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CSU Board of Trustees Meeting November 20-21, 2024

Faculty Trustee Report Darlene Yee-Melichar

The CSU Board of Trustees meets six times a year. Meetings allow for communication among the Trustees, Chancellor, campus presidents, Academic Senate, California State Student Association and Alumni Council.

The 2024-25 Meeting Schedule of the Board completed on November 20-21, 2024. It started in the morning on Wednesday, November 20 in Closed Session for discussion about Executive Personnel Matters [Government Code §11126(a)(1)], Pending Litigation [§11126(e)(1)]; Anticipated Litigation; and Collective Bargaining [Government Code §3596(d)]. The Board met for the rest of the day and on Thursday, November 21 in Open Session for public comments, information items and action items.

The Board's full agenda and background materials (203 pages) for the November 2024 meeting are available at <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2024/Documents/nov-20-21-2024-FULL-binder.pdf>. The Board meetings are broadcast live to the public; you may access the live stream videos on YouTube associated with Open Session at <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2024/Pages/November-20-21-2024.aspx>.

For the full Board and committee meetings held in Open Session, I provide links to the specific meeting materials and videos; brief summaries using ChatGPT with technical assistance provided by [SF State Academic Technology](#) and in concurrence with my personal meeting notes; and share my brief queries or requests for feedback below for your consideration. If you have any comments, corrections, and/or questions regarding my Faculty Trustee Report, please let me know (dyee@calstate.edu). I look forward to hearing from you; **thank you**.

###

November 20-21, 2024 (Full Agenda)

On November 20-21, the meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees was held at the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach.

On Wednesday, November 20, at 8:00 a.m., the Board convened in Closed Session to discuss Executive Personnel Matters which centered on Outside Employment for Senior Management Employees; Vice President Compensation and Executive Relocation; and Executive Transition Assignments. See Committee on University and Faculty Personnel below for further information. The Board also discussed Pending Litigation [Vakilzadeh v. CSU (Class Action)]; and Anticipated Litigation (one potential matter).

On Wednesday, November 20, at 9:20 a.m., the Board continued in Closed Session for the Committee on Collective Bargaining. In my role as Faculty Trustee, I am not party to this latter discussion. Note: According to [California Education Code § 66602 \(c2\)](#), the Faculty Trustee "shall not participate on any subcommittee of the board responsible for collective bargaining negotiations."

On Wednesday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, November 21, the Board convened in Open Session.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

10:00 a.m. – Plenary Session (Day 1)

Read Materials: [Agenda](#)

Watch Video: [Public Comment Session](#)

CSU Board of Trustees Chair Jack B. Clarke, Jr. welcomed attendees and emphasized the Board's dedication to fostering an environment for open dialogue and diverse perspectives. He acknowledged the importance of public participation in informing the Board's decision-making process and ensuring transparency.

The Public Comment Session highlighted significant issues raised by students, faculty, and staff, addressing topics such as tuition increases, labor relations, campus infrastructure, and student mental health.

Sang Hill, a faculty member from San José State University, shared concerns about suspension resulting from support for students advocating for human rights in Gaza. The comments were framed within the broader context of academic freedom, emphasizing that the ongoing grievances would have implications for faculty across all 23 CSU campuses.

Ingeborg Kisby, a Fresno State student, raised concerns about the role of campus police in wellness checks. Kisby described a distressing personal experience where a wellness check intended for their campus residence was mistakenly directed to their parents' home, leading to unnecessary confusion and distress. Kisby called for reforms to ensure such practices are both accurate and culturally sensitive.

Labor relations and equity were central to comments by George Martinez, President of the Academic Professionals of California, who expressed optimism about the ratification of the Unit 4 collective bargaining agreement. Martinez urged the Board to approve the agreement, which had been overwhelmingly supported by union members following protracted negotiations.

The draft CSU NAGPRA policy drew criticism from Nathan Stevens, an anthropology professor at Sacramento State. Stevens argued that the policy exceeded the Chancellor's authority and lacked input from faculty and students, raising concerns about its impact on academic freedom and compliance with the California Education Code.

Rose Sosa War Soldier, a Native American Studies professor at Sacramento State, praised the university's leadership for supporting Native American student success initiatives, including the creation of the Native American College. War Soldier highlighted the importance of relational and community-based approaches to enhancing educational outcomes for Native American students.

Emanuel Falone, a graduate student at Sacramento State, commended the Guardian Scholars Promise, which guarantees admissions for foster youth at Sacramento State.

Falone called for expanding this initiative across the CSU system to create equitable opportunities for foster youth statewide.

The Public Comment Session concluded with Ara Hammad, representing Cal State LA Associated Students, advocating for improved Title IX processes. Hammad emphasized the importance of student inclusion in Title IX discussions and highlighted the success of the Title IX Student Ambassador Program at CSU Monterey Bay as a model for peer-driven support systems.

Chair Clarke thanked all speakers for their input, assuring attendees that their concerns would be considered as the Board addressed these issues in the upcoming sessions.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

10:40 a.m. – Plenary Session (Day 1)

Read Materials: [Agenda](#) | [SOVA Presentation](#) | [Stakeholder Engagement Update](#)

Watch Video: [Plenary Session Reports](#)

Board Chair Jack Clarke opened the Plenary Session Reports by reflecting on the themes raised during the Public Comment Session earlier in the day. He emphasized the Board's ongoing commitment to transparency, equity, and inclusivity, especially in light of challenges facing students, faculty, and staff across the CSU system. Chair Clarke also acknowledged the contributions of military-affiliated students and faculty in honor of Veterans Day and highlighted ongoing initiatives supporting this community, such as priority registration and academic credit for military service.

During this segment, reflections from student veterans were shared, including Lewis Rapier from CSU Dominguez Hills, who credited his military background with instilling the time-management skills that have been pivotal to his academic success, and Emalia T.R. Gonzalez Cree from San José State, who praised the University's Veterans Career Readiness Program for its role in helping her transition to a professional engineering career.

Chair Betsy Boyd, of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU), presented an update on the ASCSU's recent activities. She emphasized the importance of protecting academic freedom in the face of increasing external pressures, while also spotlighting resolutions designed to improve transfer pathways and foster stronger collaboration between the ASCSU and the Chancellor's Office. The ASCSU passed a resolution addressing FAFSA delays, which have caused significant disruptions for students applying for financial aid, and a resolution honoring Dr. Boris Ricks for his extensive contributions to diversity and equity initiatives. Chair Boyd also announced proposed changes to the ASCSU Constitution that would establish three additional seats for lecturers to increase representation, a measure to be presented to the Board for formal approval in January 2025.

President Iese Esera, of the California State Student Association (CSSA), reported on the CSSA's advocacy efforts and recent successes, including the passage of thirteen state legislative bills related to food security, Title IX protections, and student housing. He also highlighted CSSA's ongoing leadership development initiatives and its role in advancing diversity within the CSU system. President Esera expressed concern over the potential impact of national political developments on civil rights but reaffirmed CSSA's commitment to fostering an equitable and inclusive environment for all CSU students.

President John Poli, of the CSU Alumni Council, shared updates on alumni engagement initiatives, such as mentorship programs designed to connect current students with CSU graduates. He spotlighted a collaboration at CSU Monterey Bay that successfully increased Black and Hispanic student enrollment through targeted outreach. President Poli also celebrated the recent election of Jose Solache, a CSU Dominguez Hills alumnus, to the California State Assembly, which underscored the lasting impact of CSU on public service and civic leadership.

Chancellor Mildred García provided a summary of recent systemwide achievements, including a new memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create additional opportunities for CSU students pursuing careers in healthcare. She highlighted Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's milestone of achieving Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) eligibility, as its Hispanic student population reached 25.5%. Chancellor García also reflected on the success of the Graduation Initiative 2025, noting progress in improving graduation rates while acknowledging the need for additional efforts to address persistent equity gaps.

The Plenary Session also included an update from SOVA representatives on the CSU Strategic Planning Process. The plan, expected to be finalized by September 2025, focuses on systemwide inclusivity and stakeholder engagement to ensure the university's goals align with its mission of educating America's diverse majority. Trustees commended the progress and emphasized the importance of Board involvement in shaping the strategic plan's direction.

Chair Clarke closed the Plenary Session by thanking all participants for their contributions and reiterating the Board's dedication to supporting CSU's mission of access, success, and equity for all students.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

1:55 p.m. – Committee on Collective Bargaining

Read Materials: [Agenda](#)

Watch Video: [Committee on Collective Bargaining](#)

The Committee on Collective Bargaining, chaired by Trustee Adamson, convened to address three agenda items. First, the committee approved the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting without changes.

The second item was the ratification of the tentative agreement with Bargaining Unit 4, representing the Academic Professionals of California. Interim Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Albert A. Liddicoat presented the agreement, which was approved unanimously following extensive negotiations.

Finally, the committee adopted the initial proposals for a successor collective bargaining agreement with Bargaining Unit 3, represented by the California Faculty Association. These proposals mark the beginning of formal negotiations for addressing faculty compensation and working conditions.

All items were moved, seconded, and approved without objection. Chair Adamson concluded the session by thanking the committee members for their diligence in addressing these critical agreements.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

2:00 p.m. – Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance

Read Materials: [Agenda](#) | [Proposal to Integrate Cal Maritime Academy and Cal Poly SLO](#) | [Annual Systemwide Report on Hate Incidents on Campus](#)

Watch Video: [Joint Committee on Ed Policy and Finance](#)

The Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance, chaired by Trustee Arambula, convened to address three agenda items. First, the committee approved the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting without changes.

The Joint Committee then commenced with a presentation on the proposed integration of Cal Maritime Academy with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly SLO). Executive Vice Chancellor Steve Relyea and Deputy Vice Chancellor Nathan Evans, joined by Interim President Michael Dumont (Cal Maritime) and President Jeffrey Armstrong (Cal Poly SLO), provided detailed insights into the plan. The integration seeks to address Cal Maritime's declining enrollment and fiscal challenges while enhancing opportunities in maritime education.

The proposal emphasized establishing the "Cal Poly Solano Campus" as a branch of Cal Poly SLO, preserving Cal Maritime's Merchant Mariner programs while leveraging opportunities in emerging fields such as offshore wind energy, the blue-green economy, and maritime logistics. Seven Functional Implementation Teams (FITs) have been formed to oversee curriculum alignment, financial planning, accreditation, and student services.

Trustees engaged deeply with the proposal. Trustee McGrory described the plan as an innovative and nationally significant solution, particularly for the Merchant Mariner

programs. Trustee Gilbert-Lurie emphasized the need for equitable resource allocation between campuses and sought clarification on benchmarks for success. Trustee Fong praised Cal Poly SLO's progress toward becoming a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and stressed the importance of tracking outcomes for underrepresented groups.

Trustee Yee-Melichar expressed her optimism for the proposed integration and commended the innovation and leadership behind it. She expressed interest in how the integration will impact the academic and campus culture for current Cal Maritime and Cal Poly SLO students, particularly those in specialized programs, as well as how it will engage Cal Maritime and Cal Poly SLO students, faculty and staff in developing a unified shared governance structure? Lastly, she asked how success metrics would be developed and refined through ongoing collaboration with the FITs and external consultants.

Concerns about maintaining Cal Maritime's unique traditions and culture were raised during the discussion. Interim President Dumont assured stakeholders that these elements would remain central to the campus's identity, while the integration would create expanded opportunities for students and faculty. The proposal was unanimously approved, and staff were directed to provide progress updates in future meetings.

Finally, the Joint Committee heard an Annual Systemwide Report on Hate Incidents. Chief Compliance Officer Melinda Latas and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Ray Murillo presented this report, which documented 16 incidents reported across CSU campuses in 2023. These incidents were categorized by race, national origin, sexual orientation, and disability.

The report highlighted key initiatives, including the expansion of anti-bias training for students, faculty, and staff, enhanced mental health and counseling resources for affected individuals, and collaboration with state programs such as the "California Versus Hate" hotline to improve incident reporting and response mechanisms.

The trustees expressed strong support for these efforts. Trustee Arambula underscored the importance of increasing investments in support systems for marginalized students, while Trustee Fong called for further resources to strengthen diversity and inclusion initiatives across CSU campuses. The committee unanimously endorsed the report's recommendations, emphasizing the need for proactive strategies to combat hate and ensure safety and inclusivity across all campuses.

In closing, the Joint Committee's discussions underscored CSU's commitment to addressing both structural and cultural challenges within the system. The integration proposal represents a transformative step forward for maritime education, while the hate incidents report reinforces the need for continued efforts to foster equity and inclusivity across CSU campuses.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

3:35 p.m. – Committee on Educational Policy

Read Materials: [Agenda](#) | CSU's Interim Time, Place, and Manner Policy Handout | Graduation Initiative 2025 Data Reveal | Year of Engagement Systemwide Student Success Framework | California Cradle-to-Career Data System and CSU Enrollment Planning

Watch Video: [Committee on Educational Policy](#)

The Committee on Educational Policy, chaired by Trustee Arambula, convened to address five agenda items. First, the committee approved the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting without changes.

For the second agenda item, Dr. Jamillah Moore, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at San Francisco State University, and Dr. Dilcie Perez, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented updates on CSU's Interim Time, Place, and Manner Policy. This interim policy, developed in response to the 2024 California Budget Act, is designed to balance students' rights to free speech with maintaining campus safety and order. DVC Perez emphasized that the interim policy explicitly prohibits its use to target individuals based on protected characteristics, including immigration status. She explained how stakeholder feedback, including from students, faculty, and staff has informed refinements to the policy's implementation. The presenters reiterated their commitment to ensuring that the policy aligns with CSU's equity goals and prioritizes safety without undermining personal freedoms.

Thirdly, DVC Perez and Dr. Jennifer Bazile, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Inclusive Excellence, presented the Graduation Initiative 2025 Data Reveal, which detailed significant progress in improving four-year graduation rates across the CSU system. They noted that while four-year graduation rates have nearly doubled since the initiative began, six-year graduation rates have plateaued due to systemic barriers. Financial instability, caregiving responsibilities, and work obligations continue to disproportionately affect students from historically underserved communities. AVC Bazile emphasized that addressing these challenges is critical to closing equity gaps.

Trustee Yee-Melichar inquired about data on Pell Grant recipients, specifically asking what insights have been gained and whether targeted initiatives are in place to support these students beyond financial assistance. The presenters confirmed that Pell Grant recipients represent a significant portion of CSU's student body and emphasized the importance of initiatives like EOP to provide comprehensive support. Trustee Lopez raised questions about student migration patterns, particularly how transfers within the CSU system influence graduation metrics. These discussions underscored the importance of data-driven solutions to refine retention strategies and address barriers to degree completion.

For the fourth agenda item, DVC Perez introduced the Year of Engagement, a comprehensive initiative aimed at redefining student success by incorporating mental health, community impact, and career readiness into traditional academic metrics. The framework reflects input from over 300 stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and focuses on meeting the needs of CSU's diverse student population. Non-traditional students, such as veterans, working parents, and transfer students, were identified as priority groups within the initiative. DVC Perez highlighted examples of campus programs that exemplify this holistic approach, including mental health services, career readiness workshops, and community engagement opportunities. The initiative aims to create an inclusive environment where students feel supported both academically and personally.

The fifth and final agenda item focused on the integration of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System, a statewide initiative designed to provide actionable insights into student progress from early childhood through higher education. The presenters explained how the system will enhance CSU's ability to forecast enrollment trends and allocate resources effectively. By leveraging this data, CSU aims to refine recruitment strategies, improve retention efforts, and address barriers faced by first-generation and historically underserved students. The discussion also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the data system aligns with CSU's broader equity goals, supporting transparency in enrollment planning and resource distribution.

In closing, the Committee on Educational Policy session underscored CSU's ongoing commitment to advancing student success, equity, and inclusion through evidence-based strategies and holistic frameworks. Trustees discussed practical solutions to address systemic challenges while focusing on the needs of underserved and non-traditional student populations.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

8:30 a.m. – Committee on University and Faculty Personnel

Read Materials: [Agenda](#) | [Civil Rights Programs and Services Handout](#)

Watch Video: [Committee on University and Faculty Personnel](#)

The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel, chaired by Trustee Fong, convened to address five agenda items. First, the committee approved the consent agenda which included three items (the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting; the Annual Report on Outside Employment for Senior Management Employees; and the Annual Report on Vice President Compensation and Executive Relocation).

The fourth agenda item was presented by Chancellor Mildred García who provided an update on the transition roles for outgoing CSU executives. The Executive Transition Program allows executives who retire or step down after serving for five or more years to continue contributing to CSU through consulting roles. Notable figures involved in this

program included President Emeritus Thomas Cropper and President Emeritus Fram Virjee. President Cropper worked on affordable housing initiatives for CSU employees, and President Virjee focused on enhancing CSU's human resources policies. Trustees praised their work, noting that their contributions significantly impacted the system's long-term policy development.

The fifth and last agenda item was the update on Civil Rights Programs and Services, presented by Interim Vice Chancellor Al Liddicoat and Assistant Vice Chancellor Hayley Schwartzkopf. Their presentation highlighted efforts to strengthen Title IX enforcement and civil rights protections across CSU campuses, focusing on student feedback from the California State Student Association plenary. Key issues included improving training deadlines and establishing respondent advisers. Trustees discussed the importance of leadership in setting a tone of accountability across campuses.

This update focused on the ongoing efforts to improve and enhance civil rights protections across CSU campuses, particularly concerning Title IX enforcement, gender equity, and the protection of students' rights. The presentation emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Chancellor's office, campus stakeholders, and student leaders in advancing these initiatives.

The Chancellor's Office has worked to strengthen partnerships with various student organizations, including the California State Student Association (CSSA), in gathering feedback on civil rights efforts. During the CSSA plenary held on October 19–20, student leaders provided valuable insights regarding the implementation of civil rights programs. One key issue raised was the timing of the mandatory Title IX and Gender Equity training, with students recommending that the training deadlines be moved earlier in the semester. The Chancellor's Office has already taken steps to address this feedback by sharing it with Title IX coordinators and DHR (Division of Human Resources) administrators for implementation.

Another significant issue discussed was the need for dedicated respondent advisers on campuses. This recommendation, which was initially raised in the Coen Assessment, was strongly advocated by students. Several campuses already provide respondent advisers, and the Chancellor's Office is monitoring progress in this area to ensure that every CSU campus can meet this need. The Chancellor's Office also noted that improving the visibility of civil rights resources, such as confidential advocates, and ensuring that information on these resources is up-to-date across campus websites is a priority.

Feedback from student leaders also highlighted the concern that civil rights offices are often located in administrative buildings, which can create a perception that these services are not student-centered. Students expressed that the physical location of civil rights offices made them feel less approachable, and the feedback provided valuable insights for further improving campus environments. In response, the Chancellor's Office is collaborating with the Strategic Communications Department to create short videos

featuring civil rights practitioners, which will be posted on campus websites and shared through social media platforms to better engage students.

The committee also discussed efforts to address Other Conduct of Concern (OCC). This refers to behaviors that do not violate CSU policies but disrupt the learning, living, or working environment. The goal is to intervene early to address lower-level misconduct before it escalates into more serious issues like discrimination or harassment. The Chancellor's Office has created guidelines for handling OCC and is working to ensure consistency across campuses in how these cases are handled.

Trustees expressed strong support for the ongoing efforts to improve civil rights protections, with Trustee Gilbert-Lurie highlighting the importance of ensuring that the CSU's policies reflect a zero-tolerance approach to harassment and misconduct. Several trustees echoed concerns about bureaucracy and emphasized the need for swift action in cases of egregious behavior. There was a shared sentiment that leadership at the campus level must be fully engaged in the process and take responsibility for creating a safe environment, rather than delegating it entirely to the Title IX offices.

The session also emphasized the importance of leadership involvement at all levels, ensuring that presidents and senior leadership are directly engaged in addressing misconduct and setting the tone for campus culture. This commitment to leadership engagement was noted as a key factor in changing campus culture and ensuring accountability.

Trustees asked for further updates on staffing at the campus level, particularly related to Title IX coordinators and confidential advocates. The Chancellor's Office assured trustees that while staffing challenges persist, efforts are underway to fill key vacancies and support campuses in meeting the growing demand for civil rights and Title IX services.

This session reinforced CSU's commitment to ensuring that its campuses are safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for students, faculty, and staff. Trustees acknowledged the significant progress made in addressing civil rights issues but emphasized the need for continued improvement, especially in the areas of training, staffing, and leadership accountability. The collaborative approach between the Chancellor's Office, campus leaders, and student organizations remains central to the success of these initiatives.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

10:00 a.m. – Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings, and Grounds

Read Materials: [Agenda](#) | [Handout: CSUSM Integrated Science and Engineering Building](#)

Watch Video: [Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings, and Grounds](#)

The Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings, and Grounds, chaired by Trustee McGrory, convened to address two agenda items. First, the committee approved the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting without changes.

For the second agenda item, the committee reviewed the Integrated Science and Engineering Building at California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM) which will address the growing demand for engineering programs and provide collaborative learning spaces for underrepresented groups in STEM.

President Ellen Neufeldt shared that CSUSM serves a diverse student population, with 55% first-generation students, 70% students of color, and 50% Hispanic engineering majors. She emphasized the building's importance in creating opportunities for students and filling regional gaps in industrial and systems engineering education.

Student Speaker Gabriel Diaz, president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, spoke about the challenges faced by first-generation students and the need for collaborative spaces. He highlighted how the building would enhance retention and prepare students for high-demand STEM careers.

Key Sustainability Features:

- Solar panels on parking structures.
- Drought-tolerant landscaping and water-efficient plumbing.
- Energy-efficient lighting and materials to reduce costs and environmental impact.
- Infrastructure design adjustments, such as relocating utility lines, reduced earthmoving costs.

Trustee McGrory praised the project for meeting regional workforce demands and commended CSUSM's partnerships with local industries like ViaSat. Trustee Gilbert-Lurie asked about gender disparities in STEM and how the project could support retention of women in engineering programs. Trustee Lopez highlighted the alignment between the project and CSU's mission to expand equity for underserved students. The project was approved by roll call vote and is expected to be completed by Fall 2026.

The committee also approved various campus development projects across CSU, including student housing expansions, academic building renovations, and infrastructure upgrades. Chancellor Mildred García provided updates on CSU's infrastructure goals and explained the rigorous vetting process for prioritizing projects.

The committee reviewed ongoing sustainability initiatives across CSU campuses presented by Dr. Lisa M. Lee. Key Initiatives:

- Renewable energy installations, including solar and wind projects.
- Achieving LEED certification for campus buildings.

- Waste reduction programs and integration of sustainability into planning decisions.

Trustee Gilbert-Lurie emphasized the importance of incorporating green technologies into future developments and prioritizing sustainability. Trustee Yee-Melichar asked about the university plan to address any unforeseen costs associated with the challenging soil conditions on the project site.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

10:45 a.m. – Committee on Finance

Read Materials: [Agenda](#) | [Annual Investment Report Handout](#)

Watch Video: [Committee on Finance](#)

The Committee on Finance, chaired by Trustee Lopez, convened to discuss several financial topics. The session began with the approval of the consent agenda, which included: Approval of the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting; Approval to Issue Debt for an Affordable Student Housing Project at California State University, Long Beach; and Approval to Issue Debt for an Affordable Student Housing Project at California State University, Fresno. The consent agenda passed unanimously without further discussion.

The primary focus of the session was the California State University Annual Investment Report, presented by Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Steve Relyea and Assistant Vice Chancellor Robert Eaton. Key highlights of the report included:

- The CSU investment portfolios totaled approximately \$6.7 billion as of June 30, 2024.
- The Total Return Portfolio achieved an 11% return for the fiscal year, exceeding the target benchmark of 7%.
- \$95.5 million was distributed from the Total Return Portfolio for campus deferred maintenance projects, with total distributions since inception exceeding \$313.4 million.
- Combined with \$162 million distributed from other investment portfolios, CSU returned \$257 million to campuses in 2024.

Trustee McGrory, chair of the CSU Investment Advisory Committee, was acknowledged for his leadership. He noted that the portfolios' success is due to effective collaboration between the Investment Advisory Committee and external investment managers, emphasizing consistent evaluation processes and the use of high-performing managers.

Trustee Gilbert-Lurie asked for clarification on how investment performance is assessed and whether benchmarks adequately reflect success. EVC Relyea and AVC Eaton explained that the system uses established metrics, such as the S&P benchmark, to evaluate portfolio performance. They highlighted the importance of balancing high

returns with risk management, with a goal of achieving a 4% return over inflation annually. For the 2024 fiscal year, the Total Return Portfolio exceeded expectations with an 11% return. Trustee Lopez concluded the session by expressing gratitude to the presenters and committee members, emphasizing the role of effective financial management in supporting CSU's mission.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

11:15 a.m. – Committee on Organization and Rules

Read Materials: [Agenda](#)

Watch Video: [Committee on Organization and Rules](#)

The Committee on Organization and Rules, chaired by Trustee Firstenberg, convened to address two items. The committee began with the approval of the minutes from the Board's March 24, 2024, meeting. With no objections raised, the minutes were approved unanimously. The sole discussion item was an information report on the proposed Board of Trustees meeting dates for the year 2026, presented by AVC Michelle Kiss. The proposed dates were revised from prior drafts presented in March 2024 and will be brought back for formal action in January 2025.

Key Highlights:

- **May 2026 Meeting Dates:** The dates were moved earlier in the month to avoid conflicts with commencement ceremonies across the CSU system. This adjustment ensures that Trustees and campus leadership can fully participate in both Board responsibilities and the celebration of student achievements during commencement season.
- **November 2026 Meeting Dates:** In light of the national election and federal holidays occurring in November 2026, the proposed dates align closely with the schedules of other university systems, such as the University of California Board of Regents, to minimize conflicts.
- The planning process involved extensive coordination with CSU's Office of General Counsel, Budget and Advocacy Staff, and Chancellor's Office to ensure the proposed schedule accommodates critical governance timelines while respecting external obligations.

Trustees commended the efforts to balance Board obligations with the broader calendar of the CSU system. Trustees expressed appreciation for the adjustments to the May dates, noting that it reflects the Board's commitment to supporting campuses during milestone events like commencements. No further questions or concerns were raised, and the item was concluded.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

11:30 a.m. – Committee on Audit

Read Materials: [Agenda](#)
Watch Video: [Committee on Audit](#)

The Committee on Audit, chaired by Trustee Steinhauser, approved the consent agenda which included the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting and the Status Report on Audit and Advisory Services Activities. This concluded the business of the committee.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

11:35 a.m. – Committee on Governmental Relations

Read Materials: [Agenda](#)
Watch Video: [Committee on Governmental Relations](#)

The Committee on Governmental Relations, chaired by Trustee Brar, approved the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting and discussed two information items: Update on NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA Compliance, and State Legislative Update.

The committee reviewed a written report summarizing the CSU system's efforts to comply with NAGPRA and Cal-NAGPRA. This report, included in the meeting agenda, detailed ongoing efforts to repatriate Native American remains and cultural items in collaboration with tribal nations. Trustee Clarke emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in these processes. Trustees were encouraged to review the report in detail and provide feedback during future meetings.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

11:50 a.m. – Committee on Institutional Advancement

Read Materials: [Agenda](#)
Watch Video: [Committee on Institutional Advancement](#)

The **Committee on Institutional Advancement**, chaired by **Trustee Gilbert-Lurie**, focused solely on the approval of the consent agenda. The committee reviewed and approved the meetings from the September 23, 2024 meeting and the agenda item on Naming of the San Francisco Federal Credit Union Gymnasium at San Francisco State University. This concluded the business of the committee.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

12:00 p.m. – Plenary Session (Day 2)

Read Materials: [Agenda](#) | [SOVA Presentation](#) | [Stakeholder Engagement Update](#)
Watch Video: [Plenary Session Day 2](#)

The Plenary Session (Day 2) was called to order by Chair Clarke marking the conclusion of the two-day CSU Board of Trustees meeting. The session opened with remarks from Chair

Clarke, who expressed gratitude to the Trustees, the Chancellor, and other participants for their dedication to advancing the CSU mission. He emphasized the importance of the Board's collective efforts in addressing the challenges facing the system and enhancing student outcomes.

The session featured a video presentation from Cal State Fullerton introduced by its President, Ronald S. Rochon. The video showcased the achievements of Kelsey Whitmore, a CSU alumna and professional baseball player. Whitmore's story exemplified the impact of CSU alumni in breaking barriers and achieving success in their respective fields.

Following the video, the Board moved to the consent agenda. Chair Clarke called for any requests to discuss items separately. With no objections, the consent agenda was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

The session concluded with final remarks from Chair Clarke. He commended the Trustees for their thoughtful engagement and encouraged reflection on the accomplishments and discussions of the meeting. Chair Clarke announced that the next Board meeting would be held on **January 27–29, 2025** and extended his wishes for a peaceful and productive holiday season. The meeting adjourned shortly thereafter.

###

Faculty Trustee Request for Consultation and Feedback

Based on what I have shared with you in my earlier *Faculty Trustee Reports* and above in this report (links to the specific meeting materials and videos; brief summaries using ChatGPT with technical assistance provided by [SF State Academic Technology](#) and in concurrence with my personal meeting notes), I seek and value your continued feedback on items which the BoT has considered or will be considering:


- 1) I have been appointed to four [Board of Trustees Standing Committees](#); these include Audit; Educational Policy; Finance; and Governmental Relations.
Do you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate have any concerns/items that you would like to bring to my attention at this time? I would especially like to hear about your campus feedback on the Board of Trustees meeting items related to these four standing committee assignments.

- 2) The ASCSU has weighed in on legislative bills through prior resolutions including:
 - [2024 State Legislative Advocacy Positions of the Academic Senate of the California State University](#)
 - [2024 Federal Legislative Advocacy Positions of the Academic Senate of the California State University](#)

Do you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate have any feedback regarding the [CSU Legislative Update – End of Session Legislative](#)

Summary? Do you have specific legislative bills that are of concern and/or of interest to you at this time?

- 3) Last year, trustees heard that campuses are implementing several cost reduction strategies (see below slide). On your campus, which of these cost reduction strategies are you already implementing? Which of these cost reduction strategies are you considering/discussing for implementation? Are there other cost reduction strategies (not on the below slide) that your campus might explore? And, can you think of any inter-departmental and/or cross-campus cost reduction strategies that we might explore together as a system?

 The California State University

Budget Planning & Actions

Universities are implementing several cost reduction strategies:

- Consolidate programs
- Defer capital/maintenance projects
- Reduce hiring and elimination of positions
- Increase class size
- Reduce courses to reflect student demand
- Reduce part-time faculty/lecturers
- Reduce service levels provided by staff
- Reduce travel
- Restructure departments
- Restrict non-essential purchases

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- 4) Can you think of some experiences that may help us to enhance “communication, consultation and collaboration” at our campuses and within the system? Do you have any suggestions on how to plan these experiences so that the Academic Senate CSU might better interface with the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor’s Office, California State Student Association, CSU Alumni Council, CSU Council of Campus Senate Chairs, Campus Presidents/Provosts/Vice Presidents, etc.?
- 5) The next regular meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees will be on 1/27-29/2025. The ASCSU is not meeting the week immediately before this Board meeting, and the Board agenda and materials are not yet available. Consequently, I would like to take this opportunity to seek your thoughts on some topics that have come my way during trustee campus visits:
- California Master Plan on Higher Education
 - California Master Plan on Career Education
 - California Cradle-to-Career Data System

- Career Passport
- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)
- Dual Enrollment
- Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM)
- Differential Tuition Rates
- Year of engagement – reimaging student success
- Three-Year Degrees
- Graduate Programs
- Blended Programs (4+1)
- Year-Round Operation (YRO)
- Faculty As A Resource
- Work-based learning

I look forward to hearing (and learning) from you and your campus constituents. Please email me (dyee@calstate.edu) or let me know if you wish to meet through a phone call or Zoom session.

Thank you for your consideration, leadership and commitment to higher education and the CSU. I hope you are enjoying a healthy/safe and productive/rewarding spring 2025 semester!