The California State University

AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Meeting: **10:50 a.m., Wednesday, November 18, 2026**
Glenn S. Dumke Conference Center

Yammilette Rodriguez, Chair
Raji Kaur Brar, Vice Chair
Larry L. Adamson
Kelly M. Dermody
Andrea C. Evans
Mark Ghilarducci
Leslie Gilbert-Lurie
Kathleen Kelly Janus
Julia I. Lopez
Jackson A. Martinez
Jack McGrory
Sam Nejabat

Consent

1. Approval of Minutes, *Action*
2. Tribal Relations Update and Status of NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA Compliance, *Information*

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

September 22, 2026

Raji Kaur Brar, Vice Chair
Larry L. Adamson
Kelly M. Dermody
Andrea C. Evans
Mark Ghilarducci
Leslie Gilbert-Lurie
Julia I. Lopez

Mildred García, Chancellor
Diego Arambula, Chair of the Board

Trustee Brar called the meeting of the Committee on Governmental Relations to order. She reported that the committee had prepared a written report on Tribal Relations and NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA compliance and noted that the California State Auditor determined that all eight recommendations from the 2023 NAGPRA Audit Report had been fully implemented. Trustee Brar thanked Chancellor García, Vice Chancellor Saks, Assistant Vice Chancellor Cypret, Vice Chancellor Vlad Marinescu, the audit team, university presidents and campus staff for their leadership and work. She emphasized that closing the audit recommendations was not the finish line and that the CSU must continue to strengthen policies, staffing, funding, consultation, and accountability. She said success would ultimately be measured by meaningful Tribal consultation, measurable progress and the timely return of Ancestors and cultural items to Tribal Nations.

Consent Agenda

The minutes of the July 22, 2026, meeting of the Committee on Governmental Relations were approved as submitted.

Item 2, Tribal Relations Update and Status of NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA Compliance, was an information item.

Item 3 – State Legislative Update

Greg Saks, vice chancellor, external relations and communications, introduced the presentation. In alignment with CSU Forward, he said the discussion would highlight the CSU's efforts to maximize statewide impact through unified advocacy in Sacramento and reinforce the CSU's role as an economic mobility engine for California. He reported that the legislative session concluded on August 31 and the CSU tracked more than 70 bills of importance to the system.

Nathan Dietrich, assistant vice chancellor, advocacy and state relations, reviewed the status of board-sponsored legislation and key bills. SB 1374 (Niello), which would allow postsecondary institutions to seek restraining orders when a credible threat is made against the institution, passed the legislature without opposition and was awaiting the governor's action. AB 1858 (Lowenthal), which would have created a pilot program allowing participating CSU universities and accredited colleges or universities to jointly confer a general studies associate degree to former CSU students who had completed at least 60 units but stopped out, was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee and did not advance. AVC Dietrich noted the bill's strong legislative reception and said the CSU was considering how to build on that progress in the future.

AVC Dietrich reported that legislation establishing Hispanic-Serving Institution and Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander-Serving Institution designations passed the Legislature and was awaiting the governor's signature. If signed into law, the CSU will lead the Hispanic-Serving Institutions effort, while the community college system will lead the Asian American and Pacific Islander effort. He also reported that AB 1831, concerning compensation increases for MPPs and executives, and AB 1630, concerning bargaining observers, were held in committee. AB 1235, requiring skilled and trained workers on certain design-build construction projects, passed and was signed by the governor; housing projects would be exempt.

He shared that AB 2236, concerning common course numbering, was held in committee, but the segments would continue working together on implementation. AB 2551, concerning Time, Place and Manner Policies and reporting on student discipline related to campus protests, passed the legislature and was awaiting the governor's action; the CSU remained opposed and requested a veto. He also reported that the legislature placed a $7.5 billion research bond on the March 2028 ballot, which would direct $750 million to the CSU for STEM facilities if approved by voters.

AVC Dietrich reviewed intersegmental legislation concerning community college bachelor's degree programs. AB 2136 and AB 2053, district-specific bills, failed to advance. AB 664 passed with language making it operative only if the statewide policy bills failed. AB 2301, which would have authorized 10 community college districts to offer a bachelor of science in nursing, was vetoed. SB 960 and AB 2694, which established a statewide framework for limited duplication of CSU degrees by community colleges, passed and was signed by the governor. After extensive discussions and amendments, the CSU changed its position on those bills from opposed to neutral on August 28.

Junius Gonzales, vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, explained that the new framework would use the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to review unmet workforce needs and local CSU capacity. A community college could duplicate a CSU degree only when there was a demonstrated unmet workforce need and the degree was not reasonably available to local students—either because the local CSU campus did not offer it or because the local transfer admission rate was below 75 percent. The framework would establish a tiered limit of two to 12 bachelor's degrees per community college district and create incentives and accountability for both segments to expand access, improve associate degree completion and reduce the time required to transfer.

AVC Dietrich also described ongoing advocacy, including the governor's visit to Cal Poly Maritime Academy and the Golden Bear in connection with California Jobs First regional economic development grants; a Department of Finance visit to Sacramento State; and an upcoming visit by legislative staff to San Francisco State and San José State. He said the CSU was preparing strategies for engaging the next governor and legislators elected in November. Vice Chancellor Saks thanked CSU partners, presidents, alumni, Chancellor García and Vice Chancellor Gonzales for their work during the legislative session.

Trustee Lopez thanked the staff for helping move the community college bachelor's degree issue from a contentious debate toward a collaborative solution. She asked about the likely concerns and legislative strategies of community colleges seeking to modify the new framework, and about the future of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). AVC Dietrich explained that the NC-SARA legislation had been introduced last year and did not advance through the committee process, but that the issue remained under discussion in Sacramento. He explained that NC-SARA facilitates reciprocity for distance education among participating states, while California's absence from the agreement limits the CSU's ability to offer programs in other states. Regarding the community college bachelor's degree framework, AVC Dietrich shared that community college concerns will likely focus on the tiered limits; VC Gonzales emphasized the need for the segments to pursue transfer partnerships proactively. The new framework will not take effect until 2028.

Trustee Martinez asked how AB 2551 could affect the CSU's Time, Place and Manner policy. AVC Dietrich explained that the bill will require a statewide forum involving students and annual reporting on students disciplined for student code-of-conduct violations related to campus protests. He noted concerns that the reporting requirement could create privacy and FERPA issues because the number of cases may be small.

Trustee Gilbert-Lurie asked what the CSU had learned through its advocacy that could inform strategic planning and its long-term relationship with the community colleges and the University of California. Chancellor García described regular discussions among the CSU, community colleges and the University of California, as well as coordination among the academic senates. Chair Arambula discussed the need to consider whether California's current Master Plan for Higher Education reflects the state's future needs and how the segments, faculty, students and

private institutions could work together. Vice Chancellor Saks identified the California Education Interagency Council as a potential bridge for that collaboration.

Trustee Evans requested a deeper discussion of the barriers to increasing transfer enrollment and what the CSU could do independently of future legislation to improve transfer outcomes. She noted that demonstrating meaningful progress could provide greater flexibility in designing solutions that meet the CSU's needs.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Tribal Relations Update and Status of NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA Compliance

Presentation By

Greg Saks
Vice Chancellor
External Relations and Communications

Samantha Cypret
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Office of Tribal Relations (OTR)

Summary

This agenda item provides an update on Tribal Relations including the 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

State Audit Update

As previously reported, the California State Auditor has formally determined that the CSU has fully implemented all eight recommendations from its 2022 audit of NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA compliance. This milestone reflects significant systemwide improvements in policy, oversight, staffing, funding, collection inventories, Tribal consultation and accountability.

The CSU has established the foundational infrastructure necessary to support sustained compliance, including comprehensive campuswide searches, adoption of the Systemwide NAGPRA Policy, and establishment of campus and systemwide NAGPRA oversight committees. OTR continues to work with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to fill remaining committee vacancies and provide the training and support necessary for committees to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

While closure of the audit recommendations represents an important achievement, the CSU's focus remains on translating these structural improvements into measurable repatriation outcomes. Continued progress will be evaluated through meaningful Tribal consultation, resolution of outstanding repatriation matters, timely completion of required compliance activities, and, most importantly, the return of Ancestors and cultural items to Tribal Nations.

Prohibition on Teaching, Research, and Display

The CSU continues to enforce prohibitions on the use of Ancestors and cultural items for teaching, research, or display, consistent with AB 389, federal NAGPRA regulations, and the CSU Systemwide NAGPRA Policy. Initially reinforced through Chancellor García's March 18, 2024, memorandum to university presidents, these requirements, together with federal Duty of Care standards, remain central to ensuring respectful and legally compliant stewardship of Ancestors and cultural items while they remain in CSU custody.

Annual Repatriation Implementation Plans

Universities are currently preparing their annual Repatriation Implementation Plans, which provide updates on campus NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA compliance efforts, including collection inventories, Tribal consultation, repatriation progress and ongoing implementation activities. These plans also identify campus priorities, anticipated timelines and resource needs for the coming year. The information and data collected through these reports will inform the CSU's annual report to the California Legislature, due in December 2026, and support continued systemwide oversight, transparency and accountability.

Reopening of the CSU Systemwide NAGPRA Policy

On November 13, 2025, the CSU finalized its inaugural Systemwide NAGPRA Policy following an extensive development process informed by more than 30 Tribal outreach sessions and consultations. Recognizing the importance of continued Tribal guidance and the need to evaluate how the policy functions in practice, the CSU committed to reopening the policy for review one year after its adoption.

Consistent with that commitment, OTR has initiated the first annual review of the policy, once again inviting California Tribal Nations to provide feedback and recommendations. The review provides an opportunity to evaluate the policy's implementation, identify areas requiring clarification or improvement, and ensure the CSU continues to strengthen its compliance framework in partnership with Tribal Nations.

As part of this process, OTR has conducted three Tribal outreach sessions to solicit feedback from California Tribal Nations. A separate outreach session for CSU faculty and staff is scheduled for November 30 to provide campus personnel with an opportunity to share their experiences implementing the policy.

In addition to the outreach sessions, any interested party may submit written feedback through the CSU NAGPRA website or request formal consultation. OTR will review the feedback received and work with Tribal Nations and campus partners to identify potential revisions that strengthen accountability, consistency and respect for Tribal sovereignty.

Chancellor's Office Support

Campus NAGPRA Committee Member Training

In September, OTR conducted three comprehensive virtual training sessions for newly appointed Campus NAGPRA Implementation Committee members. The training was developed to support implementation of AB 389 and the CSU Systemwide NAGPRA Policy and to ensure committee members understand their responsibilities in overseeing campus repatriation efforts.

The sessions provided detailed instruction on federal and state repatriation laws, committee governance and authority, the review of repatriation requests, and the process for making recommendations to campus presidents. Emphasis was placed on confidentiality, conflicts of interest, the appropriate consideration of Native American Traditional Knowledge, and compliance with statutory timelines.

The trainings also incorporated interactive scenarios and practical exercises to help members navigate complex repatriation matters, distinguish between committee authority and campus administrative responsibilities, and apply legal requirements consistently. These sessions represent an important step in establishing effective campus oversight committees and ensuring their work supports timely, lawful and respectful repatriation.

Systemwide Campus NAGPRA Coordinator Training

On October 27–28, 2026, OTR hosted its required, semiannual Systemwide NAGPRA Coordinator Training at Sonoma State University. The two-day training brought together NAGPRA Coordinators and supporting staff from all 21 CSU campuses with known NAGPRA collections, providing an important opportunity for systemwide collaboration, technical assistance and professional development.

The training featured presentations and interactive discussions led by OTR, a representative from national NAGPRA, campus leaders, Tribal representatives, legal counsel and systemwide peer mentors. Topics included engagement with lineal descendants, managing competing repatriation requests, the CSU appeals process, regulatory deadlines, and the implementation of systemwide requirements for archaeological field schools and ground-disturbing activities.

Additional sessions addressed emerging challenges in repatriation, media engagement and the use of CollectionSpace, the CSU's systemwide collections management platform. Participants also engaged in scenario-based exercises and had opportunities for individual technical assistance and consultation with legal counsel and subject matter experts.

These semiannual trainings remain a critical component of OTR's efforts to strengthen campus expertise, promote consistent implementation of NAGPRA, CalNAGPRA and the CSU Systemwide NAGPRA Policy, and foster a collaborative network of professionals dedicated to advancing repatriation across the CSU.

Tribal Relations and Community Engagement

California Native American Day

On September 25, 2026, the CSU participated in the 59th Annual California Native American Day celebration at the State Capitol in Sacramento. This year's theme, *Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our Land and Defend Our People*, recognized the enduring sovereignty of Tribal Nations and their ongoing leadership in protecting their communities, cultures and lands.

OTR continued its leadership role in planning and coordinating the statewide celebration, which brought together Tribal leaders, cultural practitioners, educators, students and community members from throughout California.

The CSU had a significant presence at the event, including more than 100 student volunteers from Sacramento State. Representatives from CSU San Marcos, CSU East Bay, Cal Poly Humboldt, Long Beach State, Sonoma State, CSU Monterey Bay and CSU Northridge hosted informational booths, highlighting campus programs and opportunities for engagement. CSU San Bernardino also hosted a California Native American Day celebration on its campus.

The CSU's participation reflects the system's ongoing commitment to supporting California Tribal Nations, creating opportunities for Native students, and strengthening relationships between campuses and Tribal communities.

Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations

On October 12, 2026, CSU campuses across the state recognized Indigenous Peoples Day through celebrations, educational programming and community gatherings honoring the histories, cultures and continued contributions of Native American peoples.

These campus celebrations provide important opportunities to elevate Native voices, engage students, faculty and staff in learning about Tribal sovereignty and the history of the lands on which their universities are located, and strengthen relationships with local Tribal Nations.

With every CSU university situated on the traditional territory of California Native American Tribes, these events reinforce the system's responsibility to recognize and respect the Tribal Nations whose connections to these lands continue today.

Native American Heritage Month Parade

On November 7, 2026, the CSU participated in the Third Annual Native American Heritage Month Parade on Capitol Mall in Sacramento. The event brought together Tribal Nations, community organizations, cultural groups and educational institutions to celebrate Native American heritage and culture.

OTR participated with a CSU float and hosted an informational booth to share information about the university system's Tribal Relations initiatives and ongoing NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA implementation efforts. Multiple CSU campuses also participated in the celebration, demonstrating the university system's continued engagement with Native communities.

The parade provided another opportunity to recognize the rich cultural heritage of California Tribal Nations while strengthening relationships and highlighting the CSU's commitment to meaningful Tribal engagement throughout the year.