

ASCSU September Plenary Report

September 4-5, 2025

Chancellor Garcia

CSU Budget: Chancellor Garcia reviewed the current budget landscape, noting the reduction in the CSU's base budget by 3% (\$144M), which is less than the initially proposed 7.95% cut. CSU Compact funding from the state of California is deferred until 2028–29. Senators raised concerns about the persistent funding inequities between the California Community Colleges, the CSU, and the University of California systems and within the California State University system.

Federal Threats and Advocacy: There is increased federal scrutiny of DEI work, immigration enforcement, and threats to in-state tuition for undocumented students. The Chancellor highlighted the collaboration with the California Attorney General and reiterated the CSU's commitment to safe and inclusive campuses. The CSU has a webpage for ongoing [federal updates](#).

Artificial Intelligence: The CSU has a multiple AI initiatives, including an [AI Commons](#) hub and has funded 63 AI innovation projects. Additionally, the CSU has an AI Workforce Acceleration Board in partnership with Governor Newsom and industry leaders. Several senators raised concerns about the rollout of the CSU's ChatGPT.edu initiative, urging for more protections for academic integrity and intellectual property, and a stronger emphasis on critical thinking and ethical use.

CSU Strategic Plan

The CSU has a new strategic plan; the process was led by the consulting firm SOVA. The priorities for the CSU Strategic Plan include student success, affordability, supporting faculty and staff development. Additionally, the plan includes leveraging the CSU's scale to improve efficiency, collaboration, and innovation. The latter is part of the CSU's reference to "systemness" for the 22 universities that make up the CSU. (Note: The CSU no longer has 23 universities because Maritime is now integrated with San Luis Obispo.) More about the CSU Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).

Student Success Framework, Year of Engagement

Deputy Vice Chancellor Dilcie Perez, Deloitte specialist Dr. Bob Caron, ASCSU Chair Boyd, and Academic Affairs Chair Schurer presented updates on the CSU Student Success Framework, which will guide system efforts following the conclusion of Graduation Initiative 2025. A Graduation Symposium will be held October 15 and 16 for the conclusion of GI 2025. The

framework was developed through consultation and informed by the summer systemwide faculty survey; the framework reflects faculty priorities and values. It emphasizes integration with the CSU Strategic Plan, IT initiatives, and Strategic Enrollment Management, while focusing on affordability, adaptive teaching and learning, advising, streamlined pathways, and real-world skill development. Equity, student-centered practices, and cross-divisional collaboration are embedded throughout. Implementation will involve system- and campus-level teams as well as stronger data infrastructure.

CFA

CFA President Margarita Berta-Ávila urged acceptance of a 0% interest loan to reverse job cuts and fund contracts. She criticized the lack of consultation on a \$17M AI initiative and highlighted CFA's advocacy for academic freedom and protections for undocumented students. CFA is pushing back against the silencing of faculty and students regarding DEI initiatives, organizing, and content in the areas they teach. An immigration task force has been set up to respond with ICE and "knowing your rights" and understanding public vs private spaces. CFA has shared demands regarding protecting faculty and students regarding the current issues. Bargaining priorities include workload, job security, and lecturer equity. Senators raised additional concerns on pay disparities, research support, and inclusion of counselors, coaches, and librarians. After the plenary, President Berta-Ávila noted CFA will collaborate with AAUP for a state and national advocacy plan.

CSU Alumni Council

Adrian Harrell, Alumni Council President; Jodi Braverman, Executive Director of the CSU Alumni Council; and Lori Brockett, Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement and University Events (CSUSM) provided a report. They emphasized the CSU has over 4.3 million alumni, many of whom are eager to give back through mentorship, guest speaking, internships, and other forms of engagement that support current students and recent graduates. A recent Alumni Council report on alumni-student connections led to 26 campus projects, many of which increased student belonging, retention, and career readiness. Faculty were encouraged to collaborate with their campus alumni offices to bring alumni into the classroom, advisory boards, and student support programs. Council members expressed a desire to partner more deeply with the ASCSU and faculty at large, including in systemwide working groups.

California State Student Association

Katie Karroum, Vice President of Systemwide Affairs provided a report. CSSA has raised concerns about the AI Initiative. Inconsistent classroom policies, unreliable AI detection tools, and lack of clear student guidance create challenges for students. CSSA is calling for ethical AI use, training for students and faculty, and systemwide transparency. VP Karroum is serving on the AB 928 and Cal GET-C implementation committee; she will follow up with the ASCSU on

related policy impacts. Senators discussed AI policy with VP Karroum, the need for accurate detection tools, and due process. Senators supported clearer, course-level AI expectations and broader student education. Karroum emphasized the need for consistency, transparency, and inclusion of student perspectives in policy development.

Resolutions:

First Reading Waiver Items

Protecting Federal HSI Programs

Resolution Number AS-3761-25/FGA/JEDI

(Waiver Approved, Resolution Approved)

- Encourages the State of California to join as an intervenor in Tennessee and Students For Fair Admissions v. US Department of Education and the CSU to file an amicus brief. Encourages the California congressional delegation to work to protect current programs that fund HSI institutions.

Statement on the Importance of International Students

Resolution Number: AS-3762-25/JEDI/APEP

(Waiver Approved, Resolution Approved)

- Provides an official statement in response to the Department of Homeland Security's request for comment on a rule updating F-1 visa limitations. The adopted statement expresses concern over the impact of the proposed limitations on international student recruitment, educational outcomes, and finances for the CSU.

First Reading item:

Supporting the California State University (CSU) System Office Review Standards for General Education (GE) Area 6 (Ethnic Studies) Submissions

Resolution Number: AS-3760-25/APEP

- Updates a prior resolution [AS-3505-21/APEP](#) (Rev) Supporting CSU System Office Review Standards for General Education (GE) Area F (Ethnic Studies) Submissions.