



Sac State Plenary & Lobby Corps Recap

Systemwide Affairs Committee

DISCUSSION: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Vice President Samaniego led a discussion on the CSU's Student Participation in Policy Development Policy among committee members (made up of reps from 23 CSU's). All feedback will be taken into consideration as addition to policy (see last CSSA plenary recap for reference).

Questions Included:

- When thinking of policy development what issues would this involve or do we think it involves?**
- How would you define "full time participant"?**

Legislative affairs Committee

AB 656: CSU DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

This bill would grant the CSU the authority to offer independent doctorate degrees, not duplicative of those offered by the UC. The bill would also expand the CSU's JDP authority, allowing it to partner within its own system.

Since 2005, the legislature has recognized the changing needs in the economy and allowed for the Education Code to be amended to authorize the CSU to offer independent doctorate degrees in certain fields. However, it makes little sense to continue to require a legislative action for one professional degree at a time. This bill would allow the CSU to expand doctoral programs overall, enabling the system and the state to address student goals and workforce shortages.

Legislative affairs Committee

AB 1142: COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA:

California Problem: The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) was established in 1974 to ensure the effectiveness of higher education in California. CPEC was defunded in 2011, leaving the state without a statewide higher education coordinating body. California is one of two states without a coordinating body to inform and advise the Legislature on major higher ed issues.

Proposal: This bill would establish the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education in California composed of five members with higher education experience. The Commission would be:

- Required to publish an annual report on the condition of higher education in California.
- Authorized to require the governing boards of higher ed institutions to submit data pertinent to the Commission's responsibilities.

Legislative affairs Committee

ACTION: AB 1160: STUDENT LOAN DEBTS:

Problem: Existing law requires higher education institutions to withhold institutional services, including the provision of a diploma, when students are in default of their loans under certain programs.

Proposal: The bill intends to enact protections for college students from the harms imposed by withholding institutional services and track the methods and efficacy of how institutions currently collect institutional debt.

Legislative affairs Committee

ACTION: AB 260: CALWORKS: SUPPORT SERVICES:

Problem: The CalWORKS program provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families and individuals in California. Some of the benefits required by this program include childcare, diaper and transportation costs, and more. Currently, existing law does not require CalWORKS to provide menstrual products.

Proposal: This bill would include menstrual products as a necessary supportive service provided by the CalWORKS program to eligible individuals and families.

Legislative affairs Committee

SB 808: CSU TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: SETTLEMENTS AND RETREAT RIGHTS:

Problem: The California State University's handling of sexual harassment and sexual violence complaints, especially those involving faculty, staff, and administrators, has been woefully inadequate.

Proposal: This bill would require the rules adopted by the CSU Board of Trustees to:

- 1. Require each campus president and either a vice president or vice chancellor to approve all sexual harassment settlements**
- 2. Require a report to the Legislature on the number of sexual harassment complaints filed, the length of time take to complete the investigative process, and the disposition of those cases**
- 3. Prohibit retreat rights for any campus president, provost, or other or other senior administrator who has violated CSU or campus Title IX policy**

Legislative affairs Committee

Discussion item: SENATE BILL 11: CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: CONTRACTING OUT:

Problem: Mental health resources for students foster more successful academic and personal experiences throughout their pursuit of a degree. However, many students experience a lack of services to improve their mental health. Specifically, long wait times to speak with a mental health counselor preclude students from receiving important and time-sensitive care. The implementation of telehealth mental health services is one way that campuses have begun to address gaps in such services for students. Bill proponents state that telehealth mental health services would be best serviced by CSU employees rather than contracted-out telehealth organizations.

Proposal: This bill states that by January 1, 2026, all CSU contracts with telehealth organizations shall be discontinued and that each CSU campus shall have a 24/7 telehealth mental counseling service composed solely of CSU-employed mental health counselors.







Thank you for your time!

