

ASCSU November Plenary Report

November 6-7, 2025

Welcoming of Junius Gonzales, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

Introduction of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs **Junius Gonzales** reflected on his background as a physician, academic leader, and first-generation college student, emphasizing the California State University's essential role in serving the state and its communities. He described the current moment in higher education as one of volatility shaped by demographic shifts, fiscal pressures, political scrutiny, technological change, and ongoing equity challenges, calling for proactive and collaborative approaches rather than reactive responses. His priorities include advancing faculty excellence through professional development and leadership support, reimagining the academic student experience with stronger advising and mentorship models, and fostering program innovation and inter-campus collaboration, all informed by systemwide data. In discussion, senators raised questions regarding online education, faculty involvement in strategic planning, support for junior faculty, and systemwide coordination; Vice Chancellor Gonzales acknowledged challenges related to morale and shared governance and emphasized the importance of open communication and structured partnerships between campuses and the Chancellor's Office to leverage the CSU's collective potential.

Chancellor's Office Personnel Report

Junius Gonzales, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; Dilcie Perez, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Strategic Enrollment Management and Student Success and Chief Student Affairs Officer; Nathan Evans, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

Chancellor's Office personnel discussed system priorities and emerging issues, including federal compliance matters such as the EEOC antisemitism investigation and the OCR complaint related to the PhD Project, noting that campuses are reviewing partnerships to ensure nondiscrimination and that while H-1B visa sponsorship decisions remain campus-based, petition activity must be reported to the Chancellor's Office. They highlighted ongoing Strategic Enrollment Management planning aimed at aligning academic programs with workforce needs, expanding access for nontraditional learners, and strengthening regional collaboration. Senators raised concerns about the rapid expansion of AI and emphasized the need for clear, systemwide guidance to support responsible use in teaching and research, as well as the continued urgency of addressing student mental health with expanded services beyond standard hours. Throughout the discussion, senators underscored the importance of transparency, meaningful consultation, and careful attention to the cumulative burden of compliance requirements and policy changes on campuses.

Margarita Berta-Ávila, CFA President, Liaison Report

Margarita Berta-Avila shared updates on CFA priorities, highlighting concerns over program and job losses—particularly at Sonoma State—and criticism of the Chancellor's decision to use a 0% interest loan for one-time bonuses rather than restoring positions or programs. She reported that the union is preparing for a full contract reopening, with proposals addressing academic

freedom, AI, workload, evaluations, and other working conditions, and will hold open caucuses and member updates during bargaining. CFA has filed an unfair labor practice related to AI initiatives, is pursuing legal action regarding the release of employee information tied to an EEOC investigation, and continues work on protections related to doxxing, health and safety, and immigration, while advancing legislation and coalition-building, all framed through a social justice lens and in collaboration with the Senate.

Alumni Report

Lori Brockett, Alumni Director Representative of Alumni Council Executive Committee and Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement and University Events (CSUSM) and Jodi Braverman, Executive Director, CSU Alumni Council, CSU Alumni Council Liaison Report

The Alumni Council reported on efforts to align its work with the Student Success Framework, emphasizing post-graduation outcomes, career support, alumni–student connections, and promotion of the CSU Voices advocacy platform. In discussion, senators explored ways faculty and alumni might better partner to support student career readiness, noting challenges such as limited time, administrative burden, and insufficient infrastructure, and called for stronger campus- and system-level coordination. The Council will share this feedback with campus alumni directors and continue the dialogue.

Frank Hurtarte, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources; Peter Lim, Executive Advisor, Civil Rights Programming and Services Requested Consultation

A draft communications plan for civil rights programming was brought to the Senate for consultation and feedback. Senators offered suggestions to improve clarity, tone, and accessibility, and emphasized the need for more student-centered language and thoughtful use of imagery. Concerns were raised about campus culture, transparency, and accountability, particularly in cases involving leadership. The presenters welcomed the input and affirmed their commitment to incorporating feedback before finalizing and distributing the materials.

Katie Karroum, CSSA Vice President of Systemwide Affairs, CSSA Liaison Report

CSSA Update: VP Katie Karroum reported on her service with the AB 928 Committee, Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, and as liaison to the Alumni Council and Academic Senate. She highlighted CSSA's 2025–26 policy agenda, which prioritizes total cost of attendance, student wellness and mental health, academic success, and inclusive student engagement. She also previewed a student-authored AI white paper that will come forward for CSSA action, addressing equity and access, academic integrity, privacy, sustainability, mental health and ethics, and student inclusion in governance. VP Karroum emphasized interest in continued faculty–student collaboration on AI policies. Finally, she shared student perspectives on the Student Success Framework and Graduation Initiative Symposium, noting improved inclusion this year while underscoring the need for meaningful engagement beyond token representation.

Resolutions

Action Items:

[AS-3760-25/APEP](#)

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

Approved

[AS-3771-25/Floor](#)

Call to Finalize Appointment of California State University Faculty Trustee

Waiver – Approved

Resolution – Approved

First Readings:

[AS-3769-25/Exec](#)

Faculty Trustee Appointment Advocacy Plans

[AS-3763-25/JEDI](#)

Support Minority Serving Institutions

[AS-3764-25/FGA](#)

Change in the Advocacy Positions Taken on ASCSU Monitored Legislative Bills

[AS-3765-25/FGA](#)

2025 Policy Agenda Priorities and Goals

[AS-3767-25/AA/APEP](#)

CSU-CSU Articulation of Major Courses

[AS-3768-25/AA](#)

ASCSU Disciplinary Councils