

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

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Spring 2025 Office Hours:  
Monday: 10 am – 3 pm,  
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### **January California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary**

The January CSSA Plenary meeting was held in person at San Francisco State on Saturday and Sunday January 25 and 26. The attendees were our ASI presidents Nataly Andrade-Dominguez, Executive Vice Presidents Gabriel Conejo Gallegos and myself as CSSA Liaison. It was a two-day event that consisted of six committees and the Board of Directors meeting.

#### **Finance Committee**

The consent agenda was approved with minutes. Brandon Martinez, Assistant Director of Operations, presented reports on SIRF Funding Updates, and Tyler Coari, Chair of the Finance Committee, also gave a report. CSSA's new business was the SIRF funding update, information regarding contracts and procurement policy overview; fiscal and purchasing policy overview and lastly the January 2025 Financial Statement. With that the committee was then adjourned.

#### **Legislative Affairs Committee**

The consent agenda was approved with minutes from the November meeting. Mary Washington, Director of Government Relations and Advocacy; and Adrian Sanchez, Chair of the Committee; both delivered reports. Jeff Cullen, Assistant Vice Chancellor for congressional Relations; delivered a presentation outlining the CSU's upcoming congressional lobbying priorities. The main topics of discussion was the House of Representatives' budget cuts for financial aid, which will include modifications to Pell Grants, removal of scholarships and fellowship income, and the deduction of interest on student loans, among a few. The legislative recommendations focused on improving the accuracy of cost-of-attendance budgets for student success. As well as increasing access to campus housing for college students with experience in foster care and homelessness. Both of the proposals were approved. The meeting was then adjourned.

#### **Systemwide Affairs Committee**

The consent agenda was approved with minutes. Reports were given by Genesis Jara Assistant of Director Systemwide Affairs. And by Tara Al Rehani Vice President of Systemwide Affairs in summary, the committee's new business was on the affordable housing White Paper proposal, on which the committee provided feedback and voted. This document will lead to the creation of a White Paper on Affordable Housing for Students. Dr. Miles Nevin, Ed.D., Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Student Auxiliary

Enterprises at CSULB, and Laura Knox, Vice President and Director of Higher Education Policy and Programs at W. W. Norton, also gave presentations on affordable accessibility programs for students and making textbooks more equitable for students. The discussion finished with Deputy Vice Chancellor Perez presenting a progress update on the Year of Engagement and answering questions about the initiative. 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. In Iese Esera board reports, he offered the floor to Sonoma State Vice President of External Affairs, AJ Franklin, to discuss current budget constraints affecting his school. He discussed how the Sonoma State interim president made the decision to withdraw 15 majors and the entire athletic department from the institution. He emphasized the difficulties that they are facing because the president never once consulted any of the board members to discuss this change, which caught everyone by surprise. During the public comment portion, a Sonoma State athletic student asked the CSSA for help in advocating against this budget cut because the students' athletes will need to transfers schools. There was then a discussion about broad access and resource management. Following that, there was an attendance policy review. The meeting was then adjourned.

This concludes the January in person Plenary meeting notes. The next one will be held virtually in February.

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](mailto:asicssarep@csus.edu) and I will get back to you with the appropriate response as soon as possible. Thank you.