

To: ASI Board of Directors
From: Miguel Guerrero, CSSA Liaison
Subject: July 2023 CSSA Plenary

Summer 2023 Office Hours:
Not in the office during the summer.

Contact Info:
asicssarep@csus.edu
916-278-3924

July California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The July CSSA Plenary meeting was held at the CSU Chancellor's Office at Long Beach on Saturday, July 8th, from 8:30am – 5:30pm, and Sunday, July 9th, from 9am – 12pm. Saturday's meeting consisted of an introduction session for new governing members on the fundamentals of the CSSA and its operations. Jeanne Tran-Martin had announced that she had resigned from her position as CSSA Executive Director on June 30th, and was there to assist Mary Washington, who assumed the role as Interim Executive Director, while the process of onboarding a new person for the position continues. There was no formal business conducted on that day. Sunday's meeting consisted of the new governing members taking the oath of office and information regarding the CSU Multi-Year Tuition Proposal, along with voting for the organization's stance on a proposed tuition increase set to appear in September's CSU Board of Trustees meeting. The next CSSA Plenary meeting will be held at CSU Dominguez Hills, on Saturday, August 12th and Sunday, August 13th.

Legislative Affairs Committee

The Legislative Affairs Committee for 2023/2024 has not been formally established yet, and therefore, no formal legislative business has been conducted this plenary. Instead, there was a review of the California Legislative process and how the CSSA's advocacy can influence whether a bill passes or not. A review was held of all the bills that were advocated for or against last year. To access this current list, click [here](#). Governing members will be formally seated in all committees starting at the August plenary.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The Systemwide Affairs Committee for 2023/2024 has not been formally established yet, and therefore, no formal systemwide business has been conducted this plenary. Instead, a review of last year's systemwide priorities was discussed. Examples of last year's priorities that remain ongoing include:

- Shared Governance
- Campus Dining Services
- CSU Vaccination Policy
- Title IX
- Tuition Increases

Governing members will be formally seated in all committees starting at the August plenary.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee for 2023/2024 has not been formally established yet, and therefore, no formal financial business has been conducted this plenary. Governing members will be formally seated in all committees starting at the August plenary.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on Sunday and took the following actions:

- New governing members took their oath of office administered by Interim Executive Director Mary Washington.
- Audit Committee elections were held to elect five governing members to serve on the committee.
- **CSU Multi-Year Tuition Proposal**

A presentation and discussion regarding the [CSU Multi-Year Tuition Proposal](#) was held with Associate Vice Chancellor Ryan Storm and Executive Budget Director Jeni Kitchell. The CSU Multi-Year Tuition Proposal is a proposal in which an internal research workgroup within the CSU developed three multi-year tuition models, in which the Interim Chancellor chose to recommend to the Board of Trustees to continuously increase the tuition cost for students across the CSU by 6% per year, which would take into effect if vote in favor of, in August 2024, and it would be up for review every 5 years, depending on the economic status of the state and the CSU system. This proposal is supposed to address the changes in decreased enrollment numbers and less financial assistance given to the CSU from the state, as well as the increasing costs of infrastructure and operations within the CSU, including salaries, operating costs, new buildings, graduation initiatives and programs, etc.

The discussion was tense, as there were concerns from the CSSA Board that the Associate Vice Chancellor and the CSU Board of Trustees were not being transparent with the specifics in the amount of compensation that senior administrators were receiving. Several governing members have expressed their concerns that while the CSU Board of Trustees were discussing to raise tuition through a multi-year proposal by 6%, certain university presidents would be getting an increase in their already high salaries. Others have expressed the timing of the proposal, expressing their opinion that the Board of Trustees are deciding to vote on this matter when the majority of students are on summer vacation and when classes are not in session. The atmosphere after the discussion was soured after the governing members felt dissatisfied in the responses of the Associate Vice Chancellor, and the CSSA Board proceeded to take action on the Multi-Year Tuition Proposal.

- The CSSA Board of Directors have chosen to take a unanimous stance of **opposition** against the Multi-Year Tuition Proposal. This will also be further reflected at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, July 11th, where CSSA President, Dominic Tressler, will be expressing the concerns of the student representatives at the meeting.

If there are any questions regarding the Multi-Year Tuition Increase, please reach out to ASI President, Nataly Andrade-Dominguez, at asi-pres@csus.edu and she will get back to you at her earliest convenience. Thank you.