

To: ASI Board of Directors
From: Caroline Tah-Espens
Subject: May 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

May CSSA Plenary

The May meeting was held in person at CSU San Marcos on May 2-3, 2026. The attendees were our ASI President Aranjot Kaur and Executive Vice Presidents Richard Angulo and myself as CSSA Liaison. It was a two-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 unfinished business 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.

As well as Abby McLachlan from San Diego State presented a resolution regarding the CSU alternative consultation process. The resolution argues that 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.

Under new business, there was a discussion on Strategic enrollment management frameworks consultation presented by the Dr. Dilcie D. Perez, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Enrollment Management and Student Success, shall present the finalized Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Framework for consultation with committee members. The meeting was then 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. A presentation was given by the office of federal relations, Lauren Schwensen, who discuss CSU's federal priorities. She highlighted continued advocacy for Pell Grant and funding for campuses. Vice President Majidi presented on the status of co-sponsored and supported legislation that the community has approved.

The committee approved:

- **AB 1669 (Pancheco) Student Health: Medical Leaves of Absence: Mental Health**
 - Would require California postsecondary institutions (and request the University of California) to establish a clear, standardized policy allowing students to take a voluntary medical leave of absence for physical or mental health reasons. Beginning in the 2027–28 academic year, students would be permitted to take a leave for a period determined by the institution or up to one academic year, whichever is longer, with the ability to extend the leave if medically necessary.
- **Ab 1732 (Alvarez) California Environmental Quality act: Exemption: Affordable Housing Project Public University or Public College Housing Projects**
 - AB 1732 updates CEQA to expand exemptions for certain housing projects, especially affordable and public university housing. Qualifying projects can skip parts of environmental review if they meet criteria like being in urban or infill areas and consistent with planning standards. The bill extends these exemptions to college housing and allows flexibility for projects not covered by local plans if they meet statewide standards. It also strengthens tribal consultation by requiring formal notification and allowing enforceable mitigation for impacts on tribal cultural resources. Safeguards like labor, health, and environmental protections remain in place. The exemptions are extended through January 1, 2037. Overall, the bill aims to speed up student and affordable housing development while maintaining key protections.
- **AB 2374 (FONG) & SB 1255 (REYES) Postsecondary education: Designation of California Asian American- and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions**
 - AB 2374 and SB 1255 are companion bills that create state designations for colleges that effectively support underserved students—AANAPISI (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander) and HSI (Hispanic-Serving Institutions). Schools must apply and show measurable progress in outcomes like retention, graduation, and equity gaps. Both bills establish a review process and require ongoing accountability, with designations lasting five years. SB 1255 includes a 25% Latino enrollment threshold and depends on funding, while AB 2374 does not. Overall, the bills aim to improve student success by incentivizing targeted support and accountability.

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 meeting began with approval of the consent agenda, followed by reports from executive officers and staff outlining ongoing initiatives and updates. Under new business, the board approved a resolution supporting reforms to the CSU consultation process. The board also considered legislative priorities brought forward by the Legislative Affairs Committee and approved all items except AB 1732, which was not supported due to concerns about inadequate consideration of impacts on tribal lands.

The board then discussed several internal policy action items. These included proposed revisions to the CSSA Membership Policy to incorporate clearer requirements for elected officer positions, as well as a constitutional resolution to shift the approval cycle of the CSSA Policy Agenda from annual to biennial, aligning it with the California legislative cycle. Additionally, updates to the CSSA Risk Management Policy were presented to strengthen organizational oversight and operational guidelines.

The Board of Directors also reviewed and considered approval of the CSSA Fiscal Year 2026–27 budget, following a presentation from the Vice President of Finance and supporting staff.

The agenda included liaison reports from key CSU stakeholders, including the Academic Senate, CSU Chancellor’s Office, and CSU Board of Trustees, providing systemwide updates. Public comment was also invited, allowing stakeholders to address issues related to higher education.

Finally, informational items included a presentation on the development of a CSSA Canvas module designed to support onboarding and training for incoming board members, as well as closing remarks from board members reflecting on the 2025–2026 term.

This concludes the May Plenary notes.

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 and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.