

LOBBY CORPS MINUTES

Meeting #13

November 29, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bryanna Siguenza called the meeting to order at 2:31pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present

Bryanna Siguenza, ASI Chief Government Relations Officer
Genesis Jara, ASI Vice President Designee
Frances Canales, ASI Senate Representative
Justin Contreras, ASI Senate Representative
Mateo Maya, ASI Student At-Large
Melissa Mejia, ASI Senate Representative
Reyalyn Villegas, ASI Student At-Large
Autumn Farmer, AVP Legislative & External Relations Designee (TC 2:33pm)

Voting Members Absent

Elena Philippou, ASI Student At-Large

Non-voting Members Present

Non-voting Members Absent

Joe Nino, Assistant Director ASI
Government Affairs & Initiatives

3. APPROVAL /CORRECTIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(M) Maya (S) Mejia to approve the Lobby Corps Agenda, Meeting #13, November 29, 2018

VOTE ON THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIES

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Action Item: Lobby Corps Minutes, Meeting #12, November 15, 2018

(M) Villegas (S) Canales to approve Lobby Corps Minutes, Meeting #12, November 15, 2018

VOTE ON THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIES

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

6. REPORTS

A. Chief Government Relations Officer

There was none.

B. Vice Chair

There was none.

C. At-Large Representatives

Maya: there was no university business at the last city council meeting

D. Senate

There was none.

E. AVP Legislative & External Relations

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion Item: Student-At-Large Reports

(M) Canales (S) Maya to postpone At-Large Representatives Reports until the next meeting

VOTE ON THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIES

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion Item: Preparation for CHES

What is CHES?

The California Higher Education Student Summit (CHES) is an annual conference held at Sacramento State. CHES is put on by the California State Student Association (CSSA), the officially-recognized representative group of all CSU students.

The purpose of CHES is to educate, train, and organize students to take part in our advocacy efforts in the coming year.

Lobby Corps Role

1. Release application
2. Interview/ Select candidates
3. Each Lobby Corps member will lead one team
4. Host trainings for all CHES members
5. Create a team chant
6. Host group huddles at CHES
7. Lobby at the Capital!

Timeline

- December= Lobby Corps will be trained/ attending leg. visits
- December- January 25th= Applications Open
 - Advertise via: Posters, Beach Board, Social Media, Beach Sync
- January 31st= Interview/ Select Candidates
 - Decide interview style prior to this date
 - Preferred availability during Lobby Corps meetings
- February 7th- 28th= Trainings begin
 - One Saturday Training Day
 - Host brief trainings during Lobby Corps
 - Each group will practice team chant on their own schedules
- March 7th= Team Meet
 - Rehearse legislative visits + team chant
- March 9th-11th= CHES
 - Night before legislative visits, each team leader will host a team huddle

B. Discussion Item: CSSA Presentation

Legislative Affairs

The College Opportunity Undocumented Coalition

Action

- CSU System is the first and only student organizations to sign onto this coalition in support of undocumented student issues.
- CSSA voted officially to join this coalition.
- More info TBA

Help Students Vote Act

Action

- Help Student Act requests each campus:
 - Voter Registration Coordinator
 - Two emails being sent out about elections
- Students can pursue civil action against universities who do not inform students about elections
- CSSA voted to support this act

University Affairs

Grad Initiative 2025

- Enrollment Management:
 - Improve percentage of students with degree plan prior to first term
 - Improve data infrastructure to deliver real time actionable information regarding student progress
 - Rethink structural organization of advising office
 - Advising accountability

Board of Directors

Resolution for Undocumented Students

- Resolution addresses: gaps that have been made by DACA being rescinded
 - Creating opportunity focused action such as stipend based pay so undocumented students can participate
- How is it different from last one? It is holding Chancellor's Office accountable to distributing Dept. of Social Services funding
 - Lack of connect between DRC's and Chancellor's office → addresses that

Presentation by Coalition for a Better UC

Presented

- Expansion of the Cal Grant Awards
 - CSU students are not graduating on time → rate of graduating on time doubles when student comes from high income background
 - 4 year graduation rate for CSU students = 21%
- Create a bill!
 - Creates a separate Cal Grant program monitored by CSAC
 - Summer Cal Grant will be given two full summer terms
- Executive Compensation Resolution: postponed till task force meets
- CIVIC Engagement Task Force: Live streamed via Facebook!
- CSSA July 2019: Hosted at CSU Chancellor's Office
- Student Trustee Search-- application open Oct. 14th- Jan 11th at 4 p.m.

C. Discussion Item: Undocumented Students Resolutions

CSSA Resolution – Commitment to Increase Opportunity for Undocumented Students in the CSU

Whereas, the California State Student Association (CSSA) is the single recognized voice for over 474,000 students of the California State University (CSU) system; and

Whereas, the Cal State Student Association (CSSA), as a student-led organization, strives to improve the lives of California State University (CSU) students by advocating for student needs and engaging students in systemwide, state, and federal higher education policy making; and

Whereas, CSSA is committed to servant leadership. As stated in the 2018-2019 policy agenda, “CSSA will pursue its mission guided by the belief that our purpose in our leadership roles is to serve the communities to which we belong with empathy and care.” and <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gatUhwjHjtHkskjJGZWm2jsqvagaUnOG/view>

Whereas, a 2017 resolution by the Academic Senate of the CSU urged increased support for undocumented students, including encouragement for CSU campuses to not enter into agreements or enforcement actions with law enforcement agencies and that California U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives draft and pass federal legislation that provides DACA protections for undocumented students; and

<https://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Records/Resolutions/2017-2018/Documents/3303.pdf>

Whereas, the leader of the California State University System (CSU) Chancellor White stated his disappointment with the U.S. Administration's decision to rescind DACA by stating, "This program enabled thousands of academically qualified Californians to pursue their dreams at California State University campuses, and was widely acknowledged as a strategic benefit to our state and, indeed, our nation." and

<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/Chancellor-White%27s-Message-to-CSU-Community-on-DACA.aspx>

Whereas, in 2017 the CSSA Board of Directors passed a resolution in support of the undocumented community stating, "That CSSA strongly urge and assist individual campuses that have not had the resources available to establish resource spaces, hire student support services, or professional staff members to support undocumented students." and

<https://www.calstatestudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/05-06-17-Resolution-Supporting-Undocumented-Students-in-the-CSU.pdf>

Whereas, the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was rescinded on June 16, 2017, and it's still existing uncertainty, continues to jeopardize the safety and well-being of undocumented individuals within the CSU system; and

Whereas, the uncertainty of the current national politics causes tremendous apprehension amongst students, as well as disruption in our classrooms and schools, which is not conducive to student learning and has a detrimental impact on overall student achievement; and

Whereas, The rejection of four proposals to potentially replace DACA failed in the U.S. Senate and leave the undocumented community throughout the nation in limbo with their legal status; and therefore, be it

https://www.washingtonpost.com/powerpost/as-immigration-showdown-looms-in-senate-trump-administration-is-doing-everything-in-our-power-to-stop-bipartisan-plan-official-says/2018/02/15/e0cff9d0-1260-11e8-8ea1-c1d91fcec3fe_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6d4bc07c812e

Resolved, That CSSA refuses to marginalize any CSU student on the basis of their immigration status; and be it further

Resolved, That CSSA calls upon its members to create, and encourage campus communities to create, stipend-based internships that allow undocumented students to gain valuable career experience; and be it further

Resolved, That CSSA calls upon the California Department of Social Services to consult with CSU Campus Resource Centers, in identifying Community Based Organizations that provide confidential and specific counseling and legal services for undocumented students; and be it further

Resolved, that Department of Social Services funding be distributed proportional to the student population and capacity of respective CSU campuses, and be it further

Resolved, That CSSA calls upon the CSU to connect undocumented students without DACA status with career and continuing education options post-graduation, and be it further

Resolved, That CSSA calls upon the CSU to maintain funding for these services, regardless of changes in state or federal budgets, and be it further

Resolved, That the CSSA call upon the U.S. Congress to preserve and extend the DACA program to allow our students, staff, and faculty to regain certainty and fairness in their lives; and be it further

Resolved, that CSSA calls upon the U.S. Congress to expedite the passage of legislation that will protect our undocumented students from deportation and ensure their rights in the U.S., and be it finally

Resolved, that this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White, CSU Academic Senate Chair, Adam Day, CSU Presidents, CSU Associated Students, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education, Jose Medina, Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education Ben Allen, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, and Governor Gavin Newsom.

D. Discussion Item: Aim Higher Education Act

The Aim Higher Act is a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) introduced by House Democrats. In contrast to H.R. 4508 (the PROSPER Act), the Democratic bill is designed to give every student the opportunity to earn a debt-free degree or credential that leads to a rewarding career. It makes higher education more accessible by creating targeted programs that allow traditionally underrepresented students to enroll in college and strengthening existing access programs, simplifying the financial aid application, and ensuring students have access to a quality program. The Aim Higher Act also makes college more affordable today and addresses the rising cost of college to reduce the burden on students in the future. Recognizing that the best measure of success is completing college, the bill invests in programs and services – like career counseling and campus-based child care – that will help students graduate and put them on a path to success.

The Aim Higher Act consists of proposals introduced through [Aim Higher](#), the House Democratic legislative campaign launched in May 2017, [amendments](#) offered by Committee Democrats during the December 2017 markup of H.R. 4508, and research-based reforms developed in consultation with higher education practitioners and thought leaders.

This bill summary provides information on how the Aim Higher Act improves access to a quality degree, makes college more affordable, and increases college completion.

E. Discussion Item: Debt Free College Act & College for All Act

Higher education is one of the surest paths to economic security and opportunity for Americans. College-degree holders earn over 65 percent more than workers with only high school degrees, and the unemployment rate for workers with a college degree is less than half that of high school graduates.

The cost of college, however, is astronomically high and has increased 300 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars over the past 30 years. Beyond tuition and fees, the total cost of attendance—room and board, books and supplies, and other expenses—puts higher education out of reach for many Americans. For others, soaring college costs force them to take on debt to cover their financial need. Currently, 44 million Americans have student loans. College debt has increased 170 percent since 2006 and now exceeds \$1.4 trillion dollars, which is second only to mortgage debt and surpasses even credit card debt.

Rising student debt is taking a toll on the economy. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student loan debt is responsible for 35 percent of the decline in homeownership since 2007. The percentage of younger people who reported owning a business was cut in half between 2010 and 2013. And Pew Research Center found that about 50 percent of student borrowers say their loans increase their risk of defaulting on other bills. Without a solution, the economic impact of this crisis will continue to drag down new business starts, homeownership rates, and household wealth creation.

Congress must address the student debt crisis by creating a path for students to graduate without the burden of student debt. Through the Debt-Free College Act, the federal government would work in partnership with states to make debt-free college a reality for students within five years

F. Action Item: Approval of the 2018-2019 Policy Agenda

(M) Maya (S) Mejia to table Approval of the 2018-2019 Policy Agenda until the next meeting

VOTE ON THE MOTION

MOTION CARRIES

9. VOLUNTARY CLOSING COMMENTS

10. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection Chair Siguenza adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm.