

To: ASI Board of Directors

From: Kathryn Webb, CSSA Liaison

Subject: September 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

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CSSA September Plenary Meeting- Held via Zoom

This month's CSSA Plenary was held for one day on September 19th, 2020 and focused on what the future of CSSA will look like, as well as Proposition 16 and the Filipino Human Rights Act, which will be discussed in detail in this report.

Internal Affairs Committee

This was a purely informative meeting. This committee will be working on updating the CSSA constitution, so that it is concise. This is important for us to be aware of as the constitution is a framing document of the organization and will better clarify CSSAs goals and rules.

Board of Directors- Morning Meeting

First, there were a few guest speakers that presented to the committee. Rob Collins from The Academic Senate of the California State University gave the directors a presentation on how the faculty of the CSU system are working to help all CSU students. This group is working on mental health initiatives, privacy and technological services for this virtual world, transparency on how the CSU is funded, creating core competencies for the new Ethnic Studies Requirement, as well as working on eliminating SAT and ACT scores as an admission requirement. They have 13 resolutions for this upcoming year, and many of them are related to the CSSA in some way. These include responding to AB 1460, calling for federal funding for the CSU system, supporting proposition 16, supporting the Get Out the Vote initiative, supporting CSU veterans, among other issues.

Regarding COVID-19, a few groups presented on how this will impact the CSU system. The California Student Aid Commission did a presentation on how COVID-19 has impacted students and access to financial aid. The representative discussed how they will be trying to assist students in financial aid, especially students from underrepresented communities.

The CSU International Program did a presentation on study abroad opportunities in relation to COVID-19. They are planning on opening programs for Spring and Fall 2021. Of course, these programs could change at any minute depending on the risk of COVID to CSU students.

There will also be a new, separate CSSA Policy Agenda for 2020-2021 to address the concerns of COVID-19. The CSSA will keep their preexisting 2019-2020 policy agenda to address basic needs, but felt it was necessary to create a separate document to focus on COVID-19 concerns. These COVID-19 priorities will include online proctoring software, basic needs such as Wi-Fi and laptops, virtual mental health resources, faculty training, and how to make sure Title IX is followed in a virtual world.

Legislative Affairs Committee

There were elections held to fill the 3 Civic Engagement Coordinators for Northern, Central, and Southern California. Anthony Camacho, from Fresno State, will be the coordinator for Central California. Graciella Moran, from San Bernardino, will be the coordinator for Southern California. Our coordinator for the northern campuses is Giovanni Guerro, from Humboldt State. These individuals will be creating programs and materials to encourage CSU students to vote and be civically engaged. They will hold spaces to address questions about civic engagement and will hold meetings between these regions. These are informal meetings, so all are welcome to attend.

Proposition 16 is up for a vote on the California ballot this November. Its goal will be to reinstate affirmative action. This will allow for universities and government actions to factor someone's race, ethnicity, or gender in hiring and admissions decisions. It is important to note that quotas are not a part of this proposition. It will also allow for universities to provide scholarships based on race, ethnicity, and gender. The committee voted to support this proposition, and it was sent to the Board of Directors for a further vote.

Finance Committee

This committee discussed potential changes in the Student Travel Policy and budget adjustments. In the quarterly budget review, they discussed the potential impact of a decline in SIRF fees and registration fees. The impact of a decline in SIRF fees will not be definite until October or November, but they are projecting a 10-15% decline. It is important to note that it is understandable that students choose not to pay this fee, as everyone is facing financial hardships. This committee will review existing financial policies, such as the student at large traveling policies, in October. Their goal is to update these rules to be more supportive and accessible to all students.

Executive Committee

In this committee, the focus was on the Filipino Human Rights Act. Many CSU students came forward to discuss their fears of the anti-terror bill that was passed in the Philippines. This bill violates human rights, and these violations have gathered attention from the international community. This legislation calls for the suspension of U.S. military aid and arms deals to the Philippines until human rights violations in this country have ceased and the state is held accountable. Many of the students who came forward were scared for their families and friends who live in the Philippines, as well as their own safety here in the United States. The Executive committee and CSSA want to support this legislation, but there are some aspects of the legislation that are out of the scope of the CSSA's jurisdiction, such as calling for a federal investigation. It should be made clear that the CSSA is standing with its students, so CSSA will be working with student activist groups. They will find a path to effectively help students and

continue advocacy after a resolution has been approved. It is likely this legislation will be brought up as an action item and voted on next plenary in October, and I will update you on the advocacy efforts of CSSA in regard to this pressing issue.

Systemwide Affairs Committee

There were also elections in this committee. The new Sustainability Officer will be Armando Sepulveda from San Diego State University. There is no Social Justice and Equity Officer yet, as no applications have been submitted.

Chenoa Woods from the Chancellor's Office presented on the Graduation Initiative 2025. This presentation covered the goal to increase graduation rates systemwide by 2025. Even with COVID-19, the Chancellor's Office is seeing momentum to increased graduation rates, but there is still a long way to go. Woods discussed CSU strategies to help students graduate in a timely manner. This includes educational support for students, working with transfer students, as well as providing basic needs to students to assist them in a virtual environment.

Student Trustee Committee and Board of Trustees Update

The two current student trustees, Maryanna Khames and Krystal Raynes updated the CSSA on what the Board of Trustees will be talking about this week. The Board of Trustees meeting started on the 20th and will also be held today the 22nd and tomorrow the 23rd. The board will be discussing the next steps of implementing AB 1460, proposition 16, and how COVID-19 is predicted to bring budget cuts to the CSU system for the next 3 years. Due to this, there is a movement to ask for a 10% restoration of funds, which will be up for a vote at the Board of Trustees in November.

The student trustees then did a presentation on the search for another student trustee. Applications for this influential position will be open until January. As a student trustee, one will be appointed to represent the CSU students at Board of Trustees meetings, where large decisions are made concerning policies and procedures of the CSU system. Their main job will be to provide a student voice in these decisions. This position is a two-year commitment, and the student must be enrolled in college for the whole term. They are asking us to look around our campuses for potential candidates, so if you are interested, or know of anyone who is, then you can nominate them on the CSSA website here: <https://calstatestudents.org/student-trustee-search/>.

Board of Directors- Afternoon Meeting

This second meeting of the directors started with an announcement that the CSU will be appointing a new Chancellor this week. Along with one representative from each campus, I will be attending a meeting with the new chancellor this week as well. The CSSA president also stated that she will be attending at least one board meeting at each campus.

Next, the committee discussed the resolution process of CSSA. The goal of this discussion was to envision a way the CSSA can support students beyond just passing resolutions and sending them out to legislators on the state and federal level. The CSSA wants to be devoted to its students, so this committee will be looking into ways to better sustain their support.

Since the CSU system will be virtual for the year, the plenaries of the CSSA will have a different format. The CSSA wants to avoid the zoom fatigue many participants get after sitting on a call for 8 hours. To get around this problem, they have proposed a new layout for the October

plenary. Smaller committees, such as Internal Affairs, will be held during the week of the CSSA plenary, and larger committees will be held on a Saturday. The goal of this will be to spread out meetings so that members can have more time to focus on their agendas, instead of rushing through everything. However, some board members had concerns about accessibility and potential scheduling conflicts. I have emailed the Chair of CSSA to stay updated on their plans, and I will keep you updated as the schedule is developed.

In Spring of 2021, campuses can virtually host the CSSA plenaries. This includes making campus themed backgrounds, bringing in guest speakers, and providing history and information on their respective campus. This plan is also still in a working stage, so once it is finalized, I will update you all.

The Board of Directors followed the lead of the Legislative Committee and took a stance of support for Proposition 16.

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

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