

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

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

March CSSA Plenary

The March meeting was held virtually on March 21, 2026 at Sacramento State. The attendees were our ASI President Aranjoy 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 meeting minutes, was approved. Reports were presented by Vice President of Systemwide Affairs Katie Karroum and Assistant Director of Systemwide Affairs Genesis Jara-Gutierrez. Under new business, there was a discussion in which each CSU campus provided insight into budget cuts resulting from federal reductions to Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) grants. Of the 23 CSU campuses, 19 are being heavily affected, including Sacramento. These cuts are expected to reduce student opportunities and negatively impact many pipeline programs.

There was also discussion of a resolution opposing the recent increase in compensation for CSU presidents. Member Thyra Beckly from San Francisco State presented the resolution, which argues that salary increases and bonuses for CSU presidents are unjustified during a time when students face rising tuition, housing insecurity, and underfunded campus services. It highlights that student workers and lecturers remain underpaid while executive compensation continues to grow, demonstrating a misalignment of priorities. The resolution calls for reversing the raises, redirecting funds to student support and worker pay, and increasing transparency in CSU budgeting decisions.

Lastly, member Abby McLachlan from San Diego State presented a resolution regarding the CSU alternative consultation process. The resolution argues that the California State Student Association (CSSA) is concerned about CSU policies that allow campuses to raise certain student fees without a full student vote, reducing transparency and student input. It emphasizes that mandatory fees have significantly increased over time and that relying on these fees instead of state funding is unsustainable and undermines shared governance. The resolution calls for stricter limits on when alternative consultation can replace student referendums, clearer standards for transparency, and stronger student involvement in fee-related decisions. The meeting was adjourned.

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:

- **SB 1006 (Padilla) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant B Access Cost Award**
 - This bill would modify provision related to Cal Grant B access award which provides non-tuition financial assistance to low-income students for education-related expenses such as housing, food, transportation, books and supplies. This bill seeks to strengthen and/or increase the access cost compotes of Cal Grant B to better reflect the rising cost of living faced by California Students.
- **AB 2236 (Berman): Postsecondary education: articulation agreement**
 - Would strengthen and clarify requirements related to articulation agreement between California Community Colleges and public four-yea institutions, including the California State University Articulation agreements determine how courses completed at one institution apply toward degree requirements at another. The bill seeks to improve transparency, consistency, and timeliness in maintaining and updating these agreements to ensure students have accurate information about transferable coursework.

All of these legislative bills were approved by the committee and moved to be discussed at the Board of Director's meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

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.

California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS)

CHESS was a two-day event held on Sunday, March 22, and Monday, March 23, 202, at Sacramento State. On Sunday, participants heard from special guests, networked with student leaders from across the state, and prepared for advocacy efforts scheduled for the following day at the State Capitol.

Advocacy efforts focused on opposing the proposed budget cuts and supporting the following bills:

- **AB 713: (Solache) *Public postsecondary education: student employment.***
- **SB 961 (Ashby) — CalFresh: *Student Eligibility***
- **AB 2212 (Bauer-Kahan) *Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence in Higher Education***
- **AB 2251 *Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program: Cost of Attendance***
- **SB 1006 (Padilla) *Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant B Access Cost Award***
- **AB 2236 (Berman) *Postsecondary education: articulation agreement***

All attendees had the opportunity to lobby against the proposed budget cuts and to support these bills during meeting with legislators at the Capitol.

This concludes the March plenary meeting notes. The following plenary will take place virtually April 11.