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CSU Board of Trustees Meeting July 22-24, 2024

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 22-24, 2024. It started on Monday, July 22 in an all afternoon Closed Session for discussion about Executive Personnel Matters [Government Code §11126(a)(1) and Pending Litigation [Government Code §11126(e)(1)]. The Board reconvened on Tuesday, July 23 in a brief morning Closed Session for the Committee on Collective Bargaining [Government Code §3596(d)]. The Board then met for the rest of the day and on Wednesday, July 24 in Open Session for public comments, information items and action items.

The Board's full agenda and background materials (225 pages) for the July 2024 meeting are available at <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/Board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2024/Documents/July-22-24-2024-Full-Binder.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/2024/Pages/July-22-24-2024.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 22-24, 2024 \(Full Agenda\)](#)

On July 22-24, 2024, the meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees was held at the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach.

On Monday July 22, at 1:00pm, the Board convened in Closed Session on Executive Personnel Matters. Discussion centered on leadership changes, executive appointments, and compensation adjustments. See Committee on University and Faculty Personnel below. Discussion also involved Pending and Anticipated Litigation (Cole v. CSU, et al.; Kumar v. CSUSM).

On Tuesday, July 23, at 8:00am, the Board convened in Closed Session for further discussion on the Committee on Collective Bargaining. In my role as Faculty Trustee, I am not party to this discussion. 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." The Board then convened in Open Session for the rest of the meeting.

[Tuesday, July 23, 2024](#)

[9:00 a.m.- Plenary Session \(Day 1\)](#)

[Agenda](#)

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

On July 23, 2024, the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees convened for a meeting on several critical issues impacting the university system. Chair Jack B. Clarke Jr. called the meeting to order and promptly initiated the roll call confirming a quorum was present.

Chair Clarke opened the session by emphasizing the Board's commitment to free speech and the importance of diverse viewpoints. He encouraged respectful discourse during Public Comment and highlighted the Board's efforts to ensure accessibility and flexibility by allowing Public Comment in person and virtually at the beginning of the meeting. This approach was designed to maximize participation and transparency.

The Public Comment session began with Michael Clyde, Technical Lead at CSU Chancellor's Office, who raised concerns about employee retention and telecommuting policies at the Chancellor's office. He highlighted a significant potential turnover rate, with 65% of employees considering leaving. He stressed the importance of telecommuting options, warning that limiting these could result in losing valuable system knowledge and expertise.

Jerusha Greenwood, Professor and Chair of the Academic Senate at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, addressed the proposed integration of Cal Maritime and Cal Poly SLO. She expressed the need for shared governance and emphasized that faculty must be involved in discussions about curriculum and integration processes. She noted that faculty input had been limited thus far and urged the Board to engage with academic senates to ensure the integration respects each institution's unique strengths.

Dustin Stegner, Chair and Professor of English at Cal Poly SLO, echoed concerns about the integration, focusing on potential workforce reductions and the lack of communication about how

faculty and staff positions would be affected. He stressed the importance of preserving faculty roles to maintain quality education and support for students.

Several speakers continued to address the integration of Cal Maritime and Cal Poly SLO, including Ian Wallace, a Counseling Psychologist in Student Health Services at Cal Maritime. He pointed out numerous vacancies and departures at Cal Maritime and expressed concern over the lack of job postings for full-time positions. He advocated including employees in decision-making processes and considering alternative paths for the institution's future.

Lisa Camara, a temporary faculty member in Communication Studies and Chapter President of the California Faculty Association at Cal Poly SLO, criticized the lack of consultation with faculty and students regarding the integration decision. She emphasized the need for faculty involvement in decisions that impact not only faculty but also students and staff.

Rachel Hill, an Assistant Professor of African History at Cal Poly Pomona, highlighted the alarming increase in mental health issues among students, with rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation reaching unprecedented levels. She called for expanded access to mental health support and stressed the urgent need for resources to address the crisis and support student well-being.

Elaine Bernal, a Lecturer of Chemistry and member of the CFA Board of Directors at CSU Long Beach, spoke passionately about the financial challenges facing students and families, criticizing recent tuition hikes and executive compensation increases. She urged trustees to prioritize affordability and accessibility, emphasizing the impact of financial decisions on students' educational and economic futures.

Karen Malone, IT admin in the CSU Chancellor's Office, voiced concerns about wasteful spending and the implications of returning to a 3-2 hybrid work model (17 *written comments* regarding the 3-2 hybrid work model were submitted for Public Comment). She outlined potential costs associated with building leases, equipment purchases, and staff turnover and questioned the financial prudence of these decisions.

Vincent Rasso, Senior Manager of State and Student Affairs, Campaign for College Opportunity, commended the CSU on the GI 2025 initiative for its progress in improving graduation rates. He urged the Board to continue eliminating equity gaps, supporting Black student enrollment and success, and equipping campuses with resources to enhance student outcomes.

Fatima Zino, a student at CSU Long Beach, criticized the CSU's opposition to the Opportunity for All Act (AB 2586) which aims to provide equal employment opportunities for undocumented students. She emphasized the financial struggles faced by undocumented students and advocated for the bill's potential to alleviate some of their burdens.

Throughout the Public Comment session, speakers addressed various issues, including academic freedom, employment concerns, mental health support, proposed integration, tuition increases, etc. The Board was urged to engage in meaningful dialogue, prioritize student well-being, and ensure transparency in decision-making processes. The Public Comment period concluded with calls for collaboration and accountability to address the diverse needs and concerns of the CSU community.

I wish to make a note of an unusually large number of *written comments* in support of the proposed integration of Cal Maritime and Cal Poly SLO that were submitted to the Board for consideration as part of Public Comment. These 20 letters of support were received from the following:

- 1) Kim Estes (President & CEO, Kim Estes & Associates; Cal Maritime Alum 1978; Cal Maritime Foundation Board Member)
- 2) Robert H. McConnell (Mayor, City of Vallejo)
- 3) Ed Washburn (Senior Vice President, Fleet Operations, Pasha Hawaii; Cal Maritime Foundation Board Member)
- 4) Captain Marc Bayer (Vice President, Global Marine Operations, Marathon Petroleum Corporation; Cal Maritime Alum 1982)
- 5) Captain John Carlier (President, San Francisco Bar Pilots)
- 6) William N. Andrew (Vice President, Chevron Shipping Company LLC/retired; Cal Maritime Alum 1978)
- 7) Carl Holmes (Deputy Director, San Francisco County Transportation Authority; Cal Maritime Alum 2016; President, Cal Maritime Alumni Association)
- 8) Erin Pierson (Manager, Marine Operations, Crowley – Ship Assist & Escort; Cal Maritime Alum 2002; Past President, Cal Maritime Alumni Association)
- 9) Captain M.H.K. “MANNY” ASCHEMEYER (Cap’n Manny & Associates Consulting Svcs., Covering Port Security, VTS/MDA, and Int’l Trade Matters; Cal Maritime Alum 1963)
- 10) Captain Samar Bannister (TS Golden Bear and Director of Marine Programs, Cal Maritime; Cal Maritime Alum 2000)
- 11) Captain R. W. Piazza (President & CEO, Price Pump Co.; Cal Maritime Alum 1965)
- 12) William (Bill) H. Swanson (Chairman & CEO, Raytheon Company; Cal Maritime Alum; Chairman, Cal Poly Foundation Board)
- 13) Edward Ferranto (Cal Maritime Alum 1969)
- 14) Erica A. Stewart (Mayor, City of San Luis Obispo)
- 15) Captain Ed Enos (Senior Pilot, Hawaii Pilots Association; Cal Maritime Alum 1987)
- 16) Matt Pontes (Chief Administrative Officer, San Luis Obispo County)
- 17) Jim Dantona (President/CEO, San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce)
- 18) John Z. Strong (Vice President, Jacobsen Pilot Service; Cal Maritime Alum 1973)
- 19) Thomas B. Crowley, Jr. (Chairman and CEO, Crowley Corporation)
- 20) Dennis Deisinger (Principal, Deisinger Maritime & Logistics Management; Cal Maritime Alum 1985)

Chair Clarke expressed gratitude for the public's engagement, acknowledging their passion and conviction. He reiterated the Board's commitment to paying attention to stakeholders and emphasized maintaining a respectful and constructive environment. The Board then took a brief recess, setting the stage for further discussions and deliberations on the critical issues raised during the session.

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

Jack B. Clarke Jr., Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees (CSU BoT): The California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees meeting on July 23, 2024, marked a significant occasion as Jack B. Clarke, Jr. chaired his first session as head of the Board. Chair Clarke began by extending a warm welcome to several new leaders, emphasizing the importance of their roles in shaping the future of CSU.

The new attendees were Cal State Fullerton President Ronald S. Rochon, who joined virtually due to unforeseen circumstances; Stanislaus State President Britt Rios-Ellis; Academic Senate Chair Professor Elizabeth A. Boyd; and California State Student Association President Iese Esera. Chair Clarke expressed confidence that their collective expertise would significantly advance CSU's mission and positively impact the university system for years.

Chair Clarke introduced newly appointed Board members: Sam Nejabat, a senior advisor of Business Affairs to the California Attorney General, who will officially join the Board in September, and Jazmin Guajardo, the new student trustee from CSU Channel Islands. Chair Clarke highlighted Jazmin Guajardo's extensive leadership experience, including her roles as Vice President of Associated Students Incorporated and ASI Senator for Student Engagement. He praised her impressive dedication to student leadership and welcomed both new members to the Board.

In a solemn moment, Chair Clarke paid tribute to the late Trustee Emeritus Frederick Price Pierce, a double alumnus of San Diego State University, who significantly contributed to CSU and the San Diego community. Trustee Emeritus Pierce played a crucial role in developing the CSU Mission Valley project, which is a testament to his vision and leadership. Chair Clarke extended heartfelt condolences to Trustee Emeritus Pierce's family and noted that a celebration of his life was planned, encouraging Board members to attend and honor Trustee Emeritus Pierce's enduring legacy.

Chair Clarke then shared a deeply personal story about his family's educational journey, focusing on his grandfather, Thomas Monroe Campbell, the USDA's first African-American Cooperative Extension Agent. Chair Clarke narrated Campbell's inspiring journey from a farm in Georgia to the Tuskegee Institute, emphasizing the transformative power of education. He recounted Campbell's determination and resilience, which made him a pivotal figure in advancing agricultural education among African-American farmers in Alabama. This story served as a poignant reminder of the impact of education and the importance of providing similar opportunities for all students. Chair Clarke expressed his commitment to ensuring that students who share his grandfather's passion for learning have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and achieve success through education.

In outlining his vision and goals for the Board, Chair Clarke emphasized its role as an oversight body supporting the Chancellor's Office rather than engaging in day-to-day decision-making. He highlighted the importance of data-informed decisions, transparency, and accountability in achieving student success. Chair Clarke underscored his unwavering support for Chancellor García and CSU leadership in navigating challenges, enhancing system efficiency, and maintaining academic excellence. He also shared experiences from attending CSU's biannual Juneteenth Symposium in Sacramento, commending President Luke Wood and the organizing committee for a well-executed event celebrating Black excellence and unity. Chair Clarke reiterated CSU's commitment to becoming a national leader in Black Student Success, emphasizing the necessity of accountability and strategic planning to dismantle barriers and ensure equitable opportunities for all students.

Elizabeth A. Boyd, Chair of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU): Following Chair Clarke, Elizabeth (Betsy) Boyd, the newly elected Chair of the Academic Senate CSU, presented her report, emphasizing higher education's challenges and opportunities. She addressed national issues such as attacks on academic freedom, book banning, and the systematic dismantling of diversity

initiatives, stressing the Academic Senate's commitment to advocating for the rights and needs of students and faculty. She introduced her executive team, highlighting their diverse backgrounds and extensive experience in shared governance. She expressed the Academic Senate's dedication to delivering high-quality education and fostering an inclusive environment across CSU campuses.

ASCSU Chair Boyd outlined the Academic Senate's summer advocacy efforts (i.e. support for CSU nursing programs, engagement with the California Reparations Task Force) and attendance at the Juneteenth Symposium in Sacramento. She emphasized the importance of collaboration with CSU stakeholders to overcome challenges and support student success. She concluded her report by inviting trustees to work closely with the Academic Senate to transform challenges into opportunities and ensure a bright future for CSU students.

Iese Leon Esera, President of the California State Student Association (CSSA): The meeting continued with a report from Iese Esera, the newly elected President of the California State Student Association (CSSA). In his first report, he introduced his executive team and outlined CSSA's ambitious goals for the academic year. These goals include strengthening advocacy efforts at both state and federal levels, enhancing student success and well-being through support for mental health programs, addressing food and housing insecurity, and promoting diversity and inclusion across all 23 CSU campuses. He shared inspiring stories of CSU students overcoming personal challenges, such as abandonment, addiction, and abuse, to pursue their education, highlighting their resilience and unwavering belief in the value of a CSU degree.

CSSA President Esera emphasized the importance of transparency and collaboration with CSU stakeholders to ensure student voices guide CSU's actions. He expressed excitement about the growing collaboration between CSSA and CSU leadership, highlighting the importance of working together to achieve shared goals and positively impact the CSU community. He concluded his report by recognizing the support of his San Francisco State community, family, and friends, acknowledging their role in shaping him as a leader and agent of change.

Adrienne Harrell, President-Elect of the CSU Alumni Council: President-Elect Harrell followed with a report highlighting initiatives to strengthen alumni-student connections and support Student Success. She introduced the "61 Plus Club" at CSU Long Beach, a program designed to guide and mentor students who have completed between 61 and 89 units of coursework. The club offers personalized support, including help finding internships and career development sessions, engaging alumni as mentors to share their knowledge, and expanding students' professional networks. She emphasized the impact of such programs on student success and the importance of cross-department collaboration in achieving these goals.

CSU Alumni Council President-Elect Harrell announced plans for a detailed report on the outcomes of various Student Success projects, underscoring the CSU Alumni Council's commitment to supporting CSU students and enhancing their educational experience. She expressed gratitude for the academic and student affairs support in fostering alumni engagement. She highlighted recent alumni participation in National Donut Day and the Juneteenth Symposium events. She concluded by welcoming over 137,000 new alumni who joined the CSU alumni family in the past spring, underscoring the council's dedication to telling the story of CSU's impact on the state, nation, and world.

Mildred García, Chancellor of the California State University: Chancellor García delivered a comprehensive report outlining her goals and priorities for the 2024-25 academic year. Her report focused on five key priorities: reimagining equity-focused student success, rebuilding trust through accountability and advocacy, managing fiscal challenges creatively and collaboratively, creating a culture of continuous improvement, and engaging in long-term strategic planning. Chancellor García emphasized the importance of purpose-driven, student-focused work that leverages the power of the CSU system and relies on collaboration and accountability.

Much of Chancellor García's report was dedicated to initiatives supporting Black Student Success. She announced the establishment of the CSU's first-ever Statewide Central Office for the Advancement of Black Excellence at Sacramento State University, aimed at accelerating and coordinating efforts to transform the experience of Black students across the CSU system. Chancellor García highlighted the importance of data-driven decision-making and strategic alignment of resources to enhance student outcomes, stressing the need for campuses to report progress and share promising practices.

Chancellor García addressed fiscal challenges, acknowledging the problematic budget circumstances facing the CSU but commending the collective advocacy efforts that have led to more positive outcomes than anticipated. She expressed gratitude for the collaboration between CSU stakeholders, the legislature, and the governor's office, emphasizing the importance of continued advocacy to secure funding for critical initiatives such as Cal Grant reform and immigration legal services. Chancellor García concluded her report with plans for greater efficiency and cost-saving measures, including reorganizing the Chancellor's Office to create separate academic and student affairs divisions, enhance student support, and ensure mission-driven efficiency.

Chancellor García then introduced Dr. Jason Lane from the National Association of System Heads (NASH) for a special presentation to the Board. Dr. Jason Lane, a leading expert on higher education systems, discussed the concept of "systemness" — the alignment and coordination of operations, resources, and policies across CSU's campuses. Dr. Lane emphasized the potential for CSU to maximize its impact through collaboration and shared goals rather than competition. He highlighted successful examples of systemness in other states, such as the University of Louisiana's Compete LA program. He encouraged CSU to leverage its strengths as a multicampus system to drive academic innovation and student success.

Dr. Lane's presentation sparked a robust discussion among Board members on enhancing collaboration and efficiency across CSU campuses, addressing shared governance, academic program development, and cooperation with other higher education systems in California. Trustees explored the potential for course sharing and collaboration across CSU campuses to enhance student success and reduce costs. Dr. Lane highlighted the benefits of cross-registration and shared resources. The discussion also touched on the importance of aligning strategic goals and resources to support systemwide initiatives and ensure the CSU remains a leader in providing access and opportunity to all students.

In closing, Chair Clarke thanked all participants for their contributions and expressed his commitment to leading CSU through collaboration and innovation. He reiterated the Board's focus on student success and the need to navigate higher education challenges with

determination and optimism. Chair Clarke emphasized the importance of maintaining a clear vision and strategic direction to ensure CSU continues serving as a public higher education model and a beacon of opportunity for all students.

1:00 p.m.- Committee on Audit

[Agenda](#)

[Video](#)

Before the business of the committees, the afternoon session began with opening remarks from Chair Clarke, who emphasized the importance of shared governance as a foundation for the public education system. He reiterated the Board's commitment to this principle. Following his remarks, Trustee Lillian Kimbell, the chair of the Committee on Audit, convened the meeting. The Committee moved to approve the consent agenda, which included the approval of minutes from the previous meeting held on May 21, 2024, and a status report on audit and advisory services activities. There were no objections, and the consent agenda was approved without further discussion. The meeting concluded with Trustee Kimbell adjourning the Committee on Audit, having successfully covered the approval of the consent agenda.

1:05 p.m.- Committee on Educational Policy

[Agenda](#)

[Video](#)

During the Committee on Educational Policy meeting, Vice Chair Arambula led the approval of minutes from the prior meeting and discussions on three significant agenda items: the recommended amendments to Title 5 regarding CSU doctoral programs, the Californians for All College Corps initiative, and the Graduation Initiative 2025 Year of Engagement. These discussions underscored CSU's dedication to enhancing educational offerings and fostering student success.

The first agenda item addressed the recommended amendments to Title 5, introduced by Dr. Dilcie D. Perez, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, and Dr. Brent Foster, Assistant Vice Chancellor and State University Dean of Academic Programs. The amendments stemmed from Assembly Bill 656, which authorized CSU to offer non-duplicative doctoral degrees, reflecting a significant shift in CSU's educational capabilities.

Trustee Yee-Melichar expressed appreciation for the informative presentation on recommended amendments to Title 5 regarding CSU doctoral programs. She raised questions about the anticipated challenges in implementing these amendments, particularly regarding admissions criteria for new doctoral programs and the recruitment of both domestic and international students. DVC Perez clarified that admissions criteria would be campus-specific, allowing for flexibility based on each program's requirements and resources. Additionally, she emphasized that each campus would thoroughly assess its resources, including faculty, funding, and facilities, before proposing new programs to ensure sustainability.

Trustee Arambula inquired about the process for determining which campuses would have their proposals submitted, considering the UC Office of the President would only review 10 proposals per year. AVC Foster responded that it was unlikely CSU would receive more than 10 proposals

in a year. However, if it did, a fair and unbiased review would be conducted, potentially leading to one campus taking the lead if multiple campuses proposed similar programs.

The Committee on Educational Policy unanimously approved the amendments to Title 5, recognizing their importance in expanding CSU's capacity to address California's evolving educational and professional demands.

The second agenda item focused on the Californians for All College Corps initiative, a service-based program that engages students in community service in exchange for financial support for their education. Dr. Ray Murillo, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Equity and Belonging, and Josh Fryday, California Chief Service Officer, presented the program's benefits, highlighting its role in helping students graduate on time with less debt while contributing to building equitable communities across California.

Trustee Rodriguez appreciated the program's inclusivity, particularly its efforts to include undocumented (AB 540) students. She also inquired about the obstacles preventing the program from being available at all CSU campuses. Josh Fryday explained that the program's expansion would depend on demonstrating success in the initial years, after which additional funding could be sought to scale the program across all CSU campuses.

Trustee Kimbell praised the program but questioned how it might impact students' ability to access other forms of financial aid. Josh Fryday acknowledged this concern and mentioned that there had been instances where students faced challenges with their financial aid packages due to participation in the program. He expressed a willingness to work with CSU to reduce these barriers.

The presentation included a personal testimony from Elizabeth Arreola Vasquez, a College Corps Fellow and CSU Bakersfield alumna, who shared how the program significantly impacted her personal and professional growth.

The final agenda item, presented by Dr. Dilcie D. Perez and Dr. Jennifer Baszile, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Success and Inclusive Excellence, outlined the Graduation Initiative 2025 Year of Engagement. This initiative marks the final year of the Graduation Initiative 2025 and seeks to redefine student success through a comprehensive engagement process involving stakeholders across the CSU community.

Trustee Steinhauser emphasized the importance of data-driven approaches to identify effective practices and improve student outcomes. He stressed the need to maintain the student voice in the process and ensure the initiative addresses the needs of diverse student populations. He also inquired about how CSU plans to collaborate with K-12 partners to frontload critical skills such as mathematics and align educational pathways. DVC Perez affirmed that these partnerships were central to the initiative and that CSU was committed to ongoing collaboration with K-12 systems.

Trustee Yee-Melichar praised the initiative's focus on data and accountability, noting the importance of disaggregating data to address disparities and ensure equitable outcomes. She inquired about the process for selecting participants for the online stakeholder survey and how the initiative would ensure inclusive engagement of diverse stakeholders. DVC Perez explained

that the survey would be sent to all faculty and staff, as well as students from the fall 2018 cohort through 2024, ensuring broad participation. AVC Baszile added that the GI 2025 Symposium will include an Affordability Summit which would include opportunities for engagement and insightful discussions with students and other members of the CSU community.

Trustee Rodriguez highlighted the importance of addressing basic needs, such as housing affordability, as part of the initiative. She suggested reassessing these needs post-pandemic to ensure that the initiative's strategies are aligned with current student realities. DVC Perez confirmed that basic needs were a critical component of the initiative, and efforts were already underway to address these concerns.

The trustees expressed strong support for the Graduation Initiative 2025 Year of Engagement, recognizing its potential to transform CSU's approach to student success and enhance educational outcomes for all students.

2:35 p.m.- Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance

[Agenda](#)

[Video](#)

During the Joint Meeting of the Committees on Educational Policy and Finance, Vice Chair Diego Arambula led the approval of minutes from the prior meeting and a crucial discussion on the proposed integration of California State University Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime) with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly SLO). The meeting featured key presentations from Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer; Michael Dumont, Interim President of Cal Maritime; Jeff Armstrong, President of Cal Poly SLO; and Nathan Evans, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer. The primary agenda focused on addressing the dire financial circumstances facing Cal Maritime, which has seen a significant 31% decline in enrollment over the past seven years and is projected to face an unsustainable budget deficit.

EVC Relyea opened the presentation by stressing the necessity of the integration due to Cal Maritime's unsustainable fiscal circumstances. He detailed the academy's ongoing financial crisis, underscoring the severity of the situation and the potential benefits of the proposed integration with Cal Poly SLO. He emphasized that despite significant cost-cutting measures, including reductions in administrative roles and a hiring freeze on non-essential positions, Cal Maritime's financial resources remain insufficient to maintain its operations and educational mission. EVC Relyea pointed out that this integration would not only help Cal Maritime survive but also enhance educational outcomes by leveraging Cal Poly SLO's strengths in enrollment management and fundraising.

Interim President Dumont provided a sobering overview of Cal Maritime's current situation, describing the extensive measures taken to mitigate the financial crisis, such as budget reductions, restructuring administrative roles, and enforcing a hiring freeze. He expressed deep concern about Cal Maritime's ability to continue operating safely, noting that the institution's financial reserves could dwindle to less than \$400,000 by the end of the upcoming academic year. Interim President Dumont emphasized the strategic importance of Cal Maritime, highlighting its role as one of only six maritime academies in the United States responsible for producing officers

for the Merchant Marine and supporting national security interests. He warned that without significant intervention, Cal Maritime would likely be unable to sustain its operations in the near future.

The trustees engaged in a thorough and thoughtful discussion, raising several critical points. Trustee Gilbert-Lurie expressed her enthusiasm for the proposal, recognizing it as a potential "win-win" for students, but she also highlighted the importance of involving all stakeholders, particularly faculty and students, in the planning process to ensure its success. She questioned the \$5 million initial investment, asking for clarity on the long-term financial savings and stressing the need to quantify these savings to justify the expenditure. She also suggested that the integration could serve as a model for future collaborations within the California State University (CSU) system, advocating for a broader evaluation of potential synergies across campuses to enhance financial sustainability system-wide.

Trustee Faigin echoed Gilbert-Lurie's concerns about transparency and collaboration, emphasizing the importance of maintaining Cal Maritime's distinct identity throughout the integration process. He drew parallels between this integration and consolidation trends in other industries, such as broadcasting, where shared services have been used to sustain operations. He highlighted the unique value of Cal Maritime's specialized programs and stressed that any integration must preserve the academy's core mission and identity. He also raised the issue of shared governance, particularly in light of concerns expressed by faculty during public comments, and called for clear communication and meaningful involvement of faculty and staff in the integration process.

Trustee Kimbell focused her questions on the declining enrollment at Cal Maritime, inquiring about the root causes of this trend. She expressed surprise that, despite the promising career prospects and high starting salaries in the maritime industry, student interest had waned. In response, Interim President Dumont explained that the decline in enrollment could be attributed to several factors, including a lack of awareness about career opportunities in the maritime industry, the rigorous demands of maritime careers, and changing student preferences that prioritize work-life balance over salary. He also acknowledged that mandatory participation in the Corps of Cadets and uniform requirements might have deterred potential students, and he revealed that changes were being made to these requirements to attract a broader and more diverse student body.

Trustee Ortiz-Morfit added to this discussion by emphasizing the importance of marketing the diverse career opportunities available through Cal Maritime. She pointed out that not all graduates work at sea—many find lucrative positions in logistics and other related fields, where the skills acquired at Cal Maritime are highly transferable and in demand. She suggested that the name "Maritime Academy" might be misleading for prospective students who are unaware of the broad range of careers the academy prepares them for and recommended that the marketing strategy be expanded to highlight these diverse opportunities.

Trustee Yee-Melichar brought attention to the concerns voiced by faculty at Cal Maritime and Cal Poly SLO, particularly regarding their participation in the integration process. She emphasized that faculty must be integral to the discussions on academic programming and curriculum development, as their expertise is essential for maintaining the quality of education during and

after the integration. She advocated for campus senate, faculty, staff and student representation to ensure that their voices are heard and that they have a meaningful role in shaping the future of the integrated institution. She also raised questions about how the proposed integration would impact faculty retention, tenure, and promotion (RTP) processes, and how staff roles and responsibilities would be affected?

Vice Chair Arambula and Chancellor García both underscored the urgency of the situation, with Chancellor García noting that the financial instability of Cal Maritime could lead to its closure if decisive action is not taken. She highlighted the broader implications of losing such a vital institution, not only for California but for the entire nation, given Cal Maritime's role in training the Merchant Marine officers critical to national security. She emphasized that the proposed integration represents an innovative solution that aligns with the CSU's mission and values, and urged the Board to consider the long-term benefits of safeguarding Cal Maritime's future.

Chair Clarke further reinforced the Board's fiduciary responsibility, stressing the need to act with both urgency and deliberation to protect the institution's future. He acknowledged the difficulty of the decision but praised the proposal as an "elegant solution" to an existential problem. He called on the Board to approach the decision with the seriousness it deserves, recognizing that while the situation is dire, there is an opportunity to turn it into a positive outcome for both institutions and their stakeholders.

The meeting concluded with a strong consensus among the members of the Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance on the importance of moving forward with the integration process. They recognized the need for further discussions and refinements to the proposal, particularly in areas such as shared governance, financial sustainability, and stakeholder engagement. The trustees expressed confidence that the proposed integration would provide long-term benefits to students, faculty, and staff while supporting California's and the nation's maritime workforce and security needs. The proposal will be revisited at the upcoming Board meetings in September and November, where further discussions and potential approval are anticipated.

4:05 p.m.- Committee on Campus Planning, Building and Grounds

[Agenda](#)

[Video](#)

Trustee Mark Ghilarducci, the vice chair of the Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings, and Grounds, convened the meeting. The Committee moved to approve the consent agenda which consisted approval of minutes from the previous meeting held on May 21, 2024, and an information item on the Preliminary Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan. There were no objections, and the consent agenda was approved without further discussion.

The Committee then moved to the California State University Maritime Academy Waterfront Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certification. Steve Relyea (Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer), Michael Dumont (Interim President of Cal Maritime Academy), and Paul Gannoe (Assistant Vice Chancellor for Capital Planning, Design, and Construction) presented this discussion item.

EVC Relyea initiated the discussion by highlighting the significance of the Waterfront Master Plan, which aims to accommodate the new National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV-V), expected to be delivered to Cal Maritime by late 2026. He emphasized that the waterfront master plan and EIR certification were critical regardless of the approval of the Cal Maritime and Cal Poly integration proposal.

Interim President Dumont elaborated on Cal Maritime's role within the California State University system, emphasizing its mission to train future mariners to meet the nation's economic and national security needs. He noted that the new training ship, the Golden State, will enhance Cal Maritime's capabilities by accommodating 600 students at sea, significantly more than the current capacity of 250 students. The new ship will include advanced training facilities such as classrooms, a training bridge, and various workshops.

AVC Gannoe provided a detailed overview of the Waterfront Master Plan, which will be implemented in three phases. Phase One, the primary focus of the current approval request, includes the construction of a new main pier, upgrading existing infrastructure, and creating new boat basins to support the training ship Golden State. This phase is crucial for ensuring the academy's facilities' readiness before the boat arrives.

The plan's environmental aspects were also addressed. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) identified one significant unavoidable impact related to demolishing remnants of the historic Contra Costa ferry, a necessary step to facilitate new dredging operations. Despite this, all other potential environmental impacts were deemed less than significant or mitigable. The EIR process included public outreach and compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the future of the current training ship, the Golden Bear, which, according to EVC Relyea, would likely be placed in the mothball fleet before eventually being recycled by the U.S. Maritime Administration. This process would potentially benefit the state maritime academies financially.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous committee vote to approve the California State University Maritime Academy Waterfront Master Plan and the certification of the Environmental Impact Report. The approval signifies a significant step in enhancing Cal Maritime's educational facilities and ensuring its continued leadership in maritime training and education.

4:25 p.m.- Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning, Building and Grounds

[Agenda](#)

[Video](#)

Trustee Mark Ghilarducci, the vice chair of the Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings, and Grounds, convened the joint meeting. The meeting began with the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on May 21, 2024, followed by the discussion of two action items related to California State University (CSU) campus student housing projects.

The first action item focused on the California State University, Sacramento Student Housing III project. The item was presented by Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer; Luke Wood, President of CSU Sacramento; Paul Gannoe, Assistant Vice Chancellor for

Capital Planning, Design, and Construction; and Robert Eaton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Financing, Treasury, and Risk Management. They highlighted the schematic design and debt issuance approval for the project, part of an initiative funded by the State's Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program. President Wood emphasized the project's importance in providing affordable housing to Sacramento State students, stressing the university's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The project plans to construct a five-story building offering 335 beds, with a significant portion designated for affordable housing to support low-income and first-generation college students. AVC Gannoe discussed the design and sustainability features of the building, which include energy-efficient systems and facilities to support student engagement. AVC Eaton explained the financial aspects, stating that the project would be funded through grant funds, program reserves, and systemwide revenue bonds. He assured the Joint Committee that the debt service coverage ratios were favorable, indicating that the project's revenues would adequately cover its financial obligations. The project received unanimous approval from the Joint Committee.

Trustee Adamson inquired about the project's financial viability and cost-effectiveness, expressing satisfaction with the explanations provided about cost controls and the modular construction approach. Trustee Gilbert-Lurie highlighted the project's importance in improving student retention and success rates. Trustee Faigin expressed concern about the debt service coverage but was reassured by AVC Eaton's explanation that the financial projections, supported by state appropriations, were robust enough to cover the debt service.

The second agenda item focused on the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Student Housing, Phase 1 project. EVC Steve Relyea, President Jeffrey D. Armstrong, AVC Paul Gannoe, and AVC Robert Eaton led the presentation. The project is the first phase of a larger initiative to construct nine buildings, providing approximately 4,100 beds. President Armstrong discussed the need for expanded housing at Cal Poly SLO, highlighting the university's high number of applications and the importance of on-campus living in supporting student success.

AVC Gannoe elaborated on the design, which features modular construction to reduce costs and enhance sustainability. The project will use prefabricated units, allowing for efficient construction and reduced environmental impact. Robert Eaton presented the financial plan for the project, which involved issuing revenue bonds to cover construction costs. Despite a lower initial debt service coverage ratio, projections indicate that the financial metrics will improve over time, justifying the project's approval. The Joint Committee members engaged in a detailed discussion about the project's costs, ultimately approving it after clarifying site development expenses and financial strategies.

Trustee Ortiz-Morfit raised questions about the sustainability features and their long-term benefits, emphasizing the importance of environmentally responsible construction. She was assured that the design includes LED lighting, recycled materials, and effective stormwater management, contributing to long-term cost savings and environmental benefits. Trustee Molina Mancio expressed support for the project, noting its alignment with the university's strategic goals and the positive impact on the student community. Trustee Ghilarducci appreciated the comprehensive planning and the focus on providing quality housing for students.

Trustee Adamson asked about the high site development costs and fees, seeking clarification on why these were significantly higher than similar projects. AVC Gannoe explained that the costs included preparation for all three project phases and covered the design for future phases, which justified the higher initial expenditure. Trustee Arambula suggested providing more baseline information on construction costs in future presentations to help trustees better understand variances in project costs. The presenters acknowledged this request and committed to including such information in the future.

Throughout the meeting, the trustees emphasized the importance of transparency and diligence in reviewing project proposals. They commended the presenters for their comprehensive explanations and acknowledged the ongoing efforts to provide affordable housing options for CSU students. The meeting concluded with an expression of gratitude from Chair Clarke, who highlighted the significance of the initiatives discussed and the commitment of the CSU system to student success.

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

8:30 a.m.- Announcements

Video

The meeting began with an introduction by Chair Clarke, who welcomed the attendees and invited Chancellor García to make several important announcements regarding leadership changes and appointments within the California State University (CSU) system.

Chancellor García announced the appointment of Dr. Emily F. Cutrer as the Interim President of Sonoma State University. Dr. Cutrer, the President Emerita of Texas A&M University-Texarkana and a former Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Cal State San Marcos, was chosen to address the fiscal challenges facing Sonoma State. These challenges include declining enrollment, increased labor costs, and higher general operating expenses. Chancellor García highlighted Dr. Cutrer's experience as an innovative leader capable of creating programmatic synergies and administrative efficiencies. Dr. Cutrer has been tasked with aligning the university's academic programs and administrative infrastructure with its financial resources. This includes establishing agreements for CSU shared services to reduce operating costs and evaluating educational programs in collaboration with shared governance while maintaining academic excellence.

Chancellor García expressed confidence in Dr. Cutrer's ability to lead Sonoma State during this critical period and thanked Dr. Nathan Evans, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, for his role in serving as Acting President of Sonoma State since May 2024.

In addition to Dr. Cutrer's appointment, Chancellor García announced the appointment of Dr. Albert S. Liddicoat as the Interim Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, effective July 29, 2024. Dr. Liddicoat serves as Vice President for University Personnel and Chief Human Resources Officer at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is recognized for his mission-focused, employee-centric leadership and involvement in numerous system-wide initiatives.

Chancellor García concluded her announcements by expressing gratitude to President Thomas Jackson for his leadership at Cal Poly Humboldt and indicated that an interim president for the university would be announced soon.

Chair Clarke thanked Chancellor García and expressed full support for the appointments, particularly noting the importance of applying CSU's system-wide approach to address challenges and develop innovative solutions. The meeting then proceeded with the day's agenda, emphasizing leadership transitions and strategic planning within the CSU system.

Committee on University and Faculty Personnel

Agenda

Video

Trustee Wenda Fong, the chair of the Committee on University and Faculty Personnel, convened the meeting. The meeting began with the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on May 21, 2024, followed by the discussion of four action items and one information item. These items focused on several critical issues, including executive appointments, compensation adjustments, and updates on civil rights programming within the CSU system. Trustee Fong began the meeting by recognizing Chancellor Mildred García's earlier announcements regarding leadership changes and strategic initiatives to address CSU's financial and operational challenges.

Chancellor García reiterated Dr. Emily F. Cutrer as the Interim President of Sonoma State University. Dr. Cutrer, previously the president of Texas A&M University-Texarkana, brings extensive experience in higher education leadership, having served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Cal State San Marcos. Her appointment is crucial for Sonoma State, which is grappling with significant financial pressures due to declining enrollment, rising labor costs, and increased demand for specialized services. Chancellor García has tasked Dr. Cutrer with developing programmatic synergies and administrative efficiencies to align the university's academic programs with its financial resources. Dr. Cutrer's interim appointment includes a directive to establish agreements that enable administrative infrastructure through CSU-shared services to reduce operating costs.

In addition to Dr. Cutrer's appointment, Dr. Albert A. Liddicoat was named interim vice chancellor for human resources. Dr. Liddicoat is the vice president for university personnel and Chief Human Resources Officer at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is recognized for his employee-centric and mission-focused approach, and his interim role is expected to contribute significantly to CSU's human resources strategies. His responsibilities will include managing the division of university personnel, which encompasses human resources, academic personnel, and the Civil Rights and Compliance Office.

The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel addressed several critical items related to executive compensation. Chancellor García recommended a compensation package for Dr. Cutrer, including an annual salary of \$381,408, which matches that of the previous president, along with a \$5,000 monthly housing allowance and a \$1,000 monthly auto allowance. Similarly, Dr. Liddicoat's compensation was set at an annual salary of \$327,925, with a \$3,500 monthly housing allowance and standard executive benefits.

The Committee also focused on equity adjustments for current presidents—a notable discussion centered around Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, President of California State University, Fresno. Despite previous salary adjustments, Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval's compensation lagged behind market medians by a significant margin. The Board approved a 16.08% salary increase, bringing his annual salary to \$476,015 to align with the peer group median. This adjustment reflects the Board's commitment to addressing compensation disparities and ensuring competitive salaries for CSU executives.

During this discussion, Trustee Adamson supported the salary increase for Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval, noting that the Board's previous decision not to adjust his salary upon his initial appointment was an oversight that needed correction. The Board agreed that competitive pay is crucial to retaining capable leadership.

The Board meeting included an essential update on CSU's civil rights and Title IX initiatives, led by Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Leora D. Freedman and Associate Vice Chancellor Hayley Schwartzkopf. The update highlighted the CSU's efforts to implement recommendations from the California State Auditor's report and the Cozen O'Connor assessment. The CSU has established a systemwide office for civil rights programming and services, has recruited additional civil rights attorneys and is transitioning to a regional leadership model to enhance support for campuses. A significant development is creating a unified case management system to improve transparency and efficiency in handling civil rights cases. However, recruiting qualified professionals for these roles remains challenging, prompting discussions on potentially developing training programs within the CSU system to address workforce shortages.

Trustee Fong and Trustee Kimbell emphasized the need for ongoing communication and collaboration with state legislators to secure necessary resources and support for CSU initiatives. Trustee Rodriguez and Trustee Kaur Brar discussed the potential of building internal training programs to develop a skilled workforce capable of managing Title IX and other civil rights issues. Chancellor García expressed her commitment to exploring innovative solutions and working closely with academic and student affairs to address these challenges.

During the update on civil rights programming, Trustee Rodriguez highlighted the importance of interactive and engaging training sessions to ensure effective learning and application of Title IX policies. Trustee Yee-Melichar inquired about solutions to provide adequate resources to campuses. Associate Vice Chancellor Schwartzkopf addressed this by discussing short-term and long-term strategies, including the potential development of regional centers for investigations and resolutions.

Trustee Fong, the committee chair, acknowledged the complex nature of the issues being addressed and emphasized the importance of transparency and diligence in reviewing project proposals and initiatives. Trustee Gilbert-Lurie and Trustee Kimbell, both serving on the Civil Rights Oversight Committee, reiterated the importance of ensuring that students and staff feel safe and supported, underscoring the need for a comprehensive approach to civil rights issues.

Throughout the meeting, trustees expressed appreciation for the progress in addressing civil rights, financial, and operational challenges within the CSU system. Chair Clarke concluded the

meeting by highlighting the CSU's commitment to student success and the importance of fostering a culture of care and respect across all campuses.

9:35 a.m.- Committee on Institutional Advancement

Agenda

Video

Trustee Gilbert-Lurie convened the Committee on Institutional Advancement. The first order of business was approving the minutes from the May 2024 meeting. The minutes were approved without objection, allowing the Committee to proceed to the main item on the discussion agenda.

The focal point of the meeting was the proposal to name the Spartan Athletics Center at San José State University as the Habbas Law Athletics Center. Vice Chancellor Greg Saks, who oversees external relations and communications, introduced the proposal. He detailed the terms of the \$3.3 million sponsorship agreement with Habbas & Associates, emphasizing its significance as a commercial partnership rather than a simple donation. The agreement entails Habbas & Associates contributing \$250,000 annually, with a \$20,000 increase yearly over a ten-year term. These funds are earmarked for the improvement, debt servicing, and maintenance of the recently opened Spartan Athletics Center.

President Cynthia Teniente-Matson of San José State University further elaborated on the partnership's benefits. She noted that the collaboration with Habbas Law Firm is a testament to the university's appeal and standing as a premier athletics brand in the Bay Area. She highlighted the comprehensive benefits of the sponsorship, which include enhancing the athletic center's role in providing academic support and community engagement opportunities. This initiative is expected to raise the university's profile and attract more students, fans, and potential donors, strengthening the San José State brand beyond athletics.

The Spartan Athletics Center opened in August 2023 and is a hub for the university's 22 men's and women's athletic teams. The facility is positioned as a critical asset in advancing the university's goals of achieving championship-level success in the Mountain West Conference and national stage. President Teniente-Matson praised Mr. Omar Habbas for his long-standing support and highlighted the broader impact of his philanthropy, which extends to other educational and healthcare institutions throughout Silicon Valley.

After the presentation, Trustee Gilbert-Lurie called for a motion to approve the naming proposal. The motion was seconded, and with no further discussion or objections, the item was unanimously approved. The approval reflects the Committee's acknowledgment of the strategic value of such partnerships in enhancing university facilities and community engagement.

Following the approval, a ceremonial acknowledgment took place. Chair Clarke, Chancellor García and President Teniente-Matson thanked Mr. Omar Habbas for his generous contribution. Mr. Habbas, founder of Habbas & Associates, addressed the assembly, emphasizing the alignment of values between his firm and the university. He spoke about the principles of dedication, integrity, and community that guide his work and expressed pride in supporting San José State Athletics. Mr. Habbas articulated his firm's commitment to empowering young athletes and contributing to the community that has supported his firm over the years.

A formal recognition certificate for the facility naming was presented to Mr. Habbas, and the university leaders were included in a photo session to commemorate the occasion. The meeting concluded with Trustee Gilbert-Lurie officially closing it. Chair Clarke announced a short break before the next agenda item, acknowledging the productive session and the partnership established through this sponsorship.

9:50 a.m.- Committee on Governmental Relations

[Agenda](#)

[Video](#)

The Committee on Governmental Relations meeting, chaired by Trustee Rodriguez, was convened and the minutes from the May 2024 meeting were approved without objection, allowing the Committee to proceed to the discussion agenda.

The session focused on information items regarding compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the state legislative agenda impacting the California State University (CSU) system.

Vice Chancellor Greg Saks and Assistant Vice Chancellor Nathan Dietrich presented a detailed update on CSU's compliance with NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA. They highlighted the CSU's commitment to fulfilling its moral and legal obligations to Native American tribes by repatriating ancestral remains and cultural artifacts. AVC Dietrich reported that two of the eight recommendations from the state audit had been completed, while six were ongoing.

Ten listening sessions were conducted in the spring with representatives from over 50 tribes to gather input for developing a systemwide NAGPRA policy. A draft policy has been created and will undergo a formal consultation period from September 1 to November 30 with tribes and the Native American Heritage Commission.

Regarding hiring and organizational changes, AVC Dietrich announced that as of July 1, 2024, 18 of 21 CSU campuses had hired full-time NAGPRA coordinators, with the remaining campuses in various hiring stages. An Office of Tribal Relations was established within the CSU Chancellor's Office to enhance government-to-government relations and oversee NAGPRA compliance.

Trustee Kaur Brar commended the CSU for hiring NAGPRA coordinators and inquired about efforts to inform legislators about CSU's compliance progress. Dietrich confirmed regular updates are sent to key stakeholders, including the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, to ensure they are informed about CSU's activities.

Trustee Lopez asked about additional challenges beyond hiring. AVC Dietrich highlighted the importance of ongoing training for coordinators and establishing a standard collection management system to improve tracking and communication with tribes.

Trustee Faigin raised concerns about legislative oversight on Title IX compliance. AVC Dietrich explained that AB 1790, signed into law, requires CSU to implement audit recommendations and report annually on progress.

VC Saks provided a state legislative update, reporting on the CSU Advocacy and State Relations (ASR) team's engagement with legislative offices to secure favorable outcomes on numerous bills. Key legislation affecting the CSU includes AB 2005, which allows CSU residential development partners to use low-income housing tax credits for developing affordable housing for faculty and staff, and AB 2395, which provides CSU campuses with greater flexibility in using professional and continuing education funds to expand academic programs.

Trustee Kaur Brar inquired about AB 2586 concerning employment opportunities for undocumented students. AVC Dietrich explained the legal concerns and potential risks to federal funding, emphasizing the CSU's ongoing support for undocumented students through fellowships and scholarships.

Trustee Steinhauser suggested exploring the possibility of allowing CSU to propose local bonds for facility improvements, similar to K-12 and community colleges. AVC Dietrich noted that this would require significant changes in state law but acknowledged the need for innovative approaches to address CSU's capital needs.

Trustee Arambula highlighted the importance of effectively communicating CSU's support for undocumented students and preparing for potential changes in the political landscape. AVC Dietrich agreed, emphasizing the need for proactive communication and strategic planning.

Trustee Leslie Gilbert-Lurie asked about scheduling another CSU advocacy day. AVC Dietrich confirmed that plans are underway to organize advocacy events, including a trustee advocacy day, to engage with legislators.

Trustee Rodriguez concluded the meeting by acknowledging CSU staff's and stakeholders' hard work and dedication in advancing the university's goals. She reiterated the importance of continued advocacy and communication efforts to ensure that CSU's contributions and challenges are recognized at both state and national levels.

10:45 a.m.- Committee on Finance

[Agenda](#)

[Video](#)

The Committee on Finance meeting, chaired by Trustee Molina Mancio, was convened and the consent agenda (including approval of minutes, approval of amendment of prior authorization to issue debt for a student housing project at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, and concept approvals for public-private partnership projects at California State University, Sacramento, and California State University, Dominguez Hills) was approved without objection and allowed the Committee to proceed to two important information items.

The Committee's primary focus was on two critical discussion items: the final 2024-2025 fiscal year budget and planning for the 2025-2026 operating budget. Trustee Molina Mancio stressed the importance of meticulous financial planning and highlighted the challenges posed by anticipated budget gaps. He expressed confidence in the trustees' ability to guide the CSU system through these challenging times, emphasizing their fiduciary responsibilities.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Steve Relyea and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget Ryan Storm delivered detailed presentations on the CSU's financial status. AVC Storm began by outlining the CSU's financial challenges for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, noting a \$138 million budget gap at the start of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This gap was closed through cost reductions, increased enrollment, and the use of designated balances and reserves. However, he warned of a projected \$218 million budget gap for the upcoming fiscal year, primarily due to insufficient state support and escalating operational costs.

AVC Storm explained that the state budget included a \$240 million increase for general operating costs in 2024-2025 but also imposed a one-time \$75 million reduction. Despite the multi-year compact with the state promising funding increases, challenges remain due to state budget deficits. The final budget agreement resulted in a net increase of \$165 million for the CSU's operating budget, which falls short of covering all expenses. To address the gap, the CSU must implement cost reduction strategies, use reserves, and focus on student recruitment and retention.

Trustee Gilbert-Lurie underscored the importance of advocating for increased state support and exploring alternative revenue sources to mitigate financial shortfalls. She emphasized the necessity of transparency and effective communication with stakeholders to ensure they understand the financial realities and the CSU's commitment to maintaining educational quality. In response, AVC Storm highlighted strategies to address the budget gap, including cost reductions, leveraging reserves, and enhancing student enrollment.

Trustee Steinhauser stressed the need to align financial decisions with CSU's mission to serve students while acknowledging the problematic trade-offs required. He appreciated the trustees' leadership in approving the tuition increase, which helped avert a more severe financial crisis. He urged candid communication with the public about the CSU's financial constraints and the limited reserves available for operational expenses.

Trustee Yee-Melichar raised concerns about the CSU's long-term financial sustainability, particularly given the ongoing state budget deficits. She inquired about new revenue-generation strategies to mitigate the impact of budget cuts and emphasized the importance of continuous advocacy and strategic planning. EVC Relyea responded by outlining potential strategies, such as cost structure adjustments, third-party partnerships, and increased advocacy with the state. He highlighted the importance of diversifying revenue sources, including investments, to generate additional funding.

The discussion then shifted to planning for the 2025-2026 operating budget. EVC Relyea and AVC Storm provided insights into potential challenges and priorities for the CSU system. State leaders have signaled their intention to reduce the CSU's general fund appropriation by \$397 million in 2025-2026, posing a significant threat to the system's financial stability. This reduction and deferred compact funding could lead to a substantial budget gap.

Trustee Adamson suggested improving the presentation of reserves by distinguishing between committed obligations and actual reserves to enhance public understanding. He also highlighted the importance of exploring new revenue opportunities, such as endowed chairs, to support ongoing expenses and reduce reliance on state funding.

Trustee Fong and Trustee McGrory expressed the Board's commitment to supporting the CSU system through these challenging times. They encouraged continued advocacy and strategic planning, acknowledging that the state's intentions, while hopeful, were not guaranteed and required proactive measures from the Board and administration.

Trustee Steinhauser reiterated the critical need for stakeholders to be transparent regarding CSU's financial situation and its impact on students and faculty. He noted that while the CSU has faced budget challenges before, the current situation is unprecedented in its severity and demands innovative solutions.

Trustee Arambula stressed the urgency of the situation and the need for clear communication about CSU's financial challenges and priorities. He discussed the potential consequences of the state not following through on its funding intentions and the importance of contingency plans.

The meeting concluded with Trustee Molina Mancio and Chair Clarke reiterating the Board's commitment to addressing financial challenges and supporting the CSU's mission. Trustee Molina Mancio emphasized providing clear direction and oversight to ensure financial sustainability and student success within the CSU system. The discussions set the stage for the upcoming September Board meeting, where the final budget proposal for 2025-2026 will be considered. Trustees agreed on the need for continued advocacy, strategic planning, and innovative solutions to navigate the financial challenges ahead.

12:00 p.m.- Plenary Session (Day 2)

[Agenda](#)

[Video](#)

The meeting began with Chair Clarke's warm welcome for the newest trustee, emphasizing the value of diverse perspectives. Jazmin Guajardo, a first-generation Latina student trustee, shared her inspiring journey. Pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at CSU Channel Islands, she aspires to work in mental health and psychiatry. Trustee Guajardo recounted her experiences growing up in Oxnard, overcoming transportation challenges, and working multiple jobs as a full-time student. She emphasized the importance of educational opportunities and support systems like the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which helped her navigate higher education and encouraged her involvement in campus leadership.

The consent agenda was addressed next, involving approval of minutes, amendments to standing committee assignments for 2024-2025, and approval of committee resolutions. Notably, the Board approved various committee resolutions stemming from the Committees on Educational Policy; Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds; Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds; University and Faculty Personnel; Institutional Advancement; and Finance. The Board approved these items unanimously through a roll call vote, demonstrating broad consensus.

A series of commendations and honors were then presented. Chancellor García and Chair Clarke led the conferrals, recognizing distinguished leadership and service contributions:

- Dr. Susan E. Borrego, Interim President of Stanislaus State, was commended for her advocacy and commitment to student success. Her resilient leadership during the

transition period was praised, particularly her effective efforts in reducing student enrollment decline and boosting philanthropic activity.

- Dr. Sylvia A. Alva, Interim President of Cal State Fullerton, was honored with nearly 40 years of leadership service to the CSU. She was celebrated for her student-centered leadership and advocacy for first-generation and low-income students. Although she was on vacation in Mexico City, she conveyed her gratitude through a letter, reflecting on her enriching career within the CSU system.
- Trustee Emerita was conferred upon Latifah Simon, a civil rights and racial justice champion. Trustee Simon, speaking remotely via Zoom, expressed her gratitude and reiterated her commitment to advocating for educational opportunities. She acknowledged the support and inspiration she received from CSU colleagues and students. She emphasized her ongoing dedication to public service as she transitioned to a potential role in the U.S. Congress.
- Leora D. Freeman, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, was honored and received the title of Vice Chancellor Emerita. She was recognized for her impactful leadership during a challenging period for the CSU. Her keen leadership strengthened Title IX policies and facilitated key agreements with labor partners.

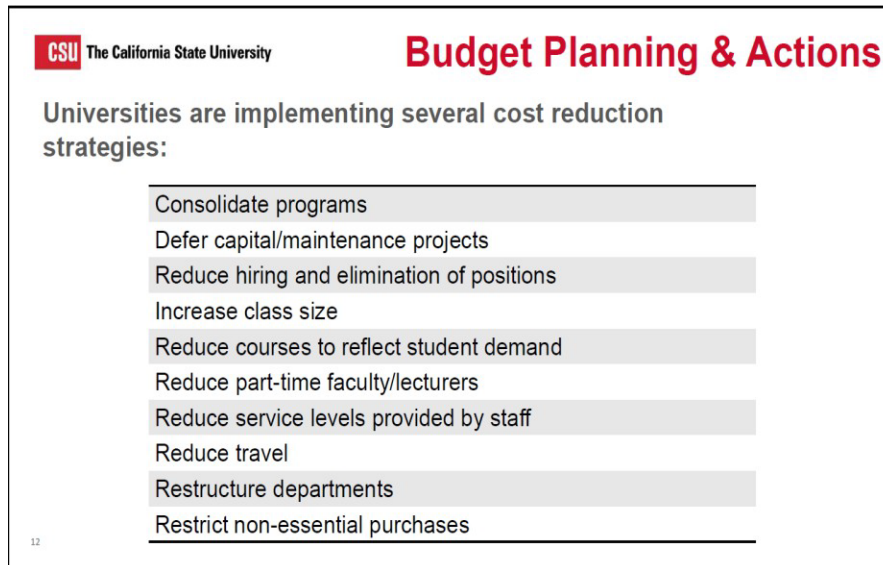
In closing remarks, Chair Clarke expressed optimism about the future of CSU, highlighting the institution's collective dedication and talent. The meeting concluded with gratitude to all members for their hard work and a reminder of the next Board meeting scheduled for September 22-25, 2024.

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Faculty Trustee Request for Consultation and Feedback

Based on what I have shared with you in my earlier *Faculty Trustee Reports* and above in this report (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 seek your continued feedback on items which the BoT has considered or will be considering:

- 1) During the January 2024 Board of Trustees meeting, trustees heard that campuses are implementing several cost reduction strategies (see below slide). On your campus, which of these cost reduction strategies are you already implementing? Which of these cost reduction strategies are you considering/discussing for implementation? Are there other cost reduction strategies (not on below slide) that your campus might explore? And, can you think of any inter-departmental and/or inter-campus cost reduction strategies that we might explore together as a system?



The slide features the CSU logo and the title "Budget Planning & Actions". Below the title, it states "Universities are implementing several cost reduction strategies:" followed by a list of ten strategies, each on a separate line with a light gray background behind the text. The strategies are: Consolidate programs, Defer capital/maintenance projects, Reduce hiring and elimination of positions, Increase class size, Reduce courses to reflect student demand, Reduce part-time faculty/lecturers, Reduce service levels provided by staff, Reduce travel, Restructure departments, and Restrict non-essential purchases. A small number "12" is visible in the bottom left corner of the slide frame.

- 2) Can you think of some experiences that may help us to enhance “communication, consultation and collaboration” at our campuses and within the system? Do you have any suggestions on how to plan these experiences so that the Academic Senate CSU might better interface with the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor’s Office, California State Student Association, CSU Alumni Council, CSU Council of Campus Senate Chairs, Campus Presidents/Provosts/Vice Presidents, etc.?

- 3) The September 2024 Board of Trustees agenda and materials will be posted online at: <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/Pages/agenda.aspx>. I invite and look forward to any comments and/or suggestions that you may have pertaining to this agenda that you may wish to share with me. Since I serve on the following four BoT standing committees (including service as Vice Chair of the Committee on Educational Policy), I am especially interested in your thoughts about the following items:

Committee on Audit

2. Status Report on Audit and Advisory Services Activities

Committee on Educational Policy

3. CSU's Commitment to Fostering Healthy Discourse and Exchange of Ideas
4. Year of Engagement: Reimagining Student Success

Committee on Finance

4. Approval of the 2025-2026 Operating Budget Request
5. Overview of California State University Debt and Impact on Operating Budget

Committee on Governmental Relations

2. Update on NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA Compliance
3. State Legislative Update

Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance

2. Integration of California State University Maritime Academy and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
3. Financial Aid Update

I look forward to hearing (and learning) from you and your campus constituents. Please email me (dyee@calstate.edu) or let me know if you wish to meet through a phone call or Zoom session.

Thank you for your consideration, leadership and commitment to higher education and the CSU. I hope you are enjoying a productive and rewarding autumn and fall semester!