

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

Fall 2022 Office Hours:

Monday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Thursday: 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM / 5:45 PM (Lobby Corps)

Friday: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Contact Info:

asicssarep@csus.edu

916-278-3924

November California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The November CSSA Plenary meeting was held at CSU Fresno on both Saturday, November 5th, from 9am – 3:10pm, and Sunday, November 6th, from 9:30am – 11:15pm. Our main discussions were centered on the CSSA going over the adoption of the recommendation of the SAP qualifications, Academic Preparation, the continued search for the 2023-2025 Student Trustee position, the CSSA budget and finances, and other issues that the organization is planning to achieve this academic year. The CSSA also discussed the Mid-Year evaluations in which governing members are able to evaluate the performance of the executive members of the organization. The itinerary for the entire event can be found [here](#) for reference.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors started their new business with a formal presentation by Internal Affairs Vice Chair, Nina Chaung, regarding the 2022/2023 Mid-Year Evaluations. The evaluations are conducted towards the executive officers of the CSSA to ensure transparent practices within the organization and evaluate the elected officers on their performance in how effective they are in engagement and advocacy. The review shall also focus on their progress towards accomplishing goals set out by the CSSA Public Policy Agenda, as well as satisfying the requirements of their individual offices. Governing members have from November 6th until December 9th to submit evaluations on the executive officers and the will be compiled and presented to the CSSA President and Chair no later than January's scheduled plenary meeting. For more information on the Elected Officer Review Policy regarding the mid-year evaluations, refer [here](#).

The final item on the agenda for the Board of Directors was to review and approve the recommendation from the Legislative Affairs committee to Co-Sponsor the draft legislation language proposal relative to Student Financial Aid Access: Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). This proposal would advocate to legislators to change the education code to require postsecondary institutions in California to adhere to a common set of standards within the

parameters already established by federal regulations. This would prevent institutions from imposing certain additional requirements that are more restrictive than those that are federally mandated, as well as ensuring students with a prior SAP disqualification have the opportunity to regain access to financial aid upon reentry. According to the [proposal](#), this legislation is essential in removing barriers for students who have lost access to financial aid through disqualification as a result of increased responsibilities (childcare, employment, family responsibilities, etc.) and fewer resources (family support, reliable transportation, etc.). After a thorough discussion, the Board of Directors have decided to unanimously pass the adoption and co-sponsoring of the SAP Legislative Proposal.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee started off its new business with an overview of the October 2022 closing financial statement. One thing to note is that this fiscal expenditure has had a few differences in finance expenses that are reflected in this month's statement. The synopsis of the budget overview is that during the month, the total difference in expenses for this month have totaled \$167,409. At the beginning of the month, the total budget for the CSSA was \$1,549,110, and now, their total balance left is \$1,381,701. These program expenditures were a result of increased spending from the following accounts: Shared Governance (3218), CSU Unity conference (3321), Leadership Development (3216), the Plenary Meeting (3217), operations expenses (660), and salaries and benefits of the CSSA staff.

The committee also had a presentation on the SIRF revenue overview for the CSSA. The most notable prospect from that presentation is that the total student opt-out rate within the CSU from 2021 to 2022 has decreased from 10.68% to 7.69%, an approximate 3% decrease since 2021. More information regarding the SIRF overview can be found [here](#). The committee also had a presentation on the midyear budget overview. Notable things to highlight in regarding this presentation is that there was the initial transfer from reserves that happened in August that was due to the relocation of the Sacramento CSSA office, which came out to \$123,095 in total, revenue adjustments that accounted for a revenue loss for CSUnity of \$15,025 and the SIRF Revenue for the year that gave the organization \$1,659,768. To see the full analysis of the mid-year budget review, refer [here](#).

This committee is specifically only addressing the CSSA operating budget and its financial statements. To see the overall budget overview and breakdown of the CSSA financial accounts for the month of October 2022, the statement will be provided [here](#).

Student Trustee Committee

The Student Trustee Committee started off its new business with a committee overview from the Chair, Krystal Alvarez. This committee's purpose is to review and measure the capabilities of all Student Trustee applicants for the open position of Student Trustee for the 2023-2025 term. These six committee members will be in charge of submitting a list of applicants to the CSSA Student Trustee Interview Panel, as well as have the opportunity to

participate in the interview process in an advisory role. To see more information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the committee, refer [here](#).

The committee also held elections for the position of Vice Chair for the committee. The position was ultimately filled by Samantha Alvarez Chavarria, who is the Director of Legislative Affairs at CSU Dominguez Hills. Afterward, the Chair outlined the process for interested students to apply for the Student Trustee position for the 2023-2025 term. Any student can apply to be the next Student Trustee by following the process outlined on the CSSA [website](#). I would highly encourage students who are interested in providing student input on CSU Policies and advocating on higher-education issues to the CSU Board of Trustees, to apply to become the next 2023-2025 Student Trustee.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

The committee started off new business by having a discussion regarding the agenda items that will be presented in the Board of Trustees meeting for November 14th – 16th. Important items to note that were discussed were information regarding the Graduation Initiative 2025, Academic Preparation, and the Veterans Affairs Update. The update and approval of the Five-Year Capital Plan was also discussed, and there was a brief overview of the other items on the agenda that were mentioned during this action item. To see the full list of items that will be discussed over the Board of Trustees meeting on November 14th to the 16th and access to the full agenda, refer [here](#).

The next business item involves the Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Nathan Evans, in which he gave a presentation and led the discussion regarding Academic Preparation. To give a brief explanation, in 2017, the CSU Chancellors office outline some actions to improve system policies and programs for academic preparation. These include to improve the placements and assessments, restructure developmental education, strengthen the Early Start Program, and promote four years of high school math/quantitative reasoning. In January 2020, the CSU Board of Trustees, passed a resolution that would continue to follow up on Quantitative Reasoning initiatives by providing updates though independent analysis of requirements implementation and impacts and progress reports on STEM-qualified teacher preparation. The CSU Board of Trustee's proposed admission requirements would be one additional quantitative reasoning course in the areas of Science (Area D), Mathematics (Area C), and an elective with quantitative or analytical foundation (Area G). These are to be recommended to be completed in the senior year and are scheduled to take effect as of Fall 2027. To see the full presentation for more context and information and what impacts this will have on students, refer [here](#).

The last business item is a presentation and discussion on the First Year Strategies Program by Vice President Samaniego. This discussion centers on how campuses can rethink and reframe first year experiences as it relates to math and writing GE requirements to create a sense of belonging on campus. The goals of the program are: 1. Establish intentional pathways and support structure that ensure at least 90% of first-time students successfully complete the General Education (GE) A2 and B4 requirements within the first year, and 2. Nurture a strong

sense of belonging among students who participate in these programs. According to the CSU Revised Executive Order 1110, this allows the program to increase completion of GE A2/B4 and foster a sense of belonging, give each campus autonomy to design an equitable supportive first year program, and prioritize the support of Category III/IV students, among other things. To see the full context of this agenda item, refer [here](#).

Legislative Affairs Committee

The Legislative Affairs Committee started off new business with the consideration and voting of the committee recommendation to the CSSA on a co-sponsor position on the legislative proposal involving Student Financial Aid Access: Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). The Legislative Proposal put forth by the CSSA identifies that many public postsecondary institutions across California impose a range of additional barriers in their SAP policies beyond what is required by law. This results in denial of access to financial aid to students who may already be experiencing significant barriers to their academic success. The CSSA's solution would be to address these issues by requiring postsecondary institutions in California that participate in state-authorized student financial aid programs to adhere to a common set of standards that fall within the parameters already established by federal regulations. After a thorough discussion, the committee voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of a co-sponsor position to draft changes to the SAP requirements, and this recommendation has been sent to the Board of Directors meeting for final approval on behalf of the organization. For more information regarding the full legislative proposal, please refer to it [here](#).

The Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Trent Murphy, then gave a presentation overview regarding the upcoming 2023/2024 legislative session. Murphy went over the life cycle of legislation and how an idea can be turned into law, outlined the process in which the legislative affairs prepares and operates for the upcoming legislative cycle, and consideration to ask when it comes to researching and preparing to advocate on specific issues. Murphy also went over the legislative updates on the bills that were signed by the governor, which ones had failed, and those that were instead included in the budget. For more information on the context regarding the bills, legislative cycle, and ongoing issues that the CSSA is pursuing, refer [here](#).

Conclusion

In conclusion, this month's CSSA Plenary meeting was eventful, as the organization ramps up their efforts to prepare for the upcoming year. The preparation of the Legislative Affairs committee provides valuable insight and training to prepare the CSSA for advocacy, especially with a proactive attempt to co-sponsor a legislation change regarding the SAP requirements. The Policy Agenda has been finalized, with President Krishan Malhotra releasing a policy agenda interest survey to suggest which policy agenda goals the members are interested in advocating for. Various Systemwide initiatives are underway to inform members regarding the efforts coming from the CSU Chancellor's Office and the Board of Trustees. I thank you for your time in reading my report, and if you have any questions about anything mentioned in this report, please feel free to reach out to me and I'll be more than happy to explain anything to you.