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CSU Board of Trustees Meeting July 9-12, 2023

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 summer meeting of the Board occurred on July 9-12, 2023. It started on Sunday, July 9 (full day) and Monday, July 10 (half-day) in Closed Session for discussion about Executive Personnel Matters (Government Code §11126), Pending Litigation (Hernandez, et al. vs. The Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta, Inc., et al.), and Committee on Collective Bargaining [Government Code §3596(d)]. The Board then met on Tuesday, July 11 (full day) and Wednesday, July 12 (half-day) in Open Session for public comments, information items and action items.

The Board's full agenda and background materials (130 pages) for the July 2023 meeting are available at <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2023/Documents/FULL-BINDER-July-9-12.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/2023/Pages/july-9-12.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**.

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[July 9-12, 2023 \(Full Agenda\)](#)

On July 9-12, 2023, the meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees was held in Long Beach—at the Marriott Hotel on Sunday, and at the Chancellor's Office on Monday through Wednesday.

On Sunday, July 9, at 9:00am, the Board convened in Closed Session on Executive Personnel Matters. Discussion centered on candidate interviews, selection process and compensation package for the new Chancellor-Select. See Committee on University and Faculty Personnel below.

On Monday, July 10, at 2:00pm, the Board convened in Closed Session for further discussion on Executive Personnel Matters, Pending Litigation (Hernandez, et al. vs. The Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta, Inc., et al.), and Committee on Collective Bargaining. 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 Tuesday, July 11, at 9:00am, the Board convened in Open Session.

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

9:00am – Plenary Session (Day 1)

[Agenda](#)

[Video 1 \(Public Comment\)](#)

During the public comment section of the meeting, various individuals presented their perspectives and concerns to the Board of Trustees of the California State University (CSU) system. One speaker raised issues regarding the prioritization of campus aesthetics over student necessities, advocating for a pause in tuition increases. Another speaker criticized the perceived neglect of vital matters like rat infestations and called for the reevaluation of priorities within the CSU system.

A representative from Cal State LA expressed strong disagreement with the proposal to increase tuition fees, questioning the allocation of increased fees towards campus facilities and executive compensation. Cameron Macedonio, who manages a student radio station at Cal State Fullerton, emphasized the disparity in wages for student workers. He detailed the high levels of responsibility that many student workers hold and called for better compensation and recognition for their essential contributions.

Steve McFarland, Chair of Labor Studies at CSU Dominguez Hills, highlighted the need for semester-long parental leave for staff members, particularly librarians, coaches, and counselors. He underscored that the current 30-day parental leave policy is insufficient and disruptive to students' educational experiences. Drew Scott, a skilled trades director, discussed salary disparities among CSU workers compared to similar positions elsewhere. He advocated for equitable pay and the implementation of a step system.

Michael Lee Chang, Students for Quality Education at Sac State, spoke against multi-year tuition increases, drawing attention to sexual violence cases on campuses and the need to allocate resources to address these concerns. Kevin Kilpatrick of Cal State San Marcos expressed frustration with lecturer salaries, stating that after 23 years, he still earns less than entry-level assistant professors do. He criticized the wide disparity in presidential salaries and advocated for fair compensation for all faculty members.

Matt Mason, Students for Quality Education at Cal State LA, raised the issue of salary disparities among CSU workers compared to other institutions that have step systems. He urged for fair and equitable pay for CSU employees. Charles Toombs, CFA president and professor at San Diego State, opposed student tuition increases, demanded fair salary compensation for CSU employees who teach and support students, and looked forward to working in partnership with the new Chancellor.

Lark Winter, president of UAW 4123 and graduate student at Cal State San Bernardino, shared a SDSU student's experience of navigating a lack of support during pregnancy and advocated for improved family leave policies. Ann Luna, associate professor at Sac State, shared her story as a pregnant mother and echoed support for improving family leave. Angelina Collins, Students for Quality Education at CSU Northridge, voiced opposition to tuition hikes and highlighted the struggle of underrepresented students, urging the Board to prioritize students' well-being over administrative raises.

Oscar Zamora shared his experience as a student worker at CSU Long Beach, underscoring the challenges he faced due to low pay and lack of support. Jay Jimenez, CSU Long Beach alumni, criticized proposed tuition hikes and advocated for redirecting funds away from police budgets to support marginalized students. Marcia Moran, Students for Quality Education at Cal State LA, criticized tuition increases and brought attention to campus

conditions that were detrimental to students' learning experiences. Emily Barrera, a student at CSU Long Beach, criticized the allocation of funds, campus conditions, and lack of support for students.

Wenda Fong, Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees, thanked all the speakers for sharing their perspectives. The range of topics covered by the speakers encompassed issues such as campus conditions, fair compensation, mental health services, parental leave policies, resource allocation, and tuition increases.

[Video 2 \(Reports\)](#)

Wenda Fong, Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees (CSU BoT), welcomed Dr. Darlene Yee-Melichar as CSU Faculty Trustee, Jonathan Molina Mancio as CSU Student Trustee, Dr. Stephen Perez as President of CSU Chico, Retired Vice Admiral Michael Dumont as President of CSU Maritime Academy, John Poli as CSU Alumni Council President, Dominic Tresseler as CSSA President and other CSSA leaders. Chair Fong shared that Interim Chancellor (IC) Jolene Koester has graciously agreed to extend her service in order to ease and facilitate the transition to new leadership as we welcome the CSU's 11th Chancellor. Chair Fong recognized Pride month in June and reaffirmed the CSU's steadfast commitment and support of LGBTQIA students, alumni, faculty and staff. Chair Fong shared some campus achievements; reported on Cozen O'Connor's system-wide Title IX and DHR assessment as a clear indication of the CSU's commitment to ensuring a safe working and learning environments at every CSU campus. Chair Fong conveyed her appreciation for the state support to expand and improve Title IX services, the California State Audit Report, and reflected on the inclusive, deliberative and collaborative process taken on the forthcoming announcement of the CSU's 11th Chancellor. Chair Fong concluded her report with a video spotlighting Cal Poly Humboldt.

Beth Steffel, Chair of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU), reported that the ASCSU does not meet in July and that summer is time for faculty work on research, scholarship and creative activities. The Executive Committee has been working on appointments to the Extended Executive Committee, five standing committees, systemwide committees and task forces. Chair Steffel shared that ASCSU has weighed in on AB 928, The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act 2021, and urged the Board to move forward with the necessary changes to Title 5 of the Education Code Section 40405.2 "Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum" to accommodate Cal-GETC as the only lower division GE pathway used to determine eligibility and sufficient academic preparation for transfer into both segments. She expressed disappointment that this was not on the current Board agenda. Chair Steffel completed her report by recognizing the CSU Faculty Trustee transition; she expressed gratitude to Dr. Romey Sabalius for his years of service and deepest confidence in Dr. Darlene Yee-Melichar for her willingness to serve and looking forward to seeing her contributions to the Board, her continued contributions to the CSU, the state of California and beyond.

In his first report to the CSU BoT, **Dominic Treseler (President of the California State Student Association; CSSA)** introduced the 2023-24 executive officers and new staff: Varenya Gupta, Chair; Alex Jimenez Cruz, Vice President of Finance; Sam Alvarez Chavarria, Vice President of Legislative Affairs; Galilea Pompa, Vice President of Systemwide Affairs; and Genesis Jara, Assistant Director of Systemwide Affairs. President Treseler commented on CSSA's July orientation and Board of Directors meeting, shared his student advocacy journey (addressing critical issues such as affordable housing, total cost of attendance, financial aid reform, recent Supreme Court decisions impacting affirmative action, First Amendment, LGBTQIA protections, and student loan debt), and

reported on concerns about the proposed tuition increase. President Treseler emphasized the potential burden on students' finances and expressed opposition to the indefinite tuition increase proposal. President Treseler stressed the need for supporting students' financial aid and basic needs.

In his first report to the CSU BoT, **John Poli (CSU Alumni Council President)** introduced himself as a double alumnus (with degrees from both Cal Poly Pomona and CSU San Bernardino), thanked immediate past president Jeremy Addis Mills for his leadership, introduced the 2023-24 executive committee, and discussed the CSU Alumni Council's initiatives. President Poli highlighted efforts to engage and support CSU alumni and mentioned collaboration with the CSSA. President Poli extended appreciation to Nathan Dietrich (AVC, Advocacy and State Relations) and looked forward to continuing collaboration on advocacy efforts.

Interim Chancellor (IC) Jolene Koester echoed Chair Fong's welcome to all new trustees and presidents, recognized and congratulated Chair Fong who was honored by former speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon and the AAPI Legislative Caucus as the first Asian American Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees. She shared that Chair Fong was also honored for her lifetime commitment to diversity and inclusion, which was an important milestone for the CSU as well, because it illustrates our values of diversity, inclusion and equity in all that we do. IC Koester stated that this is a consequential Board meeting for the California State University system; we are going to honor a significant number of CSU presidents who depart to do other things with their professional and personal lives; announce the appointment of the next Chancellor of the California State University; hear a report on financial aid; and we are going to consider a very consequential part of the funding and operating capability of the California State University system. IC Koester reiterated the CSU's dedication to diversity and discussed the Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action. She highlighted the celebration of Juneteenth, the black Student Success work group's recommendations, and acknowledged fiscal challenges. She introduced the discussion of the proposed tuition increase and its necessity, acknowledging that the CSU's funding challenges require addressing through collective effort.

11:25am – Committee on Audit
[Agenda, Video](#)

Trustee Rodriguez (current chair) convened the meeting and expressed gratitude to Trustee Simon for her service as immediate past chair. Vlad Marinescu, vice chancellor and chief audit officer, was also acknowledged for his diligent work in preparing for the meetings. Trustee Rodriguez welcomed Trustee Firstenberg as vice chair to the committee. The committee approved the consent agenda without any items being removed for separate discussion.

11:30am – Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance
[Agenda, Video](#)

Trustee Arambula (current chair) convened the meeting and expressed gratitude to Trustee Sabalius and EVC Alva for their immediate past service. The committee approved the consent agenda and discussed an information item with an early progress report on the Chancellor's Strategic Workgroup on Financial Aid presented by Deputy VC Perez, Deputy VC Evans and Trustee Lopez. In this portion of the Board meeting, the focus was on the comprehensive financial aid strategy and policy for the California State University (CSU) system. Several trustees and members of the workgroup shared their thoughts and concerns on the topic.

Trustee Lopez acknowledged the complexity of financial aid and emphasized the importance of ensuring that students understand the financial aid options available to them. She suggested that more work is needed to simplify the information provided to students and their families. Trustee Yee-Melichar raised questions about the funding and distribution of funds associated with the State University Grant (SUG). She asked if more students applied for and received financial aid through federal Pell grants and/or state Cal grants, could this help the CSU to than redistribute SUG funds to include even more students and campus funding for courses needed for graduation as well as enhanced student support services.

Trustee McGrory raised questions about the distribution of funds, expressing concerns that a significant portion of the increased revenue might go into one specific type of grant, potentially leaving other areas uncovered. He also inquired about the protections in place to prevent financial aid funds from being used. Trustee Kimbell highlighted the need to make financial aid information accessible and comprehensible to students and their families, especially those who are first-generation college students. Trustee Gilbert-Lurie asked about any downside to funding the SUG. Trustee Lopez explained that the SUG helps students to backfill what is not covered by Pell grant and Cal grant and to help fund other campus fees too.

Trustee Aguilar-Cruz commented on the importance of not dropping students from courses needed for graduation as well as concern about scholarship displacements. Trustee Rodriguez emphasized the need to include the family in financial aid and recruitment efforts, as families play a crucial role in the decision-making process. Trustee Adamson shared his experience of helping an employee realize that financial aid was available for her children's education, and how that intervention resulted in her daughter enrolling at CSUN. Trustee Clark raised the point that the financial aid process needs to be streamlined for students and the importance of staying informed about legislation related to financial aid and scholarships to advocate effectively for students' interests.

Trustee McGrory commented that as we discuss financial aid, we need to figure out how we can allocate money for the really low-income students to cover room and board, which is going up substantially every year. Since he was trained in the Marine Corps, he believes that we make the system too complicated and that we need to "keep it simple stupid" (aka "kiss"). Trustee Fagin asked how active are we at high schools, community colleges and community events throughout the state in recruiting, and are there competitors out there (like the UC system) who are also recruiting and how do we deal with that competition?

Deputy VC Evans responded that all 23 campuses have staff out in high schools, community colleges and community events throughout the state. CSU has a fall convening to bring all outreach and recruitment staff from across our campuses to go through an annual onboarding since we have had tremendous turnover. Building capacity (through a more personal or human intervention) is something that is happening not just in our system; this is a national issue in recruitment admissions across the nation. Trustee Lopez added that there is tremendous competition for every student out there; right now, Arizona State University (ASU) sees California as one of its biggest markets and 13% of Californian students may choose UC instead of CSU.

Trustee Brar suggested that we have to pay attention to the holistic cost of college (not just the fees but housing, etc.) and the cultural expectations of some students to help support their families and households. Trustee Simon highlighted the challenges faced by students from marginalized backgrounds and the importance of considering the holistic cost of attending college, including room and board. She stressed that leaving

“genius” on the table and not tapping into the potential of students who face financial obstacles prevents the state from benefiting from their contributions. Trustee Arambula expressed appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the financial aid strategy and policy conversation. He emphasized the need to consider the entire cost of attendance for students, which includes housing, food, and other expenses beyond tuition and fees and throughout the calendar year.

IC Koester concluded the discussion with three comments continuing to frame and provide overall context: 1, the work group will come back in September and they may (or may not) be ready to give us policy recommendations in order to meet their charge; 2, remember that financial aid is not ours alone-- we do not set the table (students need to apply for financial aid, there are Federal guidelines that constrain and contain what it is we can do, and there's State legislation that may be incompatible or compatible); 3, remind all that many of the great ideas that have been presented today will take resources, and some resources can and need to be redirected (improve the staffing, training, flexibility and timeliness of our financial aid offices).

Overall, the conversation revealed a shared commitment among the trustees to ensure that financial aid is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of CSU students, especially those from underserved communities. The complexity of financial aid distribution, legislation constraints, and the need for sustainable funding models were acknowledged as key challenges to be addressed in this ongoing effort.

1:30pm – Committee on Finance
[Agenda](#), [Video](#)

Trustee Lopez (current chair) called the meeting to order. The committee approved the consent agenda and discussed four consequential information items. The discussion began with EVC/CFO Steve Relyea and AVC Ryan Storm who presented on the 2023-2024 final budget. The CSU is grateful that, despite revenue declines in the state’s general fund, the Budget Act of 2023 continues to honor the multi-year commitment to increase base funding for the CSU. While the \$227.3 million General Fund base funding increase does not fully cover the CSU’s projected ongoing operating costs, it offers predictable and reliable levels of current and future funding and provides a valuable element of protection against a more severe economic downturn.

The purpose of the second item was to provide the CSU Board of Trustees with preliminary assumptions and an initial framework in preparation for the 2024-2025 Operating Budget Request for the governor’s and legislature’s consideration. The preliminary 2024-2025 budgetary priorities for the CSU could include improved compensation for all employee groups, student enrollment growth, investment in student success priorities (with particular emphasis on eliminating equity gaps), required cost obligations, initiatives included in the multi-year compact, facility, infrastructure, and critical capital renewal needs, and emerging issues. We must keep uncertainties in mind. President Jane Conoley (Long Beach) and President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval (Fresno) spoke about their campus budgets and need for budget adjustments given shifting resources (i.e. student enrollments, etc.).

The third information item included a draft tuition policy. The draft tuition policy would supersede the tuition policy last formulated by the Board in 1993 and applies to systemwide tuition for all levels of education, undergraduate through doctorate; nonresident supplemental tuition; and Graduate Business Professional Program supplemental tuition. Based on the outcome of the discussion by the trustees at this meeting, a final policy will be presented to the Board at the September meeting.

A fourth extensive discussion took place regarding a proposal for a tuition increase. The central topic of debate was the proposal to increase tuition by 6% annually over a span of five years. The intent behind this proposal was to address the growing financial gap and provide additional funding for the CSU system. Trustee Lopez noted that we are at the start of the semester and we are already facing a 14% budget shortfall; she also stated that every 1% in collective bargaining will cost us \$55 million.

EVC/CFO Relyea introduced the proposal and its context. He highlighted the need for this tuition increase due to a \$1.4 billion budget deficit and emphasized the critical responsibility of the Board as fiduciaries to address this financial challenge. AVC Storm presented the proposal's rationale, noting the urgency of addressing the budget gap and how the increase would affect students.

The dialogue then shifted to the Board members. Chair Fong inquired about the tuition model's impact on underrepresented students, expressing concerns about affordability. Trustee Kimbell joined the conversation, supporting the tuition increase but expressing concerns about the ambiguous language of the proposal. Trustee McGrory highlighted the historical perspective, tracing the CSU system's reliance on tuition increases to offset budget challenges over the years.

Trustee Aguilar-Cruz emphasized the financial burden on students and the potential negative impacts on access and equality, particularly for undocumented and graduate students who do not receive financial aid. She also mentioned the unanimous vote by the California State Student Association (CSSA) opposing the tuition increase.

Trustee Yee-Melichar expressed concern that faculty and students on summer break may not have the opportunity to weigh in on the important tuition increase proposal. She also raised questions pertaining to annual rate increases at six percent per year for all levels of education as well as possible alternative funding options. In terms of alternative sources of revenue, she asked if the CSU would be considered by the Governor/Legislature for any of the new state revenue generated by what has been referred to as a state gas/oil excess profit fee. This term stems from the ASCSU FGA committee and refers to SBX1-2 (Oil Price Gouging Penalty), a legislative bill sponsored by the Governor/Senator Nancy Skinner in response to unexplained gas price hikes in late 2022 that led to record profits (of 1700%!) for the gas/oil industry.

Trustee Rodriguez, echoing the sentiment of other trustees, expressed her support for the tuition increase but suggested a review in three years instead of five. Trustee Clark echoed concerns about the ambiguous language and raised the issue of a potential alternative proposal based on a cohort model, which received further attention later in the discussion.

IC Koester emphasized the need to bend the cost curve while addressing the budget deficit and acknowledged the Board's willingness to engage in a tough discussion. The meeting concluded with a decision to amend the proposal to include a review and re-evaluation after five years. Additionally, the Board expressed interest in a potential cohort-based proposal in the future.

In summary, the CSU Board of Trustees engaged in a thorough and thoughtful discussion about a proposed tuition increase to address budget deficits and ensure the sustainability of the CSU system. Trustees, students, and CSU officials brought diverse perspectives to the table, highlighting the challenges of affordability, equity, and long-term planning for the institution. While the Board acknowledged the necessity of the tuition increase, the

discussion revolved around ensuring transparency, student representation, and regular reviews of the policy.

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

9:00am – Chancellor Select Announcement (Day 2)

[Agenda](#), [Video](#)

In the video announcement titled "11th Chancellor Select Announcement - July 12, 2023" on YouTube, the meeting reconvenes with the announcement of great importance – the appointment of the 11th Chancellor of the California State University (CSU) system. The announcement is made by Chair of the Board of Trustees, Wenda Fong, who expresses gratitude for the comprehensive and collaborative recruitment process involving CSU stakeholders and the Cal State Community, which provided input on the essential qualities required for the next CSU leader. Chair Fong emphasizes the significance of identifying an individual who embodies the qualities to lead the nation's largest and most diverse university system. The 11th Chancellor is introduced as Dr. Mildred Garcia, who has served with distinction as a CSU president for more than a decade, both at the Dominguez Hills and Fullerton campuses.

Dr. Mildred Garcia, the 11th Chancellor of the CSU, joins remotely to share her introductory comments. She emphasizes her journey as a first-generation college student, a Latina, and a Nuyorican (a Puerto Rican living in the US, especially in New York City) with a strong commitment to education. Dr. Garcia acknowledges the mentors, teachers, and staff who supported her educational journey and helped her overcome challenges. She highlights the importance of providing equal opportunities to all students, especially the underserved, and expresses her excitement and dedication to uplifting students' lives and propelling CSU to greater heights. Dr. Garcia also underscores the transformative power of higher education and its role in shaping educated citizens and leaders for democracy. She pledges to work alongside the CSU community to fulfill its mission and core values.

IC Koester follows Dr. Garcia's comments with congratulatory remarks. She commends Dr. Garcia's appointment as the 11th Chancellor and highlights the skills and qualities required for the role, including integrity, creativity, collaboration, and a belief in the transformative power of education. IC Koester praises Dr. Garcia's experience and expresses confidence in her ability to lead the CSU system effectively. She reflects on her own brief time in the role and the rewarding experiences it brought. IC Koester assures Dr. Garcia of the CSU community's support and wishes her success in the new role.

The video announcement concludes with acknowledgments of the Board members' contributions and expresses anticipation for recognizing the appointment of the 11th Chancellor in detail during the Committee on University and Faculty Personnel business.

Committee on University and Faculty Personnel

[Agenda](#), [Video](#)

The meeting began with Trustee Adamson (current chair) providing an overview of the meeting's agenda and introducing the items to be discussed. After the approval of the minutes, the first item for discussion was the proposed salary of the newly appointed Chancellor, Dr. Mildred Garcia. IC Koester presented the proposal, outlining that effective October 1, 2023; the salary was set at \$795,000 annually, with an annual deferred compensation of \$80,000, annual housing allowance of \$96,000, and additional benefits as cited in Agenda Item 2 of the Committee on University and Faculty Personnel at the

July 9-12, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Several trustees voiced their opinions on the proposed salary.

Trustee Fagan highlighted the importance of ensuring fair wages for all employees, including faculty and staff, and suggested revising the list of comparable institutions for future reference. Trustee Yee-Melichar echoed the sentiments, emphasizing the need for equitable pay across the board and not undervaluing the important work and support needed for all system constituents (faculty, staff and administrators) to succeed. Trustee Aguilar-Cruz added that she also respects the work of administrators, faculty, staff and student workers. Trustee McGrory stated that we deserve the best person we can get for this job and we got her, and now we need to pay her commensurate with the importance of this position.

Trustee Clark raised concerns about the comparators used for executive salaries, suggesting a review to ensure a fair and accurate assessment. Trustee Lopez spoke about important work in the public sector is not about money, but you also don't want to be undervalued. Let's be fair, what we will be paying Dr. Garcia is a lot less than what she could get elsewhere. Dr. Garcia is doing it because she loves this system and is committed to it. Trustees Steinhauser, Thurmond, Gilbert-Lurie and Simon also spoke strongly in favor of the salary proposed for Dr. Garcia. After a thorough discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve Dr. Garcia's compensation passed.

The second item for discussion concerned executive compensation for the president of Sonoma State University, Dr. Ming-Tung "Mike" Lee. IC Koester presented the proposal, stating that Dr. Lee's annual salary would remain at \$381,409, consistent with his interim appointment, a housing allowance of \$5,000 per month, and additional benefits as cited in Agenda Item 3 of the Committee on University and Faculty Personnel at the July 9-12, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees. The item was put to a vote, and it was approved unanimously by the committee.

The third item discussed was executive compensation adjustments for four university presidents and a system executive (vice chancellor and chief audit officer). IC Koester explained the proposed adjustments, which were based on a formula aligned with the CSU policy and designed to address salary inequities. Trustees Rodriguez, Simon and McGrory spoke in favor of the executive compensation adjustments for the vice chancellor and chief audit officer and four university presidents. Trustee Fagan expressed support for the adjustments while acknowledging that the presidents deserved more based on performance reviews. State Superintendent of Public Instruction/Trustee Thurmond urged the Board to consider affordability issues faced by employees, suggesting that the CSU could play a role in finding solutions to improve affordability for all. The adjustments were approved with a vote of the committee members.

The meeting continued with the presentation of executive transition assignments for Cal Maritime President Thomas A. Cropper and Cal State Fullerton President Framroze Virjee. IC Koester highlighted their contributions and announced that they would be transitioning to faculty roles within their respective universities. These assignments were approved by the committee, acknowledging their continued service to the CSU in new capacities.

Finally, Vice Chancellor (VC) Leora Friedman presented the proposed amendment to the CSU conflict of interest code. The amendment aimed to update the list of designated positions and disclosure categories. VC Friedman explained that Category 5, which concerned financial interests from sources where CSU funds may be invested, was eliminated, as only a few individuals managed these investments and were subject to different reporting requirements. The amended code aimed to streamline reporting

categories and ensure transparency in financial disclosures. The item was presented for information and will return for action in the September Board meeting.

In conclusion, the CSU Board of Trustees meeting addressed various important topics, including executive compensation, transition assignments, and conflict of interest code amendments. Trustees, administrators, and faculty members engaged in thoughtful discussions, highlighting the significance of equitable compensation, transparent reporting, and continued commitment to the CSU community.

10:00am – Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings & Grounds
[Agenda, Video](#)

Trustee McGrory (current chair) called the meeting to order. The first item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from the May 2023 meeting, which was met with unanimous consent. The meeting's focus shifted to the presentation of the Preliminary Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan for university facility needs, presented by EVC/CFO Steve Relyea and Vi San Juan, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Capital Planning, Design, and Construction. EVC/CFO Relyea highlighted that AVC San Juan was retiring after 42 years of outstanding service within the CSU.

The discussion revolved around the Five-Year Plan's alignment with trustee priorities, addressing critical needs, and advocating for funding. AVC San Juan expressed gratitude for the increased predictability in funding, even though it might affect student costs. The funding strategy was discussed, including utilizing campus balances, interest earnings, state funding requests, and the potential impact of SB 28 (Glazer) through general obligation bonds. Trustees McGrory and Gilbert-Lurie inquired about the financial aspects of the plan. Robert Eaton, an investment representative, explained the funding ratios and interest rate considerations based on market conditions. Trustee McGrory emphasized the importance of pursuing a General Obligation Bond in 2024 to address CSU's significant capital needs.

In the transition to the second item for discussion, Trustee McGrory emphasized the importance of reviewing the project prioritization process to better understand how projects are selected and ranked. EVC/CFO Relyea, President Jane Conoley and AVC San Juan continued with a detailed presentation on the California State University Long Beach Peterson Hall One Replacement project. President Conoley described the critical need to replace the aging building, addressing seismic, accessibility, and safety concerns. Blair Kent, CEO of Memorial Care Long Beach Medical Center, emphasized the significance of the project for meeting workforce needs in healthcare and enhancing clinical care and education. EVC San Juan discussed the project's scope, cost, and future funding highlighting the specialized nature of the building, including labs and equipment for healthcare education.

Trustee McGrory expressed concern over the building's cost per square foot and inquired about cost drivers, including labs and specialized equipment. Trustee Aguilar-Cruz expressed support for this project given her interest in healthcare education. The committee members and President Connolly praised the project's potential impact on healthcare education and its alignment with workforce needs. In conclusion, the meeting demonstrated the CSU's commitment to addressing critical facility needs, capital planning, and funding strategies. Speakers provided insights into the prioritization process, project details, and the broader impact of these initiatives on the CSU system. The Peterson Hall One Replacement project was highlighted as a prime example of collaboration between education and healthcare sectors to create innovative and impactful solutions. The committee approved this item.

10:15am July 2023 BOT – Day 2 Campus video: CSUF
[Video](#)

Wenda Fong, Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees (CSU BoT), reconvened the meeting with a second campus video. In the presentation titled "Cal State Fullerton: Titans Achieve Greatness with Resilience, Empowerment, and Opportunity," the dynamic and multifaceted nature of California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) was highlighted. The video commenced with an introduction by an unnamed narrator, who set the stage for the exploration of the university's achievements and impact. The video portrayed CSUF as an economic and cultural hub within Orange County, embodying accessibility, inclusivity, and impactful education since its establishment in 1957. With nearly 40,000 students and over 300,000 alumni, CSUF plays a significant role in the community as a provider of trained professionals in various fields.

Throughout the video, several individuals representing different aspects of CSUF's community shared their experiences and insights. Notably, student entrepreneur Bryan Ruef explained how his involvement with the university allowed him to create a cloud-based disaster relief software, underlining the nurturing environment for innovation and entrepreneurship. Another student highlighted the unique collaboration between computer science and the business world, demonstrating the university's efforts to bridge disciplines and prepare students for real-world challenges.

The video also emphasized CSUF's commitment to diversity and support. Alexis Johnson-Fowlkes, a student who found a sense of belonging in the black community support initiatives, expressed how the university's emphasis on community empowerment and shared experiences motivated her to excel academically. The university's diverse range of clubs and organizations, coupled with resources from Student Life and Leadership, Associated Students Incorporated (ASI), and Diversity Initiatives, offers a platform for students to explore and develop their identities.

CSUF's focus on impactful education and real-world problem solving was also underscored. Evelyn Bond, a student involved in the Southern California Ecosystems Research Program, shared her transformative experience conducting research as an undergraduate student. Kimberly Cruz highlighted the nurturing and supportive atmosphere that helped her develop self-confidence and critical thinking skills. The university's commitment to ensuring student success was evident through initiatives like the Abrego Scholarship, which supports first-generation students, as well as success centers, scholarships, advising, emergency funds, and mental health resources.

The video concluded by acknowledging CSUF's \$270 million campaign and its contributions to the campus community, fostering transformation rather than mere transaction. The president of CSUF, Framroze Virjee, expressed pride in the university's transformative impact on students' lives and the community. The video overall provided a comprehensive overview of CSUF's diverse educational opportunities, commitment to student success, and dedication to empowering students to become influential members of society.

Plenary Session (Day 2)
[Agenda](#), [Video](#)

Wenda Fong, Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order. She began by inviting new [CSU Faculty Trustee Darlene Yee-Melichar](#) to share her experiences that has brought her to the CSU. Chair Fong indicated that new [CSU Student Trustee Jonathan Molina Mancio](#) would join us at the September Board meeting.

The Board approved the consent agenda with the Committee on University and Faculty Personnel item on “Executive Compensation: Chancellor-select, California State University” removed for separate discussion. Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis joined us remotely for this discussion; she congratulated and spoke in favor of Dr. Mildred Garcia as CSU Chancellor-Select and the proposed executive compensation. She also commended the Board Chair, IC Koester, and all the Trustees for what she considered a stellar hiring process. A roll call vote was taken, and the Board approved Dr. Garcia's executive compensation.

A series of impactful speeches marked the remainder of the proceedings; please review the video to listen and learn about our esteemed leaders. Six valued individuals were honored and celebrated for their significant contributions to the CSU:

- Conferral of Title of Trustee Emeritus – Adam Day
- Conferral of Title of Student Trustee Emerita – Maria Linares
- Conferral of Titles of President Emeritus and Executive Vice Chancellor Emeritus – Framroze Virjee
- Conferral of Title of President Emeriti – Robert S. Nelsen, William A. Covino, and Ellen N. Junn

The CSU Board of Trustees Chair, Wenda Fong, commended the leadership and achievements of these six individuals. She expressed pride in the CSU's accomplishments and the collaborative spirit that defined the proceedings. The speeches collectively conveyed the dedication, passion, and transformative impact of these leaders, underlining the CSU's commitment to student success, diversity, equity, and societal progress.

Brief Queries or Requests for Feedback

Based on what I have shared with you above (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 would like to pose some brief queries or requests for feedback. I invite and look forward to any comments and/or questions that you may wish to share with me on the following items. Please email me at dyee@calstate.edu; thank you for your kind consideration.

1, the ASCSU has weighed in on student financial aid and the State University Grant (SUG) through prior resolutions including:

- [2022 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY POSITIONS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY \(ASCSU\)](#)
- [STATE UNIVERSITY GRANT PROGRAM: A CALL FOR FULL FUNDING FROM THE STATE](#)

Do you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate have any feedback regarding the [Chancellor's Strategic Workgroup on Financial Aid](#)?

2, the ASCSU has weighed in on student tuition through prior resolutions including:

- [TUITION INCREASES IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY \(CSU\)](#)

Do you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate have any feedback regarding the [Tuition Policy](#) and/or the [Multi-Year Tuition Proposal](#)?

3, The next regular meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees will be on 9/10-13/2023. Some Board items that you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate may wish to consider include the following:

Note: in parentheses, I merely suggest ASCSU committee(s) that may be interested in considering the Board information or action item given its committee charge.

Committee on Governmental Relations

Information 2. State Legislative Update (FGA?)

Committee on Educational Policy

Information 2. Chancellor's Strategic Workgroup on Black Student Success (JEDI?)

Action 3. Academic Planning (AA, APEP?)

Committee on University and Faculty Personnel

Update on Civil Rights (Title IX and other Nondiscrimination) Programs and Services (FA, JEDI?)

Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance

Information 2. Chancellor's Strategic Workgroup on Financial Aid (AA, APEP, FA, FGA, JEDI?)

Committee on Finance

Action 4. Tuition Policy (FGA?)

Action 5. Approval of the 2024-2025 Operating Budget Plan and Multi-Year Tuition Proposal (FGA?)

4, the ASCSU has expressed its appreciation/recognition of individuals for their leadership/service contributions to the ASCSU and/or CSU through prior commendation resolutions including:

- [COMMENDATION FOR FACULTY TRUSTEE STEVEN STEPANEK](#)
- [Commendation of Faculty Trustee and ASCSU Senator Bernadette Cheyne](#)
- [On the Occasion of the Retirement of Chancellor Charles B. Reed](#)
- [Resolution Welcoming Timothy P. White as Incoming Chancellor of the California State University \(CSU\)](#)

Do you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate have any plans to offer new commendation resolutions in the coming week/month?

5, as I promised during my interview for CSU Faculty Trustee, I want to get to know each of you through your standing committees, during meal breaks, through campus visits, during system events, and much more.

Please consider the **Listen and Learn schedule** (see my 8/24/23 email with the attached excel sheet) and indicate one or more ways we might meet. I look forward to learning from you and your campus constituents. **Thank you** for your commitment to higher education and the CSU!

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