

To: ASI Board of Directors  
From: Kathryn Webb  
Subject: March CSSA Plenary

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Office Hours:

Monday: 9-11 AM

Tuesday: 12:30-3:30 PM

Wednesday: 1:45-5:00 PM

Thursday: 2-5 PM

Friday: 8-12 AM

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**CSSA- Sacramento State**

The March CSSA plenary took place for one day on March 6, and Sacramento State was able to virtually host! We had wonderful backgrounds created by Nathaniel Yamamoto from Student Engagement and Outreach, along with a Kahoot quiz and inspiring discussion question in the morning. During lunch, we had Nadia Navarro Brown, Rob Wassmer, Nathan Diedrich, and Kristina Victor Flores present to the audience on various programs at Sacramento State. After their presentations, there were great questions and discussions on the programs. There were also four ASI Directors who attended, including ASI Graduate Director Wayne Cheung, ASI Business Director Joshua Bozarth, ASI Executive Vice President Samantha Elizalde, and ASI Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies Director Ashley Mohmoh.

I just want to take this moment and say thank you to our speakers and directors who attended and to everyone who helped plan this event from CSSA and Sacramento State. Even though we may be virtual, we still found a way to celebrate our school. Stingers Up!

**Legislative Affairs Committee**

During the Legislative Affairs Committee, there was action and discussion on various bills. See below for details on each legislative bill.

**Action Items:**

- **AB 940: College Mental Health Services Program.** Introduced by Assembly McCarty. Passed a support stance recommendation to the CSSA Board. This bill advocates for surplus money raised by Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act) to be allocated to the CSU system in order to help fund and expand mental health programs for students.
- **AB 396: Cal Fresh.** Recommended to CSSA Board to support. This bill advocates for the implementation and registration of programs at CSU campuses that could make students eligible for Cal Fresh, as a way to help support students facing food insecurity.
- **AB 288: California Ban on Scholarship Displacement.** Recommended to CSSA Board to support. This bill seeks to ensure that a student's financial aid from an institution is not

reduced if they also receive a scholarship. For example, if a student were to win a \$1,000 scholarship, this could not be deducted from their institutional aid.

- **AB 367: Menstrual Products.** Recommended to CSSA Board to support. This bill seeks to provide menstrual products to students for free and to ensure at least 50% of school bathrooms are equipped with menstrual products accessible to students.

**Discussion Items:**

- **AB 1456: Student Financial Aid Act.** This bill discusses Cal Grant Reform and seeks to modernize this grant by eliminating current barriers to financial aid such as age, GPA, and time out of high school. This is a complex and important topic, and you can find all the information on it [here](#).
- **Broadband Legislation: AB 14 and SB 4.** These bills both advocate for an expansion of broadband internet access to help those in areas that do not have reliable internet access. As we have seen in the past year, access to the internet has been crucial for work, school, and staying informed on safety protocols. Currently, large internet providers such as Verizon and AT&T do not have a lot of service in rural areas, which can harm a student's ability to successfully navigate school.
- **AB 543: Student Orientation and Cal Fresh.** This is a very straightforward bill that advocates Cal Fresh to be promoted during student orientation, so students are aware of these programs as soon as they are in college.
- **AB 99: California Cradle to Career Data System.** This bill advocates for California to create a data system that tracks students and their success in each part of their education. Currently, California is one of only 8 states that does not have this system. The benefit of creating this program is to evaluate how effective certain educational programs are in helping students. For example, under this data system the California legislature would be able to see if the Associate's Degree for Transfer is able to close equity gaps.

**Systemwide Affairs Committee**

The Systemwide Affairs committee heard presentations and took action on a few resolutions. Please see below for more information.

**Presentations:**

- **Students with Dependents Presentation:** Students came and presented to the committee on the struggles students with dependents face, such as limited access to resources, restrictive attendance and assignment policies, and isolation from the campus community. This initiative would incorporate students with dependents into the Graduation Initiative of 2025, look at data for this demographic, and recognize the intersectionality of CSU students. They also gave the committee examples of programs implemented to help these students, such as a Diaper Pantry to help provide basic needs to our students.

**Action Item:**

- **Resolution in Support of South West Asian North African (SWANA) Students.** This resolution was initially a discussion item but was changed to an action item within the

meeting. This resolution advocates for the inclusion of SWANA on Cal State Apply as category for racial identification. By including this, the CSU system can obtain information on this student demographic and be able to allocate resources to support SWANA students. I voted to support this resolution, and it was passed by the Systemwide Committee and will now be discussed by the CSSA Board of Directors in April.

- **Resolution Calling for the CSU to Include Caste in Anti-Discriminatory Policy.** Similar to the Resolution in Support of SWANA Students, this was originally a discussion item but was turned into an action item. This resolution advocates that caste should be added to the CSU anti-discriminatory policy as a way to protect students who face caste-based discrimination. I voted to support this resolution, and it was passed by the Systemwide Affairs Committee and will now be discussed by the CSSA Board of Directors in April.
- **Resolution in Support of Fossil Fuels Divestment.** This resolution was also turned into an action item but had to be postponed to be discussed at a future special meeting as there were too many amendments and the committee needed more time to work out the details in the resolution.

**Postponed Items:**

- Resolution in Support of Reforming University Police Departments Systemwide. This resolution was postponed due to time constraints. If you would like to read it, you can find it [here](#).

**CSSA Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors took action on many items, from awards to legislation and resolutions. See below for details on action items.

**Action Items- Legislation and Resolutions:**

- **AB 53 Election Day Holiday.** Introduced by Assemblymember Low and passed with a unanimous support stance. This bill would create a statewide holiday on Election Day and give the day off to college students in order for them to have enough time to go out and vote.
- **AB 940 College Mental Health Service Programs.** Introduced by Assemblymember McCarty and passed with a unanimous support stance. This bill advocates for surplus money raised by Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act) to be allocated to the CSU system in order to help fund and expand mental health programs for students.
- **AB 396 Cal Fresh Educational Programs.** Introduced by Assemblymember Gabriel and passed with a unanimous support stance. This bill advocates for the implementation and registration of programs at CSU campuses that could make students eligible for Cal Fresh, as a way to help support students facing food insecurity.
- **AB 288 California Ban on Scholarship Displacement.** Introduced by Assemblymember Bonta and passed with a unanimous support stance. This bill seeks to ensure that a student's financial aid from an institution is not reduced if they also receive a scholarship.

For example, if a student were to win a \$1,000 scholarship, this could not be deducted from their institutional aid.

- **AB 367 Menstrual Products.** Introduced by Assemblymember Garcia and passed with a unanimous support stance. This bill seeks to provide menstrual products to students for free and to ensure at least 50% of school bathrooms are equipped with menstrual products accessible to students.
- **Resolution on Systemwide Advocacy to Stamping Out Food Insecurity during COVID-19 and Beyond.** This resolution advocates for all students to be able to access any CSU food pantry during times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic or during times where they may not be near their home campus, such as summer and winter break. The Board of Directors passed this with unanimous consent as well.

If you have any questions on anything discussed above, please feel free to reach out to me. Once again, thank you to everyone who helped out with the planning on hosting the CSSA plenary, those who spoke during lunch, and to those who attended the meeting to show their support. Even when we are far apart, we can still come together to do great things. I am looking forward to when we can celebrate our campus in person!

In Service,

Kathryn Webb

CSSA Liaison