

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

Office Hours:

Monday: 8- 10:15 AM
Tuesday: 12:30-3:30 PM
Wednesday: 1:45-5 PM
Thursday: 2-5 PM
Friday: 12:30-3:30 PM

Contact Info:

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CSSA October Plenary Meeting- Held via Zoom

This month's CSSA Plenary was held for one day on October 17th, 2020, and focused on the Philippine Human Rights Act, implementation of the Ethnic Studies requirement, the Student Fees Policy, as well as the suspension of student evaluations of professors. It was also wonderful that we had two directors join us this past weekend- shoutout to Director of Education Danielle Cochran and Executive Vice President Donna Walters!

Finance Committee

This meeting was informative on where the CSSA is financially, and how that will impact decisions in the future. The focus was on:

- Student Travel Policy- this committee is still reviewing and updating the Student Travel Policy to make it clear and more accessible to students at large
- CHESS- CHESS will be held virtually in March 2021. CSSA is still in the process of finalizing programs and events for CHESS. Due to this, it is not certain if there will be a registration fee for this event or not.
- SIRF -report will come out on October 19, 2020. This will help CSSA what revenue from the students is available to them to use in order to better support the CSU students.

Board of Directors- Morning and Afternoon Meeting

This committee discussed the implementation of the new Ethnic Studies requirement. This requirement will:

- Impact incoming freshmen and transfer students starting in the fall 2021 semester.
- Currently, this requirement is in the lower division of GE classes offered. This is for clarity, reduced impacts on transfer pathways, and ensures all students are able to take it.
- It is important to note that this new requirement is not allowed to increase the total units required to graduate.
- Noah has sent out a feedback form on how this requirement should be implemented, I recommend you fill it out if you have any ideas! Due October 30th.

There was a brief presentation on the Graduation Initiative 2025. The new chancellor, Jose Castro, is dedicated to continuing this progress, and wants to promote diversity among students and staff in the CSU system.

During the afternoon meeting, it was decided that the discussion on the Gloria Romero Act and CSSA COVID-19 Policy Agenda will be postponed until the November plenary.

CSSA will try to create a week-long plenary again for November. I will keep you updated if this goes through. CSSA executive officers will also be holding office hours now to meet with people one on one. If you are interested, please let me know and I will be able to help you find more information.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

There was great discussion in this committee, which focused on a resolution from ASCSU:

- This bill advocates for the suspension of peer and student evaluations. While student evaluations will still happen, they will not impact a professor's eligibility for tenure or future employment.
- The ASCSU argues that student evaluations can be biased by several factors, and online teaching will only heighten these biases and be an unfair reflection on the teaching abilities of the professor.
- There was a large opposition to this resolution from many student representatives. Some viewed this as an unfair resolution that does not hold professors accountable in a virtual world while students are still expected to do well. Others argued that this resolution will silence the student voice.
- It is important to remember that student evaluations are still going to happen this semester, but under this resolution, they will not impact the professor in any way.
- Before I submit a feedback form to CSSA on this issue, I would love for the board and any students to contact me and discuss this issue. Due October 26th.

The next main topic was a discussion on the student fees policy and CSU executive order 1102. Different campuses discussed how they were handling budget cuts, and what that would look like for student fees. There was a presentation on how fees are created, and how the student voice plays into this decision.

When a fee is subject to change, the university must either hold a student referendum or alternative consultation with the students to understand how students feel. Please note these referendums and consultations are advisory opportunities only, and the university can decide to go through with changing a fee despite what the students decide. They presented this information to us so that we could gain a better understanding of how fees are created, and how to take a myriad of factors into account when changing student fees.

Legislative Affairs Committee

The legislative cycle for the California State Legislature has come to an end for the year and will start up again in January 2021. All 23 CSU campuses are registered for Ballot Bowl and have done a wonderful job at registering students to vote! Cal State East Bay and San Francisco State University are leading in the CIVIC Challenge. Let's get Sacramento State on the leaderboard, I know we can do it!

This committee gave a brief overview of the bills CSSA sponsored, supported, and opposed. These include:

1. Sponsored
 - AB 2972: create a training to help undocumented students
2. Supported
 - AB 1460: Ethnic Studies Requirement
 - ACA5: Proposition 16
 - SB 493: Protection Against Sex Discrimination
 - AB 2023: Educational Equity- requires colleges to reflect name and gender changes of students
3. Opposed
 - AB 1862. Tuition Free Community College. Opposed due to impacts this would have on other higher education sectors.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, legislation regarding COVID-19 became the priority, with wildfires and homelessness being the other two main areas of concern.

This next legislative session will be the first year in a 2-year session with new legislators. This is extremely important as any stances CSSA takes will impact future CSSA boards. The focus of this legislative session will be on wildfires, COVID-19, homelessness, and social and racial justice. There will likely be a large push to be economically frugal as well.

In November, the Legislative Affairs committee will start to review all advocacy ideas different campuses have submitted. They will send a response to every idea, either a plan of action or a reason why CSSA will not act on this idea. The deadline to submit ideas will be November 15th. Please send me any more ideas you have; I would love to hear them!

Executive Committee

This committee discussed the Resolution in Support of the Philippine Human Rights Act. There were many public comments calling for CSSA to support this bill. During the committee, support of the specific legislation was withdrawn from the resolution. Therefore, this resolution was tabled to the next CSSA plenary. This will give the legislative team for CSSA to review the specific bill that is being discussed in Congress. If you are interested in this resolution, I recommend you attend the November CSSA plenary.

Should you have any questions about anything in this report, anything related to the October 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