

To: ASI Board of Directors  
From: Caroline Tah-Espens  
Subject: February 2026 CSSA Plenary Notes

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Fall 2025 Office Hours:  
Monday: 10 am – 3 pm,  
Tuesday: 1:30pm -4:30pm  
Wednesdays: 12pm-2pm

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## **California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary**

### **February CSSA Plenary**

The February meeting was held virtually on February 21, 2026. The attendees were our ASI President Aran jot Kaur and Executive Vice Presidents Richard Angulo and myself as CSSA Liaison. It was a one-day event that consisted of five committee meeting and Board of Directors

### **Systemwide Affairs Committee**

The consent agenda, including the previous minutes, was approved. Reports were presented by Vice President of Systemwide Affairs Katie Karroum and Assistant Director of Systemwide Affairs Genesis Jara-Gutierrez. The final version of the CSU AI White Paper was presented to the committee. Some of the key concerns is that CSSA was not informed or consulted when the AI contracts was established. Some students raised concerns about the lack of transparency and communication regarding AI initiatives. Member Danielle Vu from Fresno State presented and updated version of the resolution to advocate for reforms to non-residents tuition fees. Members raised some concerns that focus is not on advocating for a tuition cap, but rather on more inclusive language and clearer written policies for students. There are concerns that the proposal emphasizes lowering non-resident tuition, even though higher non-resident rates are intended to help offset and reduce in-state tuition costs.

### **Legislative Affairs Committee**

The consent agenda was approved. Reports were presented by Vice President of Legislative Affairs Nikki Majidi and Director of Government and Advocacy Mary Washington.

The committee approved:

- **AB 713: (Solache) Public postsecondary education: student employment.**
  - AB 713 would prohibit the California State University (CSU), beginning January 6, 2027, from disqualifying students from campus employment solely because they cannot provide proof of federal work authorization, except where required by federal law or tied to specific grant funding.
  - The bill directs CSU to treat the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) prohibition on hiring undocumented individuals as inapplicable to state entities acting as

employers and asserts state authorization under federal law to provide employment as a public benefit.

- **SB 961 (Ashby) — CalFresh: Student Eligibility**
  - Also known as the CalFresh for Students Act, SB 961 aims to reduce barriers that prevent college students from accessing food assistance. The bill seeks to streamline application processes, reduce administrative red tape, and ensure eligible students can more easily access CalFresh benefits.
  - The proposal responds to rising student food insecurity and works to better align state systems to support low-income college students and promote degree completion.
- **AB 2212 (Bauer-Kahan) — Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence in Higher Education**
  - AB 2212 would update California’s Education Code to explicitly define technology-facilitated sexual violence — including AI-generated intimate images — as a form of sexual violence under campus policy.
  - The bill would require colleges and universities to: revise Title IX policies accordingly, increase student education and resources related to online sexual harm, establish emergency funds to assist survivors in removing non-consensual content
  - For CSU students, this legislation would close legal gaps related to AI-generated abuse, strengthen clarity in campus enforcement, and expand access to survivor support services.
- **AB 2251 Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program: Cost of Attendance**
  - AB 2251 would improve transparency and access to financial aid by requiring Cal Grant-participating institutions to clearly publish how they calculate Cost of Attendance (COA) budgets and implement a standardized, accessible COA adjustment process.
  - The bill would: Allow students to request adjustments for any COA expense category, require decisions within 30 business days, permit electronic submission of documentation, provide a second review process for denied requests
  - For CSU students, this bill would make it easier to access additional financial aid when their actual educational expenses exceed standard COA estimates.

### **Board of Directors**

The consent agenda was approved, and reports were presented by both executive officers and staff. An information item was presented regarding updates to the CSSA Plenary Hosting Information Packet, outlining changes to hosting expectations and procedures.

Under new business, Chair Villarreal led discussion and action on a revised Constitution resolution to reflect next year’s updated membership structure. Vice President Majidi presented recommendations for the Legislator of the Year and Staffer of the Year awards, with the Board selecting recipients in accordance with policy. Additionally, information was shared about the upcoming 2026–2027 Executive Officer Elections, including details on the application and selection process before adjournment.

The concludes the February Plenary. The following will take place at Sacramento State on March 21,2026.

If there are any questions regarding any of the items in which I discussed in my report please reach out to the CSSA Liaison, Caroline Tah-Espens at [asicssarep@csus.edu](mailto:asicssarep@csus.edu) and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.