



## CSSA President's Report, David M. Lopez

### July 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting

CSSA is grateful for the opportunity to give a report and have a platform for the student voice at these Board of Trustee meetings. Before I begin my report, I would like to share with y'all a little bit about my myself. For those of you who do not know, I am entering my second year as a Graduate student at CSU East Bay and will be graduating with my Master's in Public Administration in the Spring of 2017. I obtained a Bachelor's degree in Political Science just over a year ago from CSU East Bay and I am proud to say that I am a part of the Class of 3 Million. Before serving as the CSSA President, I served as the Associated Student's Incorporated President and CEO for the 2015-16 school year. I have been involved with student government since I transferred to East Bay in the Fall of 2013 and I am honored to be sitting here, representing all CSU students.

Now that I have given you all a quick introduction about who I am, I will get back to my report. Two months ago the CSSA Board awarded The Honorable Trustee Garcia and the Honorable Trustee Norton the Trustee of the Year Award. After coming back from today's lunch I presented the Trustee of the Year Award to The Honorable Trustee Norton who was not present at the last BOT meeting.

CSSA's 2016-2017 fiscal year has begun and we have hit the ground rolling. Since the last BOT meeting, we have held two plenary meetings. The first meeting was held June 10-12<sup>th</sup> at CSU Monterey Bay, where the governing board was introduced to CSSA and were transitioned into their new roles as CSSA's governing board. This transition meeting was held a month earlier, due to the many positive changes that were established within this organization over and the past year. Another thing that was done during our June plenary meeting was that we elected our Vice President of Finance, Mia Kagianas, a student from Sacramento State. We

also held Special Officer elections for the following positions: Advocacy Officer, Alumni Council Liaison, Academic Senate Liaison, Sustainability Officer, and Social Justice and Equity Council Speaker. Lastly, at this June Meeting, we were very excited to introduce to the governing board, our Executive Director, Dr. Rob Shorette. Dr. Shorette comes to us from one of our great allies in the fight for equitable higher education, the Campaign for College Opportunity. Following the plenary, 22 of our AS/ASI Presidents, The Honorable Trustee White, and CSSA's VP of Legislative Affairs Brown spent a week at the Panetta Institute, where they took a course on Education for Leadership in Public Service.

More recently, we just wrapped up our July Plenary meeting which ended this past Sunday and was hosted in the room. During our three-day weekend, we held elections for our internal committees, and our vice chairs. All 23 campuses had an opportunity to bid for hosting one of our 2016-17 plenary meetings, in which we have finalized our meeting calendar for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The governing board also had an opportunity to interact with CSSA Alumni, Vice Chancellors, and members of the State-wide Academic Senate during lunch and our panels. Throughout the weekend, the governing board continued their transition into their roles as the CSSA governing board and were able to breakout into working sessions to discuss our 2016-17 Policy Agenda. We hope to approve and finalize our Policy Agenda by our September Plenary meeting, in which we will begin implementing our goals and priorities for the 16-17 fiscal year.

Some of the priorities that have clearly been most important to the students and their ability to prosper on our campuses are seen throughout this Policy Agenda. For example, the topic of shared governance, food and housing insecurity, advocacy expansion, and accessibility are key issues that we hope to speak about and address throughout the fiscal year. The one issue that I will discuss in detail is the topic of shared governance.

Shared governance is not a simple phrase that can be defined by the dictionary. Instead, we, the Board of Trustees, the Office of the Chancellor, the President's Counsel, the Academic Senate of California State University, the California State Student Association and every stakeholder of the CSU system, must come together as an institutional community to not only define the phrase shared governance, but to lead public higher education in this nation as the

organization who not only defines the word shared governance, but actually lives and breathes it. We must be willing to have conversations with one another on a daily basis, and not wait for our reports that we give every other month. We must create opportunities that allow for students-at-large to interact with everyone in this room. We must be committed to doing our best and to ensure that our CSU students are California and that we are the largest public higher education system that other public higher education systems look up to.

David M. Lopez

CSSA President 2016-2017