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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

The California State Student Association (CSSA) met for the first time this academic school year from July 9 – 10 through Zoom. Given this was the first plenary of the 2022 – 2023 academic year, the plenary mainly focused on introducing the CSSA guidelines, regulations, and committees. All meetings were attended by me, your CSSA Liaison, and newly elected ASI President, Salma Pacheco.

There are two big changes to CSSA's Policy Agenda release schedule and Special Officer positions. Below you will find a synopsis of what was discussed at the Orientation and Board of Directors meeting. Please look over these discussions to review CSSA policies, regulations, and advocacy goals as they relate to higher education.

Saturday, July 9, 2022

The Orientation began with a warm welcome from CSSA Executive Officers and CSSA staff. The following is a list of this year's Executive Officers:

President – Krishan Malhotra

Chair – Varenya Gupta

Vice President of Finance – Jonathan Molina Mancio

Vice President of Legislative Affairs – Trent Murphy

Vice President of Systemwide Affairs – Dixie Samaniego

To review, CSSA is a nonprofit student organization representing 482,000 students of the CSU systems. The organization is comprised of five executive officers, five special officers, 7 committees and a director representing one of each of the 23 CSU campuses. While directors stand in as elected representatives from their schools, CSSA is a separate entity where all directors and executive officers represent the interest of all CSU students. They work collaboratively to bring together their collective experience at each campus to advocate for students.

According to the 2022 – 2023 CSSA Calendar, July’s Plenary was going to be hosted by CSU Long Beach, however, due to COVID-19 concerns, this meeting was held virtually. Next meeting will be held virtually on August 6 – 7 as previously scheduled. In July, the CSU Board of Trustees will meet July 12 – 13 and it will be [livestreamed](#) and open to all. The Board of Directors is comprised of 25 board members that adopt policies governing the entire CSU system and two appointed Student Trustees regularly attend these meetings and report out at the Board of Director’s meeting. Additionally,

Next, Assistant Director Brandon Tsubaki reviewed the [CSSA Constitution](#) and the Gloria Romero Open meeting structure. These are rules that are followed during all plenary meetings. While these presentations were aimed at informing new and existing CSSA members, there were groups created called Campus Connections. CSU Sacramento joined a group facilitated by VP of Legislative Affairs Murphy along with representatives from Dominguez Hills, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Jose. These group discussions were an opportunity to engage more personally with other campuses, answer additional questions, and participate in trivia competitions.

Sunday, July 10, 2022

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. However, this Board of Directors meeting began with a Special Note from Interim Chancellor Koester. Prior to her appointment as CSU Interim Chancellor, Dr. Koester was president of CSU Northridge for 11 years and serves as provost of CSU Sacramento. She shared a list of four goals she aims to accomplish and focus on in the next 12 to 15 months.

First, restoring trust among all constituencies by communicating frequently with all stakeholders, and creating opportunities for system leader to collaboratively assess the work we do together. Second, evaluate and make improvements to key processes and policies through employment process modernization, internal managing of Title IX offices and focusing on Academic and Student Affairs areas at the Chancellor’s Office. Third focus involves laying groundwork for the new Chancellor and begin preliminary processes to describe resources and steps taken through the course of the next year. Lastly, Dr. Koester emphasized her focus on advocacy. Most notably, a consultant will report to her the work on all the segments of higher education to provide an analysis with respect of the structure of the system. In short, Dr Koester is interested in consulting and listening to all student issues and will be available for further discussion to better the lives of all faculty, staff, and students.

Regarding the information items, elections for Finance and Internal Committees and VP nominations for Systemwide, Legislative Affairs, and Board of Directors will be held at next

month's Plenary. While the Finance and Internal Committees are elected positions, Systemwide, Legislative Affairs and Board of Directors are all comprised of campus Directors with one position available to support the Chair. These positions should be discussed directly with the respective leads for an opportunity to hold a VP position for these committee. Additionally, the Finance Committee will be asking an expedited action item that requests funds from the reserves to purchase a new lease for the Sacramento office. Recent break-ins have made the current location unsafe for the staff and this item will be discussed at the next Plenary. Next, CSUnity will be held on September 11 – 12 at CSU Long Beach. This is a two-day conference with workshops that engage students with the systemwide policymakers.

As discussed before, CSSA is managing two changes to our structure and schedule as it relates to the Policy Agenda and Special Officers respectively. This year, the Policy Agenda will be revised by the Executive Officers and presented at the Septembers Plenary. Next, the Special Officer responsibilities have changed from issue-focused to regional positions. The elections will be held at next month's Plenary. Those who wish to be considered will have to review the eligibility requirements, responsibilities, and scholarship opportunities in the CSSA Constitution.

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

Best,

Karina Arroyo | CSSA Liaison

Associated Students Inc.