

AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Meeting: 1:15 p.m., Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Glenn S. Dumke Conference Center

Yammilette Rodriguez, Chair
Raji Kaur Brar, Vice Chair
Douglas Faigin
Leslie Gilbert-Lurie
Jazmin Guajardo
Lillian Kimbell
Julia I. Lopez
Jonathan Molina Mancio
Sam Nejabat
Jose Antonio Vargas
Darlene Yee-Melichar

- Consent** 1. Approval of Minutes, *Action*
- Discussion** 2. Update on NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA Compliance, *Information*
3. Statement on State Legislative Principles for 2025 and 2026, *Action*
4. Federal Agenda for 2025 and 2026, *Action*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**Trustees of The California State University
Office of the Chancellor
Glenn S. Dumke Conference Center
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, California**

November 21, 2024

Members Present

Raji Kaur Brar, Vice Chair
Douglas Faigin
Leslie Gilbert-Lurie
Jazmin Guajardo
Julia I. Lopez
Jonathan Molina Mancio
Sam Nejabat
Jose Antonio Vargas
Darlene Yee-Melichar

Jack B. Clarke, Jr., Chair of the Board
Mildred García, Chancellor

Trustee Brar chaired and called the meeting to order.

Consent Agenda

The minutes of the September 25, 2024 meeting of the Committee on Governmental Relations were approved as submitted.

Item 2, Update on NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA Compliance, and Item 3, State Legislative Update, were information items.

Trustee Brar adjourned the meeting of the Committee on Governmental Relations.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Update on NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA Compliance

Presentation By

Greg Saks
Vice Chancellor
External Relations and Communications

Samantha Cypret
Executive Director
Office of Tribal Relations

Summary

This agenda item provides an update on systemwide compliance in relation to federal and state laws that require the repatriation of Native American ancestral remains and cultural items that are in a university's possession or control.

Background

The January 2024 Board of Trustees meeting included a discussion on systemwide and university compliance in relation to the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA), AB 389, and the 2023 state audit. The Board of Trustees has requested updates at future meetings on progress made towards meeting our responsibilities under state and federal law.

State Audit Update

As previously reported, the Chancellor's Office submitted its one-year response to the California State Auditor, which details the progress made on the auditor's eight recommendations. The State Auditor has determined that the recommendations associated with the Chancellor's Office administrative structure and budget estimates have been fully implemented, while the remaining items are still in progress. In December 2024, the Chancellor's Office reported to the State Auditor that Recommendation #5, concerning each university having a full-time and experienced coordinator, has been fulfilled. The next report to the State Auditor is due in June 2025.

Systemwide Policy Development and Listening Sessions

AB 389 requires, and the 2023 state audit recommends, that the Chancellor's Office adopt a systemwide policy to better implement the state and federal NAGPRA laws that includes conducting meaningful consultation and timely repatriation. AB 389 requires that this policy must be done in consultation with Tribes and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). A formal 90-day consultation period for Tribes to offer feedback on the working draft policy concluded on November 30. During that period several one-on-one Tribal consultation meetings took place, as well as virtual consultations. Open forum discussion sessions were held with Tribes in the San Diego, Lemoore, and Chico areas. More than 35 Tribes provided feedback, either verbal or written, during this formal consultation period.

Since the consultation period has concluded, Tribal feedback has been incorporated into a draft systemwide policy. That version will be shared with the NAHC and with CSU stakeholders this winter and spring.

The remaining schedule, with additional descriptions, for the systemwide policy development process is below:

January – March 2025	Draft Systemwide NAGPRA Policy released for review by all stakeholders including Tribes, NAHC, and CSU; consultation opportunities will be offered
April 2025	Incorporate stakeholder feedback to develop the final draft of the Systemwide NAGPRA Policy
May – June 2025	Final draft of the Systemwide NAGPRA Policy stakeholder review period. Additional feedback received will be incorporated.
July 2025	Adoption and implementation by CSU

Campus Coordinators

AB 389 requires campuses with Native American remains and cultural items to have full-time, experienced repatriation coordinators on or before July 1, 2024. The state audit also recommended that universities employ full-time coordinators. As noted above, at the conclusion of 2024, all 21 of the universities required to have a full-time experienced coordinator have hired one. Across the CSU, the Chancellor's Office staff and university leaders continue to work with all coordinators as they conduct campus inventories and consult with tribes to advance repatriation efforts.

Systemwide Committee and Campus Committees

AB 389 requires the creation of systemwide and campus-based NAGPRA committees; the state audit also recommends it. The law requires the NAHC to review applicants and nominate them to the chancellor for appointment. Each systemwide and campus-based committee will include four voting Tribal representatives and three voting university members.

At the NAHC's October 2024 meeting, 21 committee members were nominated, and the Chancellor has appointed each to their campus committee. Additional committee members are expected to be nominated at the NAHC's January meeting. As of December 2024, 50 committee members have now been appointed to committees at 19 universities. Chico State has a full committee, and quorums exist at San Diego State, San Francisco State, Sacramento State and Sonoma State.

More than 100 additional committee members are still needed across the system. In December, the Office of Tribal Relations sent a letter to all Tribes in California encouraging additional committee applicants. All campus presidents and presidential designees have also been asked to encourage qualified campuses representative to apply for vacant positions. The NAHC will continue to take applications for nominations for committee members until all positions are filled.

Prohibition on Teaching, Research, and Display

AB 389 and the new federal regulations place an additional emphasis on prohibiting the use of ancestral remains or cultural items that are in a university's collection for the purpose of teaching, research or display. On March 18, 2024, Chancellor García issued a memorandum directing university presidents to abide by the state and federal regulations and to ensure ancestral remains or cultural items that are in a university's collection are not used in teaching, research or are on display. The future systemwide policy will include this prohibition and federal Duty of Care requirements.

Status of Inventories

AB 389 requires the CSU to report to the legislature on the progress that each university has made reviewing its collections of Native American ancestors and cultural items by December 31, 2024. In 2023 and 2024, each university received instructions from the Chancellor's Office to conduct thorough campus-wide searches for items. Universities subsequently assessed all areas, including departments, labs, offices, storage facilities, and off-site or satellite locations.

In December, the report mandated by AB 389 was submitted to the legislature that outlined the progress each campus has made with the review of their inventories. The 2023 state audit reported that CSU universities had 5,804 ancestral remains and 692,400 cultural items in their collections. The recently completed 2024 report to the legislature showed that CSU universities had 2,245 ancestral remains and over one million cultural items in their collections.

Five universities (Chico, Los Angeles, Northridge, Sacramento, and San Francisco) have made significant progress in repatriating both ancestral remains and cultural items. Chico State has facilitated the repatriation and reburial of 2,567 ancestral remains and more than 97,000 cultural items belonging to a Tribal consortium that includes six Tribes. This represents approximately 94% of the ancestral remains and 86% of the cultural items that were in Chico State's collections. Chico State's repatriation efforts took more than five years to reach this point. Sacramento State has repatriated 91% of ancestral remains and 75% of cultural items representing 1,639 ancestors and 91,235 cultural items (defined as catalog records, not physical items).

Fiscal Planning

The CSU 2024-2025 operating budget request included \$4.25 million for NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA compliance and the Chancellor's Office has allocated the full amount. This was the first time that the CSU has allocated funding to universities for their repatriation efforts. In August, as part of the annual budget allocation process, the Chancellor's Office allocated \$3.4 million to the 21 universities with collections. Each university was allocated between \$115,000 and \$200,000, with the universities with the largest collections receiving the larger amount. Many campuses have used additional campus funds to support repatriation-related costs, including, but not limited to hiring and training staff, supporting university committees, engaging in Tribal consultation, and fulfilling Tribal requests. Universities are also encouraged to use their existing funds in addition to the new allocations. Of the \$4.25 million allocated, \$550,000 was allocated to the Chancellor's Office to support the systemwide efforts that the auditor has recommended and AB 389 requires.

The Board of Trustees' adopted 2025-2026 operating budget request includes an additional \$4.5 million for NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA compliance.

In November, each university shared NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA budget projections for 2025-2026 with the Chancellor's Office. Per AB 389, a report on each campus' fiscal needs will be shared with the legislature by January 31, 2025.

Chancellor's Office Support

In 2024, the Chancellor's Office established the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) within the Division of External Relations and Communication. In December, Samantha Cypret (Mountain Maidu) joined the Chancellor's Office as OTR's first executive director. Cypret was previously chief of staff for the Wilton Rancheria in Elk Grove and is based in Sacramento. Prior to this role, she served as the Tribe's Tribal Court Director and also brings significant experience from her tenure at the NAHC, where she held progressively senior positions within the legal department, focusing on compliance, government relations, negotiations between Tribes and agencies, and advocacy for Tribal concerns.

The Office of Tribal Relations will be holding NAGPRA training sessions for university staff in 2025. Progress continues to be made implementing a systemwide software system for a collections management database for the use of all campuses to manage, track, and report their NAGPRA collection inventories and activities.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Statement of State Legislative Principles for 2025 and 2026

Presentation By

Greg Saks
Vice Chancellor
External Relations and Communications

Nathan Dietrich
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Advocacy and State Relations

Summary

This item contains the proposed Statement of State Legislative Principles for 2025 and 2026.

Background

At the beginning of every two-year legislative session, the Board of Trustees adopts a formal Statement of State Legislative Principles for the California State University. The principles provide basic parameters to guide positions taken by the chancellor and system representatives on matters pending before the California legislature. No revisions from the previous statement are proposed for the 2025-2026 Session.

Statement of Legislative Principles

As the state's greatest producer of bachelor's degrees, the California State University plays a critical role in arming future leaders with the skills and knowledge for them to thrive in the workforce, strengthen the economy and actively contribute to the quality of life in California. The CSU achieves these results by providing affordable, accessible and high-quality education, as outlined in the Master Plan for Higher Education. The system and its leaders, faculty and staff remain committed to this important work for the betterment of today and tomorrow.

The following constitute the core principles guiding recommendations on legislation:

1. Work with the legislature and governor to allow the California State University to continue its oversight of academic affairs and matters relating to the internal governance of the university.

2. Preserve the integrity of the collective bargaining process.
3. Remain neutral on matters in which the state seeks to legislate the general public health and safety while not singling out the California State University.
4. Preserve the integrity of the California State University's budgetary process, and seek adequate funding to serve current and future students, support the work of faculty and staff, provide for ongoing operations, capital outlay and infrastructure needs, and to meet the workforce demands of the state.
 - a. Provide that all funds must be appropriated to the Board of Trustees.
 - b. Proposals for operational, student success and academic programs, and capital outlay needs must be approved and prioritized by the Board of Trustees.
 - c. Provide the operational authority and flexibility, as well as the necessary tools, for the university to respond to the needs of students and the state.
5. Seek to influence the outcome of issues which, while not affecting the California State University alone, would have a disproportionate impact on the university's activities.
6. Seek to secure representation of the California State University on appropriate boards, commissions, task forces, study groups, etc., whose work may have a significant impact on the system. Representatives to such bodies shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees or the chancellor.
7. As both the chief administrative officer and a trustee, the chancellor is recognized and designated by the Board of Trustees as the spokesperson for the California State University regarding its positions on state and federal legislative proposals. When practical, the position to be taken on a legislative proposal should be discussed with the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations before that position is communicated to the legislature. Unresolved positions on a legislative proposal will be decided by the chancellor in consultation with the chair of the board. When practical, changes in position on pending legislative proposals will be shared with the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations prior to communication of the change to the legislature. When this is not practical, changes in position will be shared with the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations immediately following communication of the change to the legislature.

Recommended Action

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the Statement of Legislative Principles for 2025 and 2026 be adopted; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the chancellor is authorized to take positions on pending legislation on behalf of the California State University system; but prior to taking or changing such positions on legislative matters, the chancellor shall consult, when practical, with the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Governmental Relations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any unresolved positions on a legislative proposal will be decided by the chancellor in consultation with the chair of the board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the chancellor shall keep the Board of Trustees regularly informed of the positions taken and of such other matters affecting governmental relations as deemed necessary and desirable.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Federal Agenda for 2025 and 2026

Presentation By

Greg Saks
Vice Chancellor
External Relations and Communications

Jeff Cullen
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Office of Federal Relations

Summary

This item contains the proposed Federal Policy Priorities for federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

Background:

Every two years, with the start of a new Congress, the California State University (CSU) develops a set of federal priorities to serve as a guide for the Office of Federal Relations (OFR) for the next two years. As part of this process, the Chancellor makes a call to the CSU Community asking for suggestions that can be incorporated into these priorities. Because OFR would historically receive only one or two suggestions through this process, a working group of CSU government relations and research professionals representing ten campuses and the Chancellor's Office developed a new structure that would more actively solicit recommendations for the federal priorities. This process resulted in over 41 suggestions from eleven campuses that were vetted and largely incorporated into the federal priorities.

Lastly, while these priorities include both big picture and more detailed opportunities, the OFR will use these also as a guide as new challenges and opportunities present themselves for the 119th Congress.

Introduction and Priorities:

The CSU is a force for economic mobility, workforce development, development of an engaged and educated citizenry, and will continue to advance our values and our mission. That includes standing resolutely for the success of all our students, regardless of background. The priorities for the CSU include:

Open doors to all students and provide a pathway to success through direct aid

The CSU remains the national leader in affordability while delivering a quality education. Significant state and institutional grants provide vital support to our low-income and underrepresented students. Federal financial aid programs remain critical to these students, including nearly 210,000 who rely on need-based Pell Grants. More than 65,000 Pell recipients earn CSU bachelor's degrees each year. Priorities relating to access include:

- Enhance the Pell Grant program by doubling the maximum grant; restoring automatic cost-of-living increases to the maximum grant; reserving any surplus funds for future program needs or improvements and allowing our students and families ample time and support in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.
- Extend Pell eligibility for graduate students that have not used up their lifetime eligibility while completing their undergraduate degree, as was previously proposed in the Aim Higher Act.
- Revise the campus-based aid allocation formula to further invest in the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS) programs.
- Support policies that minimize college debt burden and promote philanthropic support to our institutions of higher education through scholarship, internships, faculty/student research, capital outlay, tax credits and similar methods of support.
- Encourage interagency data sharing and streamline administrative processes to reduce barriers for students accessing federal assistance programs, like those programs in the BASIC Act.

Ensure comprehensive and inclusive student-success and career readiness programs

The CSU is continuously working to improve K-12 student readiness and measure the performance of CSU-trained teachers. The federal government is a vital partner connecting states, colleges and universities, and industry by investing in our students' career pathways and readiness. Priorities relating to student success and career readiness include:

- Defend and encourage robust funding for effective pipeline programs such as GEAR UP and TRIO.
- Maintain a strong federal partnership with universities to transform the preparation of America's teachers and school leaders, especially for high-need schools.
- Support and grow career and workforce readiness programs.

Foster Degree Completion for California's Diverse Population

The CSU provides more than half of all undergraduate degrees granted to California's Latinx/a/o, Black and African American and Indigenous Native American students and is a leader in transitioning veterans to the workforce. Federal capacity-building programs and targeted grants help bridge completion and equity gaps. Priorities relating to degree completion include:

- Support federal policies that assist California's undocumented community and provide long-term stability and opportunities.
- Maintain strong support for Hispanic- and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions through administrative flexibility and increased investments in capacity-building programs at the Department of Education and other federal agencies, for example with the Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment (HERE) Act.
- Support the needs of veterans on campus and smooth their transition to the civilian workforce.
- Promote policies that reduce recidivism by expanding access to a college education.
- Foster community college transition of students to CSUs for successful degree completion, in accordance with Graduation Initiative 2025.
- Support policies and funding opportunities to support CSU's degree completion initiatives.
- Amplify the vital role the United States Department of Education plays in the quality of instruction of our educational system and provides for the long-term success of our students and national workforce pipeline.

Educate Students for Tomorrow's Workforce

Every year, over 125,000 new CSU graduates drive California's and America's economy in the information technology, life sciences, agriculture, business, artificial intelligence, healthcare, education, public administration, entertainment and multimedia industries. Priorities related to educating the workforce of tomorrow include:

- Support strong federal investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, especially for Minority-serving Institutions (MSIs) and Emerging Research Institutions (ERIs).
- Ensure our students are well-rounded, educated individuals equipped to navigate a globally diverse world through robust funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Encourage federal policies that allow the CSU to be a leader and magnet for global talent that does not discriminate by country of origin by allowing international students, scholars, and visitors to come to the CSU through improved visa processes, employment-based opportunities, and permanent protections for Dreamers.

- Support funding for co-curricular high-impact practices, internships, fellowships, apprenticeships, and extension curriculum design and deployment and other federal workforce development programs.

Solve Societal Problems through Applied Research

In laboratories, at field sites and through programs at the CSU, including through the CSU Research Clusters, students, faculty and collaborating scientists advance California's capacity to address key issues of significance to our state and nation. By growing and investing in the research capacity at Minority-serving Institutions (MSI) and Emerging Research Institutions (ERI), our nation can continue its global scientific leadership and unleash the dynamic and diverse research talent to solve global problems. Priorities related to growing and supporting applied research include:

- Prioritize the preservation of existing research funding that supports the mission of the CSU.
- Advocate for more equitable Facilities and Administrative (F&A) and Indirect Cost Reimbursements from federal agencies for MSIs.
- Sustain and increase funding for NIH, NSF, NIST, NASA, NOAA, DoD, and other federal scientific research agencies with dedicated allocations for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Emerging Research Institutions (ERIs) to build sustainable research capacity through instrumentation, upgraded facilities, and expand student research opportunities.
- Identify new opportunities for more federal R&D programs to boost CSU's research capacity such as designated funding for MSIs and ERIs.
- Expand funding from the USDA to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) and Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) through reauthorization of the Farm Bill.
- Advocate for agencies to harmonize, streamline, and, when possible, eliminate unnecessary regulations and reporting requirements to maximize federal investments in research.

Enhance Campus Health, Safety and Infrastructure

For students to be successful academically and well positioned for post-graduate success, they need to be positioned to have their basic needs met, be an environment that supports their well-being, and has the facilities that are equipped to develop the workforce needed for future state and national competitiveness. Priorities to enhance campus health, safety, and infrastructure include:

- Student-centered success starts with well-being both inside and outside the classroom and catering to basic needs to ensure a safe and equitable learning environment for all students.

- Promote federal funding and policies that support students' well-being and basic needs, including housing and food security and mental health, including support for the BASIC Act.
- Fund programs that enhance campus safety, health, and wellness for federal support and funding to assist campuses with addressing sexual violence and other threats to campus wellbeing.
- Support investments in infrastructure and assets that provide campuses opportunities to partner with their communities, improve facilities, and promote job training and strategic economic growth.
- Support legislation related to sustainability and climate adaptation to support investments by the CSU in achieving greater energy efficiency and moving toward Net-Zero Carbon Emissions.

Recommended Action

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the Federal Agenda for federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026 be adopted.