



To: ASI Board of Directors  
From: **Armando Perez**, CSSA Liaison  
Subject: November 2023 Monthly Report

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**Fall 2023 Office Hours:**

Monday, 1-5pm; Wednesday, 1-5pm; Thursday, 2-5/5:45pm, Friday, 1:30-5pm

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**Introduction Message**

Hello everyone. I hope everyone is enjoying the Fall season here at Sacramento State and keeping warm with the cold weather starting to come in. Regarding Finals season, I hope students are keeping their brains healthy and taking those brain breaks when necessary. All that we ask for each other is try your best!

**November California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary**

The November CSSA Plenary Meeting was held at Cal State Maritime Academy from November 4-5 in person. This was my first one attending as a CSSA Liaison. The ASI Executive Vice President and ASI Director of Health and Human Services attended the CSSA meeting along with ASI President Andrade-Dominguez and I.

Regarding the CHESS Conference, to give some context, CHESS stands for the California Higher Education Student Summit that is hosted in the state capital (in Sacramento) for two days where students are empowered to become change agents in advocating for an accessible, affordable, and quality system of public higher education in California as stated in the CSSA's website. This year, CHESS will **not** be held on the campus of Sacramento State, it will be held at a convention center. March 10 will be the first day at the convention center and March 11 will be Advocacy Day which is held at the State Capital. More information will be released regarding CHESS in the January CSSA plenary meeting.

There was a brief presentation regarding the SIRF (the Student Involvement & Representation Fee) that contains a \$2 fee that is assessed twice a year to all CSU students in order to fund CSSA. This fee ensures that CSU students have a say on: tuition, financial aid, student services, course availability, academic advising, and other important topics. However, students can opt out of the fee in their student portal. Sacramento State wasn't listed on the revenue sheet regarding how we are doing with students opting out of it or not but for the system as a whole, CSSA is facing a **47% decrease** from the previous year with students opting out more this year. Their expected revenue this year is predicted at \$446,020 while last year's was \$841,206. CSSA also went over enrollment data, however, Sacramento State was not listed on there at the time of the meeting.

In the Legislative Affairs Committee, we listened together about the topics that were brought up regarding Legislative Affairs. The federal government is in talks regarding the proposition of reducing financial aid from the government and CSSA sent a letter in expressing concern for this as it will greatly impact students. CSSA expressed interest in learning and having universal associate's degrees for transfer students that decide to go to a CSU or a UC to help them have an easier transition to the 4-year system and be able to provide a smoother pathway. Then, we were quickly briefed about the steps that it takes for legislation to start and finish in the state government and in the State Capital.

CSSA had previously supported several bills in which all of the bills that CSSA supported or opposed were either supported or opposed. Here are the majority of the bills that were talked about in the meeting:

**AB 111, AB 607, AB 656, AB 789, SB 808, and AB 1540** – SUPPORTED & CHAPTERED

**SB 640 – OPPOSED AND VETOED**

CSSA set time aside for a presentation to be presented by the Center for Equitable Higher Education. Some of the most important takeaways that was received are that 42% of the students in the CSU system are food insecure along with 11% of the students being homeless. For Sacramento, Sacramento State’s North Village dormitories for the 2022-23 school year are paying around \$1,505 a month for the 8-month “lease” which includes a meal plan that is required if you choose to live in the dorms. This pricing was also based on living in a double occupancy (2 bed, 1 room; excluding Riverview Hall & American River Courtyard). Furthering on housing, there was input brought to attention by public comments from the committee members including me, such as how the CSUs will become more transparent and accessible for housing and the costs. I asked how the CSUs will help students with housing and resources about on and off-campus housing after students’ first years on their respective campuses to the Center for Equitable Higher Education to have in their minds when they advocate for students.

Regarding Title IX, for background, this law factors into Sacramento State’s policies on investigating and supplying resources for anyone who has experienced sexual exploitation, sexual misconduct (including sexual battery and rape), dating or domestic violence, and stalking. CSSA briefly mentioned Title IX as it is applied to all the CSU universities and how the CSU system is currently working on bettering the policies to ensure it is at its full effectiveness for our students.

The Graduation Initiative 2025 (GI 2025) which was launched in 2015 by the California State University was to create a plan for students to increase graduation rates, eliminate equity gaps in degree completion and meet California’s workforce needs. Data was released about this, and for more data and numbers, you can research the specific data on the Cal State website and search up Graduation Initiative 2025; you will find all the numbers regarding the GI 2025.

Some concerns brought to the Board's attention before concluding the plenary meeting were enrollment rates for specific universities and class instruction mode disadvantages. For enrollment, Sacramento State hasn’t released information to the CSU about how enrollment rates are for the recent years. For instruction mode in classes, students are sometimes frustrated that classes can only be offered for specific semesters (Fall, Spring, etc.) and/or in person or online. CSSA wants to advocate for better communication from administration to students about any changes when classes are offered or changed.

Moving onto CIVIC, CIVIC stands for College Involvement and Values Impacting Communities. Essentially, the main point of the CIVIC “challenge” is to encourage and enhance student involvement in the work undertaken by the Legislative & Systemwide Affairs Committee and to amplify student voices. Each campus is assigned a specific teammate and designated legislators. Throughout the year, students & their respective campuses could accumulate and record points for CIVIC activities. Sacramento State is partnered up with CSU East Bay. Our representatives are Assemblyman Kevin McCarty and Senator Angelique Ashby. I will be keeping track and as of right now, I do not have an update on points. Due to the position's vacancy, there have been points not given just yet, so I will work with those as soon as possible. We plan to take home the trophy as always and will provide an update with that once the CSSA January plenary meeting has passed.

**Lobby Corps**

I have attended my first Lobby Corps meeting as Vice Chair on October 26<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, we had a guest speaker from the Cal State Student Association who was Shannon Swanson, a policy specialist. We learned about her background and why she began working with CSSA and how she started it all at Lobby Corps. The committee then started discussion on resolution writing and preparing for the hectic Spring semester for Lobby Corps. Based on the Agenda for the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in which I was absent for due to an illness, the committee went more in depth in regards to the Cozen Report in regards to Title IX and Discrimination. Prior to this discussion, SQE student intern, Michael Lee-Chang was a guest speaker. Looking forward to our next meeting in December!

**Events and Calendar Items**

- October 24 – First Day
- October 25 – ASI Board Meeting
- October 26 – Lobby Corps Meeting
- November 1 – ASI Working Board Meeting
- November 1 – ASI Special Board Meeting
- November 3-5 – CSSA Plenary Meeting (Maritime Academy)
- November 15 – ASI Working Board Meeting
- November 15 – ASI Special Board Meeting
- November 16 – 1-1 Meeting with Harbir

If there are any questions regarding any of the items in which I discussed in my report, please reach out to me at [asicssarep@csus.edu](mailto:asicssarep@csus.edu) and I will get back to you with the appropriate response as soon as possible. Thank you.

This is the end of my report. Hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Fall & Winter and as always,  
Stingers Up!