF fees. The upcoming CSUnity will not have a registration fee as it is virtual, but this committee is projecting CHESS, which will be held March 2022, will have a registration fee.

Student Trustee Committee

This committee focuses on the selection of the next student trustee. The student trustee serves on the Board of Trustees, and therefore plays an important role in ensuring the student voice is heard on all higher education policies. The application will open August 2021 and is due in January. After that, interviews will take place in February and finalists will be sent to the governor's office in March of 2022.

Board of Directors Meeting #2

Each month, the CSSA Board of Directors hears reports from each of our partners within the CSU. This includes the CSU Academic Senate, the Chancellor's Office, the Student Trustees, as well as the Auxiliary Organization Association.

- Academic Senate of the CSU- Dr. Robert Collins presents the monthly updates on behalf of this organization. This is the official voice of faculty in the CSU, and they handle systemwide faculty concerns as well as take legislative stances from a faculty perspective. If you would like to learn more, you can visit their website [here](#). The CSSA Policy agenda shows where we can work alongside the ASCSU. So far in this year, the ASCSU has taken an opposition stance to AB 928. CSSA has yet to take a stance.
- Chancellor's Office Liaison- Ray Murillo, the Systemwide Director for Student Affairs, brings updates to CSSA on behalf of the Chancellor's Office. The two biggest updates are on vaccinations. Students can now answer on their student portals if they have been vaccinated or if they are exempt under medical or religious reasons. It was also mentioned that there will be a vaccination policy implemented by Fall 2021.

The CSSA Board also hears monthly updates from CSSA Staff and Officers. Below are the highlights of these reports.

- CSUnity will be August 8 & 9, and registration information will be sent out this week. The conference will be free this year as well since it is virtual.
- All CSSA plenaries will be virtual for the calendar year. This virtual status may change by 2022, depending on the current rules and regulations within the state.
- The in-person status of the California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS) is still pending, as it will also depend on the current rules and regulations.

- The CSSA President, Isaac Alferos discussed how he has met with the Chancellor's office to discuss AB 1456, which would reform the Cal Grant system. The Chancellor's Office has also created an intersegmental committee on student basic needs, with the goal of creating a baseline standard for basic needs. This committee is not open to students at large, but any ideas can be brought to the VPSA, Fabiola Moreno Ruelas. Please reach out to me for further information.
- Student Trustee Krystal Raynes discussed her goals within the BOT, including student basic needs & mental health, reimagining campus safety, and seeing how the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) can better serve students. She brings student stories to the BOT, so if you are passionate about any of these topics let me know and I can connect you to her.

The Board also took action on amendments to the CSSA constitution. There was a proposed cut to the positions of Social Justice & Equity officer as well as the Sustainability officer. The reasoning behind this was due to a lack of work for these positions that led to multiple people doing the same job. However, some members were opposed to these cuts as they argued it would reduce accountability of the organization on these topics. In the end, the majority of the board voted to send this back to Internal Affairs, where it will be revised.

One last discussion the CSSA Board of Directors had was on the systemwide College Involvement and Values Impacting Communities challenge, which will be referred to as CIVIC. This is a civic engagement challenge that all 23 CSU campuses participate in. Sacramento State is teamed up with CSU East Bay for the 2021-2022 year. You can visit the CIVIC website [here](#) and look over the standing challenges our campuses can complete. Sacramento and East Bay won last year, and I am certain we can win again!

Should you have any questions about anything in this plenary report, or anything related to CSSA, feel free to reach out and ask me. I will do my best to answer any questions, and I look forward to representing the student body at CSSA this year!

In Service,
Kathryn Webb (She/her/hers)
CSSA Liaison