CAL STATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION —

By: Emily Conde ASI Student Government President '25-'26.

What is CSSA?

CSSA usually refers to the California State Student Association.

It's a nonprofit, student-led organization that represents the **nearly 500,000 students of the California State University (CSU) system**. Each CSU campus has representatives (often student government leaders) who meet through CSSA to advocate for student interests on a statewide level.

CSSA works on things like:

- Advocacy: Representing CSU students to the California legislature, governor, CSU Board of Trustees, and other policymakers.
- Policy input: Giving feedback on tuition, financial aid, student basic needs, and higher education policies.
- Leadership development: Providing opportunities for student leaders to collaborate and grow.

Recognized by the CSU Board of Trustees and the California Legislature as "**THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF CSU STUDENTS**".

How CSSA Funded?

Student Involvement & Representation Fee (SIRF) –

- This is the biggest source of CSSA's funding.
- It's a \$2 voluntary fee per student per semester/quarter across the CSU system.
- Students can choose to opt out, but most campuses collect it automatically unless a student requests otherwise.
- SIRF funds are specifically meant to support systemwide student representation and advocacy, which is CSSA's mission.

Board of directors decide on how to spend the SIRF money.

Typically spent on:

- Student travel.
- Analyzing the impact of higher education laws and policies on CSU students.
- Professional development opportunities for students.

Special meeting throughout CSSA!

CSUnity.

- August, CSU Fullerton.
- Workshops on navigating and engaging with the CSU system.
- Networking opportunities with CSU leaders.

CHESS (California Higher Education Student Summit).

- March, Sacramento.
- Workshops on state legislation, budget, and lobbying strategies.
- Engagement with the CSU Board of Trustees.

Hill Day.

- April, Washington, D.C.
- ASI Student Government President attends with the University President.
- Meetings with congressional offices to advocate for CSU student needs.

Who's going to CSSA & What happens after?

President and Chief of Staff!

When you get back you will need to report on what happened to the senate President and Chief of Staff should report on what they handled at the Plenary.

If there is a bigger topic of discussion, a lot happened, or you need something on the agenda consider making it its own discussion or informational item.

Inform and talk to necessary SG members or groups on campus about issues that happened at the Plenary.