

To: Board of Directors
From: Kathryn Webb
Subject: February CSSA Plenary

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

CSSA- ZOOM

The February plenary was filled with important issues such as reforming university police departments, divesting the CSU from fossil fuels, and adding SWANA to the Cal State Apply. More information can be found below on these different topics. In addition, there were votes on legislator of the year as well as discussions on current legislation in the California State Assembly. These issues directly affect the students of the CSU, so I highly encourage you to read through this report, ask questions and give feedback on these topics.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

This committee held discussions on 7 different topics. Please find a brief synopsis of each below. can find the written resolutions [here](#).

- **Land Acknowledgement.** The Systemwide Affairs committee discussed how our respective campuses have been acknowledging the native land we reside on. I want to say thank you to Annette Reed, the Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department and Jose Mejia, a counselor at the Native Student Success Center for informing me on ways we can better serve Native American students. I presented the information they had shared with me to the committee.
- **Adding Caste to the CSU's anti-discrimination policy.** This resolution advocates for caste to be added as a dimension of the anti-discrimination policy in the CSU system to ensure that the CSU continues in its dedication to creating a system that is inclusive to all.
- **Resolution Calling for Institutional Support for Mental Health Services.** This resolution advocates for the student fees that students pay for their health services on campus go towards these health services only, as currently some of these fees are being directed towards other costs, such as administration fees.
- **Resolution to Add SWANA to Cal State Apply.** This resolution advocates for SWANA, or South West Asian and North African, to become a racial category on the Cal State Apply. This way, the CSU can record demographic data and be able to provide resources to this community that have previously been denied to these students.
- **Resolution to Divest the CSU from Fossil Fuels.** This resolution advocates for the CSU to automatically freeze any investments in fossil fuels that provide an

energy source to the university system. The largest discussion around this issue was how a responsible source of energy should be defined.

- **Resolution to Reform the University Police Department.** First, I would like to say thank you to all of the CSU and Sacramento State students who came to CSSA to voice their perspective during public comment. The discussion among committee members largely surrounded the idea of what the best route would be in addressing this systemic problem. Some discussed reform as an option, where others advocated for defunding the university police department. Both reform and divestment were included in the resolution, so in the March meeting there will be more clarity of which route the authors of resolution would like the Systemwide Affairs and CSSA Board of Directors to take.
- **Resolution for a Tuition Free CSU by 2030.** This resolution advocates that the CSU system become tuition free by 2030. The discussion was largely around who would be paying for the universities and how the university system would be able to sustain this goal. The focus was on the state legislature setting up an ongoing budget to fund the CSU, similar to how the state now funds the California Community Colleges.

Internal Committee:

This committee discussed changes to the CSSA constitution. A specific conversation of interest was the discussion on the accountability and attendance section. In a virtual world, there are different circumstances than there were in person, so the committee tried to outline how to fairly enforce attendance policies in a time of uncertainty. Since our ASI Board faces this same problem, it was interesting to see how CSSA went about discussing this policy. They discussed extraneous circumstances such as Wi-Fi disconnect or technological problems. There was an emphasis on clear communication with those running the meeting, so that everyone could be aware of what was going on and be able to fairly decide if something counted as an absence or a circumstance outside the control of the individual.

Joint Committee

As we get closer to Fall 2021, many students have been wondering if we will finally be able to go back to a more normal university experience. CSSA has been considering this as well in terms of their Student at Large Travel Policy. The CSU Chancellor stated that it is most likely classes will be 50% in person this fall. Since there is a lot of travel associated with the CSSA plenaries, there are challenges that the organization will still face, namely safety of participants and financial constraints. In order to make sure participants can access the CSSA plenaries while staying safe, there is a possibility there will still be a virtual component to the CSSA plenaries in the next year. There have been no definitive decisions, so this committee will be revisiting the travel policy and is considering scrapping it and replacing it with guidelines.

Leg Affairs:

Just like Systemwide Affairs, there were many discussions held during the Legislative Affairs committee. This committee recommended that the CSSA Board of Directors take a stance of support on both AB 245: Education Equity and AB 53: Election Day Holiday. See below for a

quick overview of legislation currently being considered by the CSSA Legislative Affairs committee.

- **Assemblymember McCarty bill on College Mental Health Services Program.** This assembly bill would address funding for mental health services at the California State, University of California, and California Community Colleges. It advocates for ongoing funding to be allocated to these institutions from the tax created by Prop. 63. There is currently no released text for this bill, but CSSA expects to see the written bill this Friday, February 19th.
- **AB 288 California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021.** Advocates for students to be able to receive scholarships without losing any other financial aid that was allocated by the California State University system, California Community Colleges, or University of California system. As an example, if a student were to receive a scholarship for \$3,000, then their financial aid could not be reduced by the university by that \$3,000.
- **AB 396 Cal Fresh: educational programs.** This bill advocates for the CSU to implement employment training programs on California State University campuses as a way to make more students eligible for the Cal Fresh program.
- **AB 367: Menstrual Products.** This bill has been introduced by Assemblymember Christina Garcia and if passed would enact the Menstrual Equity Act of 2021, which would require all California State University and California Community College districts to ensure 50% of all university bathrooms are stocked with free menstrual products.

CSSA Board of Directors

During the Board of Directors meeting, the directors discussed the Trustee of the year award, administrator of the year award, president of the year award, and faculty of the year award. They also voted on the Legislator of the Year Award. Congratulations to Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber! She won this award for her dedication to the California State University system and for her work on AB 1416, which made Ethnic Studies a graduation requirement for CSU students earlier this year.

The reports from the various CSU liaisons had some interesting topics as well.

- The Student Trustees reported that the federal priorities of the Board of Trustees would be around supporting and protecting Dreamer students, federal relief for students, and investing in student success.
- The Academic Senate liaison reported on how their organization has passed resolutions advocating for fair workload for faculty, addressing the inequality in access to internet bandwidth and how technological needs in a virtual world have impacted underserved students.
- The Chancellor's Office liaison discussed viewpoint neutrality, and how they are working to see how this would impact cultural centers on campuses. He also discussed how about 13 campuses are currently vaccination sites for the general public and the current plan for reopening for the universities. As was stated in the meeting, it is ultimately a campus decision, but they must submit their plan to the

Chancellor's Office, and the university, Chancellor's Office, local, state, and federal governments are all working together to develop a safe and effective plan for reopening campus.

Next, the Board of Directors discussed and voted on AB 245 and AB 53.

- They voted to support Assembly Bill 245 Educational Equity: student name and gender changes.
- The board voted to postpone taking a decision on AB 53 Election Day Holiday as there is no explicit language in the bill that states this would apply to the California State University. This bill will be revisited in the March plenary.

Lastly was a discussion on the Resolution on Systemwide Advocacy to Stamping Out Food Insecurity During COVID-19 and Beyond. This is the same resolution that the Systemwide Affairs committee voted to recommend to the board. It advocates that all CSU students be able to access a food pantry at any CSU university even if it is not their home campus. There were concerns about campus capacity and funding for this proposed program. There was an ask for each university to send out a survey to gather more information on this topic as a way to make a concrete plan within the proposal. This will be voted on in the March plenary.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about anything I have discussed above, please send me an email at asicssarep@csus.edu. I will do my best to answer your question or connect you to the right person.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Webb
CSSA Liaison