

To: ASI Board of Directors  
From: Kathryn Webb, CSSA Liaison  
Subject: January Plenary Report

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Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00-11:00 AM

Tuesday: 12:30-3:30 PM

Wednesday: 1:45-5 PM

Thursday: 2-5 PM

Friday: 8:00-12:00 PM

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**CSSA January Plenary- Held via Zoom**

Welcome back everyone! CSSA went back to holding their plenaries over the two-day weekend, instead of a whole week. There were many amazing discussions from information on tuition to current legislation in the California State Assembly. There was also a surprise appearance from the new CSU Chancellor, Joseph Castro, who came to briefly speak to us. I would also like to give a shout out to ASI Director of Undeclared Studies, Sadia Ashraf, for attending the first plenary of the year! Below please find a brief synopsis of each CSSA committee.

**Executive Committee**

The CSSA executive directors led a discussion on updates and goals for CSSA this year. This included holding special meetings in order to reach a larger portion of the student body, setting up advocacy plans and establishing a good relationship with the new Chancellor's office. There was a large emphasis on equity as the foundation to these various advocacy routes, to ensure every CSU student is represented.

**Legislative Affairs Committee**

This committee started off with information about CHESS, or the California Higher Education Student Summit. This event will be held virtually on Sunday, March 7th. The week following will be dedicated to advocacy, where we will meet with our local representatives. Registration will be free. More details about this event will come out soon, and I will keep you all updated with any new information.

There was also a presentation by the California Student Aid Commission, which discussed how they will advocate for the modernization of the Cal Grant system and making college affordable. This presentation also discussed the Cal Grant Equity framework as part of the modernization of the Cal Grant process. If you are interested, you can read about the framework [here](#).

There were two pieces of current legislation that were discussed.

- First was AB 245, introduced by Assemblymember Chiu. This legislation advocates for transgender and nonbinary students to be able to change their names on their diplomas, and it would create a uniform standard across the CSU.
- The other piece of legislation was AB 53. This was introduced by Assemblymember Low and advocates that Election Day become a state holiday, which would allow students and faculty to have time off in order to vote.

### **Systemwide Affairs**

In systemwide affairs, the resolution on Systemwide Advocacy to Stamping Out Food Insecurity During COVID-19 and Beyond was discussed and was recommended to the CSSA Board of Directors. You can find the resolution [here](#) if you are interested. I recommend reading it over, as it discusses the food insecurity CSU students are facing, and how the CSU budget can be helpful in overcoming this insecurity.

There was also a presentation on SWANA student data, or Southwest Asian Northern African student data in the CSU system. The presentation focused on how there is currently inaccurate data on this demographic of CSU students, and how this negatively impacts access to resources and visibility on campus. Therefore, the students who created this presentation showed that by recognizing SWANA students on campus, it can help create access to resources and foster unity. You can find their presentation with more information [here](#).

There was also an update on the Board of Trustees, who will hold their next meeting from January 26-27. There will be discussions on the College Mental Health Services Program, the federal agenda which includes supporting Dreamers, federal relief, and increasing the max Pell Grant.

The discussion on land acknowledgement was tabled due to time constraints, but if you have any comments on how to improve or ideas on how to increase awareness of land acknowledgements, please feel free to contact me so that I can bring up the ideas in the next discussion on this topic in February.

### **Student Trustee Committee**

Applications to become the next Student Trustee are due by **February 1st, 2021**. Interviews will start after this, with the hope to have at least 5-8 students to interview. The top 2-5 applicants will be sent to the Governor's office for final approval. If you are interested, please apply as soon as you can. For more information contact Student Trustee Maryana Khames at [mkhames1197@sdsu.edu](mailto:mkhames1197@sdsu.edu) or Krystal Raynes at [kaynes@calstate.edu](mailto:kaynes@calstate.edu).

### **Board of Directors**

Many topics were discussed in the Board of Directors meeting. The representative of the Academic Senate of the CSU brought up discussions on the core competencies of Ethnic Studies, calling for internet bandwidth expansion, and the moratorium of facial recognition software. From the Chancellor's office, we listened to reports on viewpoint neutrality, and a request for feedback on university advisement centers. There was also an announcement for an event on February 10th that will discuss immigration under the Biden Administration. If you are

interested, please let me know and I can connect you to the right information. Other topics concerned how we will be able to repopulate campuses in fall of 2021 and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), which was about emergency aid grants available to campuses. Even further, a large portion of the meeting was dedicated to the discussion of the CSU budget and tuition proposals. As of right now, there is no proposed tuition increase to the CSU. However, if there is not enough funding, tuition may increase as a last resort. Therefore, much of the advocacy on behalf of CSSA will be dedicated to the budget and a fully funded CSU to avoid a tuition increase. You can find the whole tuition presentation [here](#) and the CSU tuition proposal [here](#).

Should you have any questions about anything in this report, anything related to the January Plenary, or the CSU Board of Trustees meeting, please feel free to reach out and ask me. I will do my best to answer any questions.

In Service,

Kathryn Webb (She/Her/Hers)  
CSSA Liaison