

To: ASI Board of Directors
From: Caroline Tah-Espens
Subject: February 2025 CSSA Plenary

Spring 2025 Office Hours:
Monday: 10 am – 3 pm,
Wednesdays: 12pm-5pm
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February California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The February CSSA Plenary meeting was held virtually on Saturday February 15. The attendees were our ASI President Nataly Andrade-Dominguez, Executive Vice Presidents Gabriel Conejo Gallegos and myself as CSSA Liaison. It was a one-day event that consisted of five committee meeting, campus connection and the Board of Directors meeting.

Legislative Affairs Committee

The consent agenda was approved with minutes from the January meeting. Mary Washington, director of Government Relations and Advocacy gave staff reports. With Adrian Sanchez stepping down from his position as chair of the committee CSSA President Iese Esera has taken over as chair of Legislative Affairs. Some of the main legislative bills that were discussed were:

- SB 98 (Perez): Immigration enforcement notification:
 - Would ensure that all students on campus be noticed if any immigration officer is on campus.
- SB 271 (Reyes): Student Parents:
 - Expand the definition of childcare under basic needs services to ensure clear, more comprehensive support across California Community Colleges, CSU, and UC systems.
- AB313 (Ortega): Student Financial Aid: Application Deadline Extension:
 - Would extend the California students financial aids application deadline by one month for the 2025-26 award year moving it from March 3, 2025 to April 3, 2025.
- AB XXX: Strengthening Data Collection:
 - Would require Cal Grant participating intuitions to provide students-level enrollment persistence and graduation data to the California student Aid Commission (CSAC).
- AB XXX: Standardization of Financial Aid Letters.
 - This would make it so all financial award letters are standardized in order to have them be more comprehensive. It will help students make smarter decision about where to attend college, how to manage their finances and ultimately improve college retention and completion rates.
- AB XXX: Cal Fresh and FAFSA Data Sharing Opt-In.
 - Would be streamlining the data-sharing process between CSAC and CaLSAWS. It would allow FAFSA applicants to opt-in to share their financial data with CalSAWS to help eligible students who may otherwise not apply.

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

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The consent agenda, including the minutes, was approved. Reports were presented by Genesis Jara, Assistant Director of Systemwide Affairs, and Tara Al Rehani, Vice President of Systemwide Affairs. Sacramento State ASI President Andrade-Dominguez introduced a resolution to establish an Undocumented Student Advisory Committee. This committee would address issues affecting undocumented students and advocate for the CSU Chancellor's Office to create a comprehensive list of policies that protect undocumented students and staff. Key provisions include ensuring access to mental health resources and developing protocols for handling immigration enforcement.

Additionally, the resolution proposes the creation of an advisory council consisting of representatives from students, faculty, staff, and the Chancellor's Office to guide policies supporting undocumented students. It also seeks to enhance the enrollment of undocumented students through increased outreach, revising scholarship criteria, offering alternative food security programs, and creating entrepreneurship pathways. The goal is to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for undocumented students within the CSU system.

After the resolution discussion, Dr. Sarah E. Fried-Gintis, Senior Systemwide Director in Academic and Staff Human Resources, gave a presentation on the process regarding Other Conduct of Concern complaints. The meeting was then adjourned.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors approved their consent agenda and minutes. There were four liaison reports and six reports from staff and offices. Some of the key takeaways were that CSSA President will be assuming the responsibilities for the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Position. There was an appointment for the Southern Engagement Officer position to the Broad for confirmation. As well as the Legislator of the year was will as legislative staff of the year. Lastly there was a presentation of the 2025 -2026 CSSA Election cycle. The meeting was the adjourned.

This concluded the February virtual plenary meeting notes. The next one will be help in person in March here at Sacramento State. As well as CHESS will be taking place on March 9-10.

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 with the appropriate response as soon as possible. Thank you.

