

California State Student Association November Preliminary: San Luis Obispo

Payton Starke CSSA Liaison

Hello Everyone, I would like to share with you my notes from last weekend's meeting. First, I would like to say thank you to Mai, Daniel, and Jet for coming and making the weekend even more fun. Some interesting topics from the weekend included, CSSA policy updates, election information, CSUnity, and free college. Overall we got a lot done this weekend.

Internal Affairs

During internal affairs we talked about how CSSA is in need of a policy update. One of the executive members suggested that at some point we should break into groups and further discuss this, which we ended up doing in a later committee.

We also talked about the Committee election policy. There are a few edits to the election policy they would like to add. Last year, there were some complaints about how committee elections were run so they are doing what they can to fix the problems.

If there are any questions about elections reach out to [Ryan Brown](#), Academic Senate Liaison.

Finance Committee

During Finance Committee they started by explaining that the student involvement and representation fee (SIRF) revenue will be available by the end of the month.

An executive member suggested that CSSA take over CSUnity instead of leaving it up to the schools. This would make CSUnity only in southern California since CHES in always in Sacramento. It would also take a lot of the burden off the schools.

Lastly, the committee approved to recommend to the board to reimburse \$5000 to CSU Fresno for CSUnity.

For any information about Finance Committee contact [Aaron Castaneda](#), Vice President of Finance

Civic Engagement

During public comment, a member of RISE California spoke on behalf of the organization. They would like to see free college tuition for middle and lower income students.

The meeting started with going over their plan for the remainder of the year. They would like schools to try and make it as easy as possible to get information to students. They challenge us to go to students and give them information rather than students having to come to us. They

also agreed that they would like more information to travel through email rather than apps like GroupMe.

They also talk about a free mobile voter registration drive where an outside resource will come to the school and help get students registered for free. They suggested to make this a fun event with food and music to get students more interested.

Lastly, they would like to help out with all Lobby Corps in any way that they can. They are just an email away!

For more information about Civic Engagement contact [Layla Lopez](#), Civic Engagement Officer.

Student trustees

Unfortunately, this meeting did not meet quorum therefor, there was nothing they could get done.

Legislative Affairs

An interesting item on the agenda was free college. There was a presentation given about free college and how it could be possible in California. Currently New York has a system in place. You must live in New York 3 years after college otherwise the free money becomes a loan. For smaller states, it seems that free college will not cost as much. For California, it would be over a billion dollar project. Some argue that it may not even meet the affordability needs for students with financial need because tuition is usually covered through financial aid but it is the cost of living that some students are struggling with. They are thinking there could be a cap on tuition so they could no longer raise tuition. The downside to this is the schools may raise it to the maximum amount which could hurt students.

The Dream Act of 2017 and The Loan Refinancing and Recalculating Act were both **approved** to send to the Board of Directors.

It was asked that HR 4030, Title IX Protection Act, be an action item for a future meeting.

For more information about Legislative Affairs contact [Marcos Montes](#), Vice President of legislative Affairs.

University Affairs

During Public Comment RISE asked that the board partner with them.

There was then a presentation on affordable textbooks. CSSA would like to see more affordable textbooks for students. They explained that there is no competition when it comes to textbooks therefor, companies can set very high prices which hurts students. The presenter suggested open textbooks. This means they are published under an open license. They have free educational resources and free online textbooks. Some schools have zero cost courses. This

means they have a free textbook or one is not required. Where registering for classes this is something that students would be able to know before registering.

For more information about University affairs contact [Michael Pratt](#), Vice President of University Affairs.

Board of Directors

This was a very interesting meeting. There was a lot of interesting information shared in the meeting and some debate which is always fun.

We first talked about EO 1110. A representative from the chancellor's office explained that 30% of underrepresented students are failing remedial courses. They also explained that less than a third of college ready students are finishing in four years. They plan to do what they can to fix this.

A hot topic was EO 1100. What they are trying to do with this is make general education requirements less confusing. They want it to where all the schools have the same requirements. Some of the major changes are, 48 units is the minimum and maximum about of units, a minimum grade of a C- is allowed in the golden 4 classes, allows upper division courses to be transferred between CSU's, one course may satisfy multiple areas at all schools, students can take online classes at other schools and transfer it to their school, online courses are aloud at all schools, and if students change their major and already completed GEs then you cannot be asked to go back and complete GE classes again. The chancellor's office is trying to help individual campuses with the change rather than everyone as a whole. Some of the schools do not like this implementation at all. They feel that it hurts their culture aspect of their school. They also voices that it will hurt their students more than it will help.

Fresno has asked that CSSA reimburse them \$5,000 for CSUnity. Fresno has gone about \$11,000 over budget for the event. Many schools feel that in order to properly support all students, CSSA should reimburse them because this could hurt the school. Other schools feel that this should not be okay because it makes it so other schools could ask CSSA for money in the future. Ultimately, it passed and CSSA will come back to it when they are doing their budget. Their Budget can be viewed on page 80 [here](#).

Lastly CSSA has developed a tool that makes it easy to contact officials in government. Take a look [here](#).

For more information about Board of Directors contact Mia, or [Alana Lim](#), CSSA Chair.

Presentations

All presentations can be found [here](#).