

To: Peter Hanink, Senate Chair CPP

From: Faye Linda Wachs and Teresa Lloro, ASCSU Senators

This report summarizes the September 2025 Plenary of the ASCSU which took place September 4-5, with committee meetings on September 3. Dr. Lloro and Dr. Wachs both serve on the JEDI committee.

Reports

Chair Boyd provided a welcome and statement. Chair Boyd's statement can be found here: [Chair](#)

- Standing Committees (with links to reports included)
 - [Academic Affairs \(AA\)](#) [Schürer] – Notes can be found at the preceding link. The primary item worth noting is discussion of three year degrees. Should we offer more accelerated 120 unit three year programs?
 - [Academic Preparation and Educational Programs \(APEP\)](#) [Van Selst] – See the preceding link for minutes. Item worth noting: discussion to oversight of Ethnic studies requirements. There are concerns that some revisions may be necessary.
 - [Faculty Affairs \(FA\)](#) [Michieka] – Preceding link- items of note- a discussion of how to orient presidents and incoming administrators to shared governance.
 - [Fiscal and Governmental Affairs \(FGA\)](#) [Rein] – Link to minutes precedes- item of note- a resolution to protect HSIs.
 - [Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion \(JEDI\)](#) [Montaño] – minutes link precede- items of note- resolution valuing international students, discussion of job fair challenges
 - [General Education Advisory Committee \(GEAC\)](#) [Schlievert] -items of note- ongoing discussion of CAL GETC and impacts and credit for examination
- [Legislative Specialists](#) [Lam/Pitts] -
- [CSU Faculty Trustee](#) [Yee-Melichar]
- [ERFSA](#) [Schutte] – items of note- increase in what employees have to pay for prescriptions

Guests:

Mildred Garcia, Chancellor of the CSU

Chancellor Garcia opened by acknowledging the passing of former Chancellor Joe Castro and expressing gratitude to Chair Boyd and all faculty for their service. She welcomed the lecturer Senators and emphasized the importance of collective leadership during a challenging time for higher education. She announced the appointment of Dr. Junius Gonzales as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, beginning October 6, and thanked Dr. Nathan Evans for his service.

She reviewed the current budget landscape, noting the reduction in the CSU's base budget by 3% (\$144M), down from the initially proposed 7.95% cut, and the deferral of compact funding until 2028–29. The Chancellor's Office is leading with cost reductions of 8%, higher than those expected of campuses. While thankful for advocacy efforts that minimized the cuts, she emphasized that the system continues to face significant financial challenges.

On the federal front, Chancellor Garcia warned of growing threats to higher education values, including intensified immigration enforcement and scrutiny of DEI efforts. She reiterated the CSU's commitment to providing safe, inclusive environments and encouraged use of updated campus and systemwide resources for undocumented students.

She highlighted progress in AI initiatives, including the launch of the CSU AI Commons and selection of 63 faculty-led AI innovation projects. She also described the newly formalized AI Workforce Acceleration Board in partnership with Governor Newsom and industry leaders.

The Chancellor provided an update on the CSU systemwide strategic plan, set to be presented to the Board of Trustees in September 2025. She emphasized its bold goals: enhancing student success, maintaining affordability, supporting faculty and staff development, and leveraging the CSU's system to improve efficiency, collaboration, and innovation. She concluded by reaffirming her belief in the CSU's capacity to serve as a national model for regional public universities.

Senators thanked Chancellor Garcia for her presence and engagement. Questions covered a range of topics including the \$45 million in funding for Sonoma State, with clarification that funds will support the campus's "bridge to the future" plan and that a portion is structured as a line of credit. Concerns were raised about persistent funding disparities between the CSU, the UC, and CCC systems; Garcia acknowledged these inequities and emphasized that her office continues to advocate assertively for the CSU.

Multiple senators raised concerns about the rollout of the CSU's ChatGPT.edu initiative, urging more faculty involvement, protections for academic integrity and intellectual property, and a stronger emphasis on critical thinking and ethical use. Chancellor Garcia reaffirmed that AI is a tool—not a replacement—and that faculty should guide students in using it responsibly. She agreed to further collaboration through Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Evans.

There was an appeal for a more strategic, unified, and visible approach to federal threats to higher education, especially regarding immigration enforcement, optional practical training (OPT), and potential attacks on in-state tuition for undocumented students. Chancellor Garcia emphasized the CSU's commitment to academic freedom and affirmed that systemwide leadership is actively monitoring and coordinating responses, including regular communication with the California Attorney General's office.

Senators called for more timely responses to ASCSU resolutions and for greater collaboration and transparency in policy decisions affecting faculty. Chancellor Garcia agreed and committed to improving response processes.

Additional questions addressed faculty safety in the face of public records requests and harassment, intersegmental collaboration, legislative strategy, and maintaining ties with international partners during a time of federal instability. Chancellor Garcia concluded by reaffirming her support for faculty and students and thanked the Senate for its continued leadership and partnership.

Visit from Dilcie Perez, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs & Chief Student Affairs Officer

Robert Caron, Specialist Leader, Deloitte Consulting

Of note was an Update on Year of Engagement ([Slides](#))

A presentation on the Year of engagement and BOT was included.

[Link to July 2025 Year of Engagement Faculty Survey BoT Presentation](#)

[Link to July 2025 BoT report \(see page 5+\)](#)

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 be shared with the Board of Trustees. The presentation highlighted that the framework is informed by extensive consultation and includes direct faculty input, especially through the systemwide faculty survey on student success conducted over the summer. The teaching and learning strategies, developed collaboratively with ASCSU members, reflect faculty values and concerns and are central to the framework.

The presentation emphasized integration with other planning efforts, including the CSU Strategic Plan, the IT Strategic Plan, and Strategic Enrollment Management. Key areas of the student success experience include affordability, adaptive teaching and learning, advising and pathways, streamlined experiences, and development of real-world skills and networks. Equity, student-centered approaches, and cross-divisional collaboration are embedded throughout.

The framework aims to be a living document with room for continued faculty engagement and refinement. Implementation will include change management efforts, formation of system and campus-level teams, and data infrastructure development. The Graduation Initiative 2025 will formally conclude, with future student success efforts aligned under this new framework. Senators were invited to provide feedback and continue collaborating during the implementation phase.

Senators provided feedback on the framework's implementation and content. Suggestions included clarifying that open educational resources (OER) are one of many faculty contributions to affordability, and ensuring flexibility in systemwide tools to avoid widespread disruptions. Concerns were raised about large class sizes and workload as barriers to meaningful student engagement.

Senators emphasized the importance of including graduate students, distance learners, and rural populations in experiential learning plans. Calls were made to engage labor partners early in implementation to respect bargaining agreements. Clarification was provided on interest in both accelerated 3-year pathways and degrees with fewer than 120 units.

DVC Perez and Chair Boyd affirmed continued faculty involvement, highlighting past collaboration on the faculty survey as a model. A sense of urgency in implementation was acknowledged, with an emphasis on maintaining shared governance throughout the process. A request was made to ensure faculty contributions are visible in Board of Trustees presentations.

Visit from Margarita Berta-Ávila, CFA President, Liaison Report

CFA President Berta-Ávila addressed senators, outlining key union priorities and areas of concern. She emphasized CFA's position that the Chancellor should accept the 0% interest loan to reverse job cuts and fund contractual obligations. Concerns were raised about the lack of consultation on the \$17M AI initiative, prompting CFA to file an unfair practice charge.

She highlighted CFA's ongoing advocacy around academic freedom, opposition to ICE presence on campuses, and support for undocumented students, including co-sponsorship of several state bills (SB 98, SB 805, SB 307). CFA is also pressing for stronger protections and proactive leadership from the Chancellor on these issues.

On bargaining, Berta-Ávila noted delays due to disputes over ground rules but affirmed that the team is ready with proposals on workload, job security, and academic freedom. She reported that more than half of the bargaining team are lecturers and emphasized the goal of broad representation and equity across faculty roles.

Senators raised questions about workload equity, support for research, lecturer compensation, regional pay disparities, and inclusion of counselors, coaches, and librarians. Berta-Ávila acknowledged all concerns and committed to bringing them back to the bargaining team.

She also described CFA's collaboration with AAUP on national efforts to restore research funding and said additional details would be shared with the Senate.

Visit from Dilcie Perez, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs & Chief Student Affairs Officer

Nathan Evans, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs & Chief Academic Officer

DVC Evans began by acknowledging the difficulty of the current moment in higher education and emphasized the importance of shared values and ongoing partnership between the Chancellor's Office and the ASCSU. He welcomed the appointment of Dr. Junius Gonzalez as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and noted that the bifurcation of Academic and Student Affairs aims to better support the CSU's scale and complexity.

He provided an enrollment update, highlighting that California resident enrollment has increased by over 7,700 students compared to Fall 2024, meeting expectations in the state budget. However, international student enrollment is down due to visa issues. He also noted that 22 new program projections are being proposed in the current cycle and shared ongoing work on the Strategic Enrollment Management plan, emphasizing the need for a more holistic approach to recruitment, retention, and completion.

DVC Perez focused on student safety, undocumented student support, and system-wide response planning. She outlined work of the Strategic Response Team, which meets regularly to prepare guidance on emerging national issues. Efforts are underway to ensure undocumented students can complete their degrees even if detained or deported, and campuses are encouraged to develop local response teams and tabletop exercises for ICE-related incidents. She reiterated that the CSU is not abandoning DEI values and is focused on inclusive practices and language.

Both DVCs addressed dual enrollment, noting that more than half of CSU campuses already participate and that better coordination with community colleges and K–12 is needed. Concerns were raised about quality control, equity of access, and academic outcomes. They affirmed that dual enrollment and adult learning will be addressed in the Strategic Plan strategy.

Evans also noted that the CSU lacks real-time student data across the system and emphasized the need to improve data systems to better support interventions and planning. He cited the CSU's participation in pilot efforts like direct admissions with K–12 partners as models of innovation.

In discussion, senators raised concerns about growing reliance on self-support programs, disparities in campus policies around second baccalaureates, articulation and admissions challenges, and workload inequities. The importance of maintaining faculty involvement in implementation of strategic initiatives was repeatedly emphasized.

Finally, they shared that the Graduation Initiative 2025 Symposium will take place October 15–16 in Los Angeles, with a focus on lessons learned and next steps for student success.

Visit from Adrian Harrell, Alumni Council President

Jodi Braverman, Executive Director, CSU Alumni Council

Lori Brockett, Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement and University Events (CSUSM)

CSU Alumni Council Liaison Report

An overview of the Council's mission, structure, and current initiatives was given. It was emphasized that 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.

Personal stories underscoring the lasting impact of faculty and the value of strong faculty–alumni relationships were shared. The Council's priorities include advocacy for the CSU, supporting campus alumni organizations, and shaping alumni-related policy. 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. They highlighted how alumni often credit faculty for shaping their CSU experience and want to support students' success in return. Senators raised questions about access to alumni, graduate student engagement, and collaboration with advancement offices. They expressed interest in expanding mentoring to graduate students and affirmed their commitment to deeper faculty partnerships.

Visit from Katie Karroum, CSSA Vice President of Systemwide Affairs

CSSA Liaison Report

<https://calstatestudents.org/>

<https://calstatestudents.org/involvement/meetings/>

VP Karroum introduced herself as the new CSSA liaison and emphasized her commitment to student advocacy. She shared recent and ongoing involvement in:

- **AI Initiative:** Raised concerns about inconsistent classroom policies, unreliable AI detection tools, and lack of clear student guidance. Called for ethical AI use, training for students and faculty, and systemwide transparency.
- **AB 928 & Cal-GETC:** Serving on the implementation committee and interested in follow-up with ASCSU on related policy impacts.

- Student Success: Participated in the Deloitte Steering Committee and Basic Needs Convening.
- Upcoming Engagement: Invited senators to CSSA's Sept. 13 Systemwide Affairs meeting to hear student input on AI.

Senate discussion focused on AI policy, 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.

Committee of the Whole – Discussion of Current Events

Reflections on the Plenary

Senators shared feedback on the overall structure, tone, and substance of the plenary. Multiple senators expressed appreciation for:

- Increased collaboration with the Chancellor's Office, particularly the constructive engagement with Chancellor Garcia and the presence of DVCs Evans and Perez.
- The Committee of the Whole, which was described as powerful, reflective, and valuable.
- Efforts to support new senators, including the pre-plenary orientation and a slower plenary pace that facilitated learning.
- Lecturer inclusion in the ASCSU and the meaningful contributions of lecturer senators.

Concerns and suggestions included:

- Excessive time spent wordsmithing resolutions, especially waiver items without prior feedback. Suggestions included limiting first-reading waivers, rethinking debate timing, and streamlining editing processes.
- Calls for better tracking of resolution outcomes and Chancellor's Office responses, with proposals for a dashboard or spreadsheet.
- Time management and agenda balance, including shorter guest presentations to allow more time for debate.
- Need for consistent, fair use of interruption procedures and possible reevaluation of their implementation to ensure harm is not caused.
- Importance of inclusive, supportive spaces, with several senators calling for compassion, community-building, and "soft places to land" in the Senate.

- Desire for more access to CSU-wide data on enrollment, budget, and faculty workload to better inform discussion and resolutions.
- Technology issues, especially with SharePoint and finding committee meeting links.
- Calls for reimagining meeting structure, such as virtual committee work in advance of plenaries and creating time for cross-committee collaboration or professional development.
- Preserving shared governance, with concerns about national trends (e.g., loss of faculty senates in Texas) and the importance of maintaining faculty voice in the CSU.

Senators closed with expressions of gratitude to colleagues, executive committee members, and staff, emphasizing their commitment to building a more collaborative, respectful, and effective ASCSU.

Committee Recommendations:

Action Items:

3761-25/FGA/JEDI: Protecting Federal HSI Programs

Waiver – Approved

Resolution – Approved

3762-25/JEDI/APEP: Statement on the Importance of International Students

Waiver – Approved

Resolution – Approved

First Readings:

3760-25/APEP: Supporting the California State University (CSU) System Office Review Standards for General Education (GE) Area 6 (Ethnic Studies) Submissions