

Academic Senate of the CSU

May Plenary Report

May 8-9, 2025

The Year of Engagement for the Next Graduation Initiative, Systemwide Student Success Framework:

The creation of a Systemwide Student Success Framework for the next Graduation Initiative is now taking place in collaboration with faculty. Initially, faculty were not engaged in the process for designing the survey, which was notable with limited content focusing on the courses, instruction, and learning conditions. Additional concerns addressed include overemphasis on graduation rates, initial exclusion of faculty input, and lack of data disaggregation. Key themes are emerging as a result of engaging with faculty, such as equitable teaching environments as well the value and impact of different course modalities and teaching strategies on different courses/students (lower division undergraduate, upper division undergraduate, graduate). Examples of teaching strategies include capstone projects, intensive writing, collaborative assignment, e-portfolios, service learning, etc. Further faculty consultation is planned, and the finalized Systemwide Student Success Framework will be co-created with faculty, specifically the Academic Affairs committee of the ASCSU. Faculty emphasized aligning implementation with academic priorities and maintaining meaningful faculty engagement.

CSU Strategic Plan: Lauren Dibble from SOVA presented an update on the CSU systemwide strategic plan. SOVA's role is to facilitate the process and add capacity, but the steering committee is driving the content of the strategic plan. The purpose of the strategic plan is to align CSU campus efforts within a three-year implementation framework. Seven guiding themes have emerged for the roadmap for an inspired vision of the system's future:

- The national leader in proving the value of education
- An engine for the future of work in the knowledge economy
- A creator of career and social economic mobility
- A supplier of talent to the state for workforce needs and community vitality
- A provider of agile learning opportunities that span across students' lifetimes
- Outcomes driven and data informed
- A mission driven employer

Faculty input is being integrated into the plan; recent revisions reflect faculty concerns about graduate education, liberal arts education, and faculty success. Feedback from senators was collected through live polling and will help shape the final version, which is expected to go before the Board of Trustees in September 2025. Additional information can be found on the

[website](#) about the CSU strategic plan and an [online information forum](#) posting feedback.

CSU Responses to Federal Actions: Deputy Vice Chancellors of Academic and Student Affairs Dilcie Perez and Nathan Evans reaffirmed the CSU's commitment to supporting students and employees amidst political and financial challenges. DVC Perez is co-leading a Chancellor's Office response team with Executive Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Andrew Jones; the purpose of the team is to make recommendation to the Chancellor for responding to different federal actions negatively impacting the CSU. The CSU created a [federal updates page](#). CSU joined the CA Attorney General to successfully defend Teacher Quality Partnership Grants. ASCSU faculty raised concerns regarding federal investigations and their implications for DEI and academic freedom as well as the safety of undocumented, international, and LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff. Additionally, 29 out of 33 CSU AmeriCorps programs have been terminated, and the proposed federal budget includes raising Pell eligibility to 15 units, eliminating Pell for students enrolled in fewer than 6 units, and cutting TRIO programs.

Artificial Intelligence: A grant program for faculty to develop AI curriculum has been released; over 400 applications were submitted. The CSU has launched the [AI Workforce Acceleration Board](#), which includes faculty and student representatives along with other CSU stakeholders and industry representatives. The [AI Commons Hub](#) is a centralized source of information about AI within the CSU for faculty, students, staff, and alumni. During Chancellor Garcia's time at the ASCSU, Senators raised concerns about the investment in ChatGPT Edu; the Chancellor confirmed it's an 18-month pilot project being monitored for both academic and administrative impact, with an emphasis on ethical use of AI and faculty development.

Updates from CFA: Charles Toombs, current CFA President, and Margarity Berta-Ávila, CFA President Elect, met with ASCSU Senators. Legislation supported by CFA includes mandatory audits of campuses, increased faculty trustee representation, and spending justification over \$10,000; ASCSU supported these bills. Ongoing contract negotiations have stalled, with CFA pushing for open bargaining, a new academic freedom article, and stronger non-discrimination language in response to national challenges to academic and social justice work. President Toombs also shared that the CFA assembly passed a resolution for a vote of no confidence in Chancellor Garcia and plans to initiate a union-wide vote, citing concerns over manufactured austerity, lack of consultation on major issues like AI, and the administration's resistance to good-faith bargaining.

President-Elect Berta-Ávila reaffirmed CFA's commitment to faculty rights and student-centered advocacy. She cited increasing PERB charges against the CSU, including those related to bargaining practices; Cal-GETC; Time, Place, and Manner Policy; Artificial Intelligence; and Other Conduct of Concern policies. President-Elect Berta-Ávila stressed the importance of continued collaboration between CFA and ASCSU, recognizing the need to strategically align efforts and leverage the respective strengths of each organization to protect academic freedom, faculty working conditions, and the future of public higher education.

Updates from Chancellor Garcia: Chancellor Garcia had a one-hour time certain at the plenary to provide systemwide updates; she had to leave after 30 minutes. The chancellor emphasized that strategic enrollment planning, technology modernization, and the CSU's first comprehensive systemwide strategic plan in over a decade are being developed. Additionally, fifteen CSU campuses are being designated as "Opportunity Colleges" by ACE and the Carnegie Foundation.

Chancellor Garcia addressed ongoing state and federal budget threats, including the potential \$200 million loss to CSU students if proposed federal Pell Grant eligibility changes are enacted. She affirmed CSU's active advocacy at both state and federal levels, citing Hill Week meetings, Trustee Advocacy Day, and coordinated efforts with students, faculty, and workforce partners. The Chancellor's Office is implementing an 8% budget reduction (higher than the campuses' 5% cuts) and referenced consolidation and efficiency initiatives, such as the Cal Maritime and Cal Poly SLO integration and the San Francisco Bay Region Network, which is a collaboration model integrating financial and administrative services.

Other Items of Interest:

- There have been ongoing systemwide advocacy efforts to prevent the proposed state budget reduction of 7.95%. Stakeholders across the CSU, including faculty and surrounding communities, have engaged in budget advocacy to push back against the proposed budget cut.
- CSSA passed a resolution to join the United States Student Association's (USSA) interim intergovernmental council, positioning the CSU student voice in federal advocacy efforts. At CSSA's May plenary, a resolution in support of trans students passed, and the CSSA Constitution was amended to include a non-discrimination and Title IX clause, reinforcing its commitment to equity. CSSA convened a Solidarity and Equal Partnerships Task Force, which examined student-administration dynamics. Challenges identified included burnout, limited administrative responsiveness, and tension between activism and collaboration. Recommendations included implementing shared governance MOUs, creating campus-level participation portals, and establishing a permanent student governance task force.

Resolutions:

Second Readings Items

[AS-3732-25/Exec Media Policy of the Academic Senate of the California State University](#)

Approved

Adopts an official ASCSU Media Policy, which establishes guidelines for communication with the media to ensure that statements made on behalf of the Academic Senate of California State University (ASCSU) are accurate, consistent, and aligned with the Senate's mission and official positions.

[AS-3734-25/AA The Possible Use of AI in Instruction](#)

Approved

The ASCSU affirms the importance of learning about generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and acknowledges Chancellor García's efforts to move the CSU to the forefront of GenAI in collaboration with industry. The ASCSU requests that text reflecting on the use of GenAI in instruction and guidelines both for faculty who want to use GenAI and for faculty who do not want to use GenAI, depending on their pedagogy and discipline, be displayed prominently on the Faculty page of the CSU AI Commons.

[AS-3737-25/APEP Recommendations Regarding Lower Division General Education](#)

Approved

The ASCSU endorses a set of recommendations based on a referral from the Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) regarding what was previously known as "exemptions and waivers." These recommendations include the expectation that all students should achieve all lower division general education units and outcomes.

[AS-3738-25/APEP Call for an Analysis of Teacher Retention in California PK-12 Public Schools](#)

Approved

The CSU remains committed to supplying a robust pool of qualified teachers to PK-12 public schools in California. This resolution asks that the CTC and CDE examine data on teacher retention and analysis of the reasons for turnover in the PK-12 teaching profession. This analysis will better inform teaching credential programs in the CSU to identify and prepare not only highly qualified teaching candidates, but also ones who are most likely to be retained.

[AS-3739-25/APEP Demonstration of Subject Matter Competency in Admissions to Teaching Credential Programs in the CSU](#)

Approved

Reaffirms ASCSU support for the establishment and maintenance of multiple pathways into public school PK-12 teaching in California permitted by recent legislation. The ASCSU and CTC have recognized that the completion of a CTC-approved Subject Matter Waiver (SMW) program represents the benchmark in demonstrating subject matter competency. This resolution requests that CSU teaching credential programs assign greater weight for students completing a SMW program, particularly for admissions to impacted programs.

[AS-3742-25/APEP AB 1705 and Community College STEM Student Choice in the Mathematics Entry Point](#)

Approved

Advocates for community college students having agency to take a preparatory mathematics course before taking calculus if they believe that they would benefit from that additional experience.

[AS-3743-25/APEP/FGA Support For Continued Funding For Teacher Credential Students Affected By Federal Changes to DEI Priorities](#)

Approved

California continues to face a persistent shortage in PK-12 teachers. This may be worsened by recent disruptions in federal funding and potential future reductions in teacher preparation support at the federal level. Credential students may likely find that the demands of coursework combined with the commitment of their teaching placement leave limited time for compensated job opportunities. Access to strong financial resources is essential in supporting the next generation of educators expected to assist with mitigating shortages and ensuring a diverse, well-prepared workforce. State and other funding solutions are necessary to maintain access to credential programs and sustain California's commitment to quality education.

[AS-3744-25/JEDI Equity, Diversity, Justice, and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan of the ASCSU](#)

Approved

Adopts a 5-year Equity, Diversity, Justice, and Inclusion (EDJI) Plan developed by the ASCSU Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee, establishing ongoing strategic actions and evaluation.

[AS-3745-25/JEDI/FA Maintaining Academic Programs that Center Marginalized Perspectives](#)

Approved

Opposes the elimination of courses, academic majors, departments, and programs which expose students to marginalized perspectives within a liberal arts education.

[AS-3754-25/AA Urging Caution in the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence](#)

Approved

Urges caution in the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) because, as research demonstrates, it is detrimental to students developing writing and critical thinking skills. In economic terms, GenAI is problematic because it requires huge resources from the CSU system, is built on the intellectual property of others without remuneration, and relies on exploitative low-wage labor. In environmental terms, GenAI uses enormous resources that contribute significantly to global warming. While AI detection tools can be unreliable when used incorrectly, good AI detection tools are very effective, so the ASCSU asks the CSU Chancellor's Office to provide an array of such tools for faculty use.

First Reading Waivers

[AS-3751-25/Exec Endorsing the Association of American Colleges and Universities \(AAC&U\) "Call For Constructive Engagement" Statement](#)

Waiver Approved, Resolution Approved

The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) formally endorses the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) "Call for Constructive Engagement."

The resolution affirms the ASCSU's role as a scholarly society committed to academic excellence, shared governance, and civil discourse. It directs the ASCSU Chair as its Chief Executive Officer to sign the AAC&U statement on behalf of the Senate (a prior attempt to sign was rejected on grounds that only university presidents and Chief Executive Officers of scholarly societies may sign), thanks CSU Presidents who have already signed, and encourages others, including the Chancellor, to do so as well.

[AS-3755-25/FGA California Public Higher Education Defense Working Group and Compact](#)

Waiver Approved, Resolution Approved

Expresses opposition to recent federal actions which threaten higher education, encompassing students, faculty, and administrators. Proposes the establishment of a collaborative working group and compact across California's public higher education systems to effectively monitor these threats, coordinate responses, and provide support.

[AS-3750-25/FA/FGA Call For The Elimination Of External Search Firms For CSU Management And Presidential Searches](#)

Waiver Approved, Resolution Approved

The ASCSU calls on the CSU to stop using external search firms for leadership hires and instead establish an internal search process that draws on existing human resources expertise within the system while ensuring robust participation from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other key stakeholders. It urges redirecting funds from external firms to core academic priorities and emphasizes that any new process must uphold transparency, equity, diversity, and shared governance.

[AS-3753-25/JEDI Support For Joining Higher Education Coalitions Against Undue Government Intrusion](#)

Waiver Approved, Resolution Approved

Commends the 17 CSU campus presidents who have signed onto the Association of American Colleges & Universities' "Public Statement: A Call for Constructive Engagement" and calls upon the remaining 6 CSU campus presidents and CSU Chancellor Garcia to sign onto the public statement.

AS-3752-25/APEP/AA Standards For Credit By Examination

Waiver Failed