



CSSA President's Report, David M. Lopez
September 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting

Thank you Chair Eisen – Good morning, and as always CSSA is grateful for the opportunity to give a report and have a platform for the student voice at these Board of Trustees meetings. Since the last Board of Trustees meeting, we have held two plenary meetings and have hired our assistant director of governmental relations, Jared Giarusso.

This past August the annual CSUnity event was held at CSU San Marcos. This event brought out over 200 student leaders from across the CSU and welcomed keynote speaker, Assembly Member Shirley Weber. This three-day event included workshops such as improving advocacy, working together, working with administration, loving your job, and developing shared governance on your campus. After CSUnity, we concluded the weekend with a one-day plenary.

This past week, some of the CSSA staff and members of the executive team traveled to Washington D.C. During this visit we met with Young Invincibles, National Campus Leadership Council, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Congresswomen Matsui, Congressman Hunter, Congressman Swalwell, and Congressman DeSaulnier. During these visits we conversed on topics such as, year round pell, food & housing insecurity, and active military students. Additionally, we had the opportunity to attend Back to College Night, an event that brings together alumni from colleges and universities from across California, where we were able to connect with alumni from CSU campuses who are currently working in DC. I'd like to thank Aaron Moore and the CSU Alumni Council for having us.

Following our DC trip, we flew back to California to attend our plenary meeting, which was held this past weekend at San Diego State University. During our September plenary meeting, the Governing Board took action on approving our 2016-2017 Policy Agenda. 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. The Governing Board also reviewed Prop 55 and took an action of support. Lastly, the Governing Board created three ad hoc committees focusing on sustainability affairs, research and assessment, and veteran affairs.

At the last Board of Trustees meeting, I spoke to y'all about shared governance and how it is an opportunity for all of us in this room to redefine that term. With this being said, CSSA has initiated these talks and are currently working on a few different projects that will help redefine shared governance throughout the CSU system. The first project that we are currently working on is to actually have conversations with the Governing Board on how they define the term shared governance. We began this conversation last month by asking the AS/ASI presidents to send in their proposed definition of shared governance. Following that conversation, the board discussed three potential definitions that we hope to approve at our next plenary meeting. The second project that we are working on is the creation of a Letter of Mutual Agreement, which involves both the University President and the AS/ASI President. This letter contains opportunities for both parties to engage in effective shared governance on their campus. For example, one of the opportunities is monthly one-on-one meetings between the university president and AS/ASI president. This is also a great opportunity for the University President to introduce their executive cabinet to the associated students. Before moving on, I wanted to take this time to thank some of the task force members who are present and who have helped get this project rolling: President Haynes, President Morishita, President Hutchinson, and my Chair, Isabelle Franz.

As you can see, I am a strong believer in shaping shared governance and I am 100% committed to doing our best and to ensure that our students are being heard. With this being said, I wanted to end my report with a quote that I found on the California State University website, "The CSU makes every effort to keep student costs to a minimum."¹ Over the past five years, there has only been one year in which the CSU has been fully funded by the state. As the voice of over 470,000 students, I call upon our state legislators to invest in the CSU system and to provide a fully funded budget for the 2017-2018 academic year. The California State Student

¹ <http://www.calstate.edu/budget/student-fees/fee-rates/systemwide-history.shtml>

Association pledges to advocate for a fully funded budget to ensure that the burden of the state's disinvestment in higher education is not placed on the backs of hard-working students who cannot afford an increase in tuition. We must all come together and show our state legislators that we know what it means to collaborate with one another and that we are the CSU and we are here for our students.

David M. Lopez

CSSA President 2016-2017