

To: ASI Board of Directors
From: **Armando Perez**, CSSA Liaison
Subject: March 2024 CSSA Notes

Spring 2024 Office Hours:

Monday: 12-5pm

Wednesday: 11-5pm

Thursday: 3:30-5:45pm (on Lobby Corps days)

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March California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The March CSSA plenary meeting was held here at Sacramento State with the presence of several other Board Members as well! CSSA annually hosts the CHESS Conference as well here in Sacramento and there were a lot of key points and events that highlighted March's plenary meeting.

On Saturday, March 9th, CSSA hosted the plenary meeting with reception hosted by our ASI President.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee started off with public comment and then reports of Staff and Officers. The Assistant Director of Operations and the Chair of the committee presented their reports to the committee and the public. Following, there was an action item considering the recommendation for the 2024-2025 budget to the Board of Directors. In summary, CSSA is looking to approve approximately \$2.1 million dollars which would be a 6% increase from the year prior. The biggest changes in the budget would be a \$6,600 increase to the Student Trustee Search and a \$16,506 decrease in revenue from the SIRF which I have mentioned before. Finance Committee unanimously approved and sent the recommendation to the Board of Directors. Following, Chair Cruz provided an update on the February 2024 Financial Statement. As mentioned, the biggest notice was the drop in revenue from the SIRF.

Legislative Affairs Committee

In the Legislative Affairs Committee, there were two reports from Staff and Officers; Chair Alvarez Chavarria and Mary Washington, Director of Government Relations and Advocacy provided brief reports on their end. The new business were 5 Assembly bills that were all unanimously approved. It consisted of AB 2458, Ab 2407, AB 2586, AB 2608, and AB 3112.

Following, there was lunch provided for an hour.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The next committee on the agenda was Systemwide Affairs Committee. There were reports from Staff Member Genesis Jara who sits as the Assistant Director of Systemwide Affairs and the Chair, Genesis Galilea Pompa. The unfinished business consisted of one resolution authored by CSUF ASI President Maysem Awadalla that was titled "Calling of Ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, Condemning Human Rights Violations, War Crimes and Reaffirming Freedom of Speech and Expression." There was no heavy discussion and the motion was carried to a roll call vote. The resolution, in fact, received all Aye's and there were no objections. CSSA President Dominic Quan-Treseler supported the

resolution beforehand stating that he wanted to apologize to the author and co-authors for not having this pushed out sooner or addressed sooner as he stated “this is an issue that affects CSU students and we should stand by those students”. New Business entailed of an information item presented from Vincent J. Rasso about the residing tide in graduation rates in the CSU. In the CSU as a whole, there was an enrollment of 65,103 students with 52% of the first-year students identifying as Latinx. For transfer students, the enrollment data was 49,468 incoming transfers and for both data points, this was pulled from the Fall 2022 semester. 49% of transfer students in Fall 2022 were of Latinx as well.

Board of Directors

The last meeting that was held with plenary was the Board of Directors. In their consent agenda, there was unanimous approval for the Assembly bills that were passed from Legislative Affairs Committee and as well as the 2024-2025 CSSA Budget. Following, there were reports from the Executive Director and the Executive Board of CSSA along with the Student Trustees. One unfinished business item that was brought from the February virtual plenary meeting was the support of proposed Title 5 changes to CSU GE requirements. The proposed revisions to Title 5 regulations were tricky to understand however the gist of the change would be removing the requirement of Area E: Understanding Personal Development to decrease the required number of units to graduate. This was a big concern for some of the campuses; it was moved to a roll call vote. The action item failed to pass in which the CSU Board of Trustees were seeking a support however did not receive that. The new business items were yearly awards that are awarded to a CSU Board of Trustee, Administrator, University President, and Faculty. For the Trustee of the Year award, CSU East Bay nominated Diana Aguilar-Cruz. This was the sole nomination in which she was awarded with the Trustee of the Year award. Administrator of the Year award had several nominations including myself nominating Dr. Aniesha Mitchell on behalf of Sacramento State however the award was given to another administrator. For President of the Year, CSSA President Quan-Treseler gave a recommendation to the Board of Directors to nominate Dr. Luke Wood of Sacramento State. Unfortunately, San Diego State took the recommendation quickly and nominated Dr. Wood for this award however, I was fortunate enough to have 30 seconds as to why he deserved the award. With majority support, Dr. Luke Wood received the award for President of the Year from CSSA.

Following plenary meeting, there was reception hosted by ASI President Nataly Andrade-Dominguez in which CSSA and the campuses participated in a Kahoot challenge and there was a winner in which received goodie bags as well. All of us were then moved to the football stadium to take a quick photo with our campuses which was a memory to remember forever.

CHESS Conference

The next day which was Sunday, CSSA hosted the CHESS Conference in which CSSA provided different workshops that we could attend regarding different issues to combat in the CSU system such as student housing, Title IX reform, more information about CSSA and how to get involved and so much more. I attended the Student Housing workshop along with learning more about the Legislature with our local campuses. For the student housing, the biggest issue that I brought up to the workshop was the need for financial aid because of the fact that most of the time, FAFSA is based on your parents however that income from your parents isn't given to you at all to help assist for the college needs. Also, over 40% of students in the CSU system are housing insecure which is really sad to hear. Following, annually at CHESS, there is a Spirit Challenge where all 23 campuses try to win the title of most spirited. Sacramento State took home the 1st place trophy and earned back the title from previous holders which was San Jose State.

Advocacy Day with CSSA

For Monday, this was where the practice and information was put into effect as this was our CSSA Advocacy Day at the Capitol. We were able to host 6 meetings with Legislative Staff including meeting one Assemblywoman which was Angelique Ashby. We advocated for the CSU Facilities Bond and CSU Funding from the Governor in his annual budget proposal. For the CSU Facilities Bond, CSSA understands the need for the improvement and upgrades of the buildings of each campus. Sacramento State was founded very early on and buildings that we have are outdated with insufficient AC and Heater units and other accessibility issues. The second thing was the Multi-Year Compact Funding which has been deferred for another year by the Governor. This funding supports mental health services, underrepresented programs such as EOP and CAMP and we advocated for the importance of having this funding stay in place for the next fiscal year in order for our programs not to be cut. For the bills end, we advocated for 7 Assembly bills. Two of which are AB 1160 and AB 2458 were co-sponsored by CSSA. The rest of the bills include AB 810, AB 2407, AB 2586, AB 2608, and AB 3112. All of these bills were taken as a stance of support from CSSA and were discussed with each legislator and/or their staff. It was an amazing experience to have and so grateful for the opportunity.

Overall, March plenary was successful and wouldn't have been possible without the contribution of the ASI Board and our amazing CHESS Scholarship recipients.

This is the end of my Notes.