



To: ASI Board of Directors
From: **Armando Perez**, CSSA Liaison
Subject: January 2024 Plenary Notes

Spring 2024 Office Hours:

Monday: 12-5pm
Wednesday: 11-5pm
Thursday: 3:30-5:45pm (on Lobby Corps days)

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Introduction Message

Hi everyone. Hope everyone is enjoying their Spring semester so far. It is already February which is crazy so I hope everyone is taking care of themselves and prioritizing their mental health and well-being.

January California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary

The January CSSA Plenary Meeting was held at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo from January 20-21st in-person. This was my second plenary meeting that I have attended as the CSSA Liaison. Those in attendance with ASI President Nataly Andrade-Dominguez and I were ASI Director of Natural Sciences & Mathematics Zainab Ghani and ASI Vice President of University Affairs Bertha Vega Castellanos.

The January CSSA Plenary started off with Breakfast and Campus Connections where each region of the state came as a group to discuss updates regarding their campuses. Nataly mentioned to the Connections group about our new establishment of a SWANA Center and increasing our scholarships' total value by double.

There were three committees that were called to order after the Campus Connections which include Internal Affairs Committee, Finance Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Systemwide Affairs Committee, and the Board of Directors meeting (within the two days of CSSA).

For the Internal Affairs Committee, there was a discussion item in regards to the removal of the Engagement Officers for the three regions that consist of all 23 campuses. The majority of those who were sitting in on the committee were against the idea due to the fact that having three of these Officers provides more than just engagement within their region, but more of a comfortability instead of an Executive Board Member having to do it. This was the main topic throughout the Internal Affairs Committee.

For the Finance Committee, the topic of the SIRF fee was brought up to the committee. SIRF stands for Student Involvement Representation Fee in which this fee is given to all 23 campuses in which students are opted into an OPTIONAL \$4 fee for the academic year (\$2 per semester) and is used to support the student leadership, involvement, governance, and advocacy programs managed by the California State Student Association. For SIRF, this takes up 97% of annual funding for CSSA so it is very important that students participate in these fees! As mentioned, students can opt out of this fee. For Sacramento State, the SIRF Fee opt-out rate for the 2021-22 academic year was 5.43%. The average opt-out rate for all CSU's in 2022 was 6.89%. For the 2022-2023 academic year, our opt-out rate increased to 8.63%. The average opt-out rate for all CSU's in 2023 was 8.72%. Sacramento State was in the average region for these rates; in comparison to CSULA's opt-out rate at the highest of 26.54% which is 1 in 4 students who opt-out. For the lowest opt-out rate, San Marcos takes the "lead" and has a total percentage of 0.64% of their students who opt-out, to be specific, 83 students out of over 13,000 students. CSSA encouraged the whole committee to attend the CHESS Conference and to bring their respective Board as they can and please. They mentioned the importance in opportunities that CHESS offers and it is an exciting experience overall to have as a core memory.

For the Legislative Affairs Committee, there were two action items that were presented regarding two Assembly Bills: AB 1575 and AB 810. AB 1575 (Irwin) refers to the sexual harassment, violence, and discrimination in regards to the disciplinary actions and specifically with confidential advocates and advisors in the public postsecondary education. The committee considered the recommendation of a support position on this bill. The solution behind this is that this bill seeks to ensure that advisors are available to students who face any type of disciplinary procedure on campus and to require that confidential advocates be present on campus to assist faculty, staff, and students in understanding their rights under the law to assist in connecting both alleged victims and the accused with support services. The committee then voted upon it with no objections, it was passed unanimously.

For AB 810 (Friedman), this was referring to the academic, athletic, and administrative appointments in the postsecondary education. This bill seeks to provide a tool for human resource officers to engage with previous employers to ascertain whether the applicant has sustained allegations of misconduct or sexual harassment while employed by their previous employer. The committee was looking for a Support position as well, this was passed unanimously with no objections.

For the annual CIVIC Challenge, Sacramento State is partnered up with CSU East Bay and as of January 19th, 2024, Sac State is in 3rd place with 460 points.

For the following item, there was a discussion about the CHESS Conference from the Chair of Legislative Affairs Committee and informed everyone about the three days of CHESS. For March 9th, that will be the CSSA Regular Plenary Meeting which will be held at the University Union at Sacramento State, March 10th is the actual CHESS Conference which will take place at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center downtown, and March 11th is Advocacy Day at the Capitol Annex Swing Space, due to the State Capitol undergoing renovations. There will be a Spirit Competition where all 23 universities (whoever does participate) compete with each other; the previous winner has been San Jose State.

For systemwide affairs, there was a presentation from Associate Executive Director Jodi Braverman and Alumni Representative Kraig Scheyer in which they provided updates to the systemwide special committee. The recommendations that they mentioned to the committee were to integrate alumni engagement into strategic initiatives and create a community of practice. Cal Poly Pomona ASI President mentioned the connection with alumni and referred to her own experiences specifically with her father being an alumnus to her college and how the communities at all levels in the CSU, UC, and CCs don't have a connection to their own campuses with alumni and with prospective students. What was also mentioned in the committee by another was campuses should start focusing more on the students and alumni' instead of the financial aspect of it.

For the Student Trustee committee, there wasn't a lot of discussion but instead more so of short information on how the process has been so far. They are recommending more people to apply to the Student Trustee position as they are seeking for more applications. There wasn't an exact number of applicants as of right now but there was a low amount in which they were asking the community to post on their social medias and promote the application. This concluded Saturday's plenary meeting.

Moving onto Sunday, there were Opening Welcoming Remarks by the Cal Poly SLO University President and then moved onto the Board of Directors meeting. The meeting consisted of the reports from staff and officers of CSSA. After, there were talks about New Business on the Agenda. Internal Affairs Vice Chair Paige Hajiloo presented information regarding the mid-year Executive Officer evaluations. Then, there was a discussion item about AB 928 and the CSU General Education Potential Changes. AB 928 is the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021 in which CSSA and the Campaign for College Opportunity sponsored this bill. The CSU recommended the amendment and then supported the bill itself. There were three main parts in regards to this Act in which they include: establishing a singular GE pathway for CSU and UC transfer students & admissions, creating an associate degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee, and having California Community College students placed on an ADT path if available. Moving onto the next discussion item was about the CFA Strike. As of February 5th, 2024, CFA has come to a tentative

agreement with the CSU and so the strike was cancelled after Monday (Day One). However, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Ray Murillo provided a CFA and CSU bargaining status update and reviewed the impacts for students. He mentioned that all programs and services, enrollment services, counseling & psychological services, internships & service learning, and study abroad would remain active at this time. There were talks regarding Financial Aid and its impact however Vice Chancellor Murillo had mentioned that for Financial Aid to be impacted, there would need to be at least 30 weeks of classes to be cancelled and/or when the university gets shut down as a whole. Furthermore, he stated that there would be no impact for the week-long strike in regards to universities and their normal services. There were good points brought up by the Board of Directors which included how student employees are not necessarily allowed to talk about the strike due to the point that employees who work for the university do not want the students to voice out as it could represent the university as a whole due to their employment to the university. If the strike were to continue, there wouldn't be an impact on Financial Aid as mentioned prior, however, the instruction times, graduation, service learning, and internships were in the mix for a possible impact after Week One & Two of a strike. There was a form sent out to students from their campuses to report a cancelled class to the CSU; faculty would get documented if reported through the form. Another concern for a faculty member is there was a specific issue to faculty that work on a Visa in the United States, due to that, they are not allowed to strike because it would violate a code in their Visa.

The last item on the agenda for the Board of Directors was from our President of the Board of Directors in which they presented information on the Governor's January Budget Proposal. Some key notes that were mentioned was the Governor put aside \$2.5 billion to Cal Grant for college students along with \$636.2 million for the Middle Class Scholarship which is a huge assistance especially for California college students in which that is the biggest financial aid award that some get as a whole.

This concludes the Cal Poly SLO plenary notes.

If there are any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to the CSSA Liaison, Armando Perez at asicssarep@csus.edu will get back to you at the earliest convenience. Thank you.