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## CSU Board of Trustees Meeting May 19-22, 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 final meeting of the Board occurred on May 19-22, 2024 for Academic Year 2023-2024. It started on Sunday, May 19 in an all-day Closed Session for discussion about Executive Personnel Matters [Government Code §11126(a)(1)]. The Board also met on Monday, May 20 in Closed Session for discussion about Executive Personnel Matters [Government Code §11126(a)(1)]; Pending Litigation [Government Code §11126(e)(1)]; and Security Matters [Government Code §11126(c)(18)]. The Board then met on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 21-22 in mainly Open Session for public comments, information items and action items.

The Board's full agenda and background materials (643 pages) for the May 2024 meeting are available at <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2024/Documents/May-19-22-2024-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/May-19-22-2024.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 ([dvee@calstate.edu](mailto:dvee@calstate.edu)). I look forward to hearing from you; **thank you**.

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### **May 19-22, 2024 (Full Agenda)**

On May 19-22, 2024, the meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees was held in Long Beach—at the Long Beach Marriott on Sunday and Monday, and at the Chancellor’s Office on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**On Sunday, May 19**, 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 President of California State University, Fullerton. See Committee on University and Faculty Personnel below.

**On Monday, May 20**, at 10:00am, the Board convened in Closed Session for further discussion on Executive Personnel Matters (presidential compensation), Pending Litigation (Lin v. Upshaw, et al.), Anticipated Litigation (two potential items), and Security Matters (campus protests and safety concerns). With Trustee Ghilarducci’s expertise in homeland security, the Board discussed potential threats of criminal or disruptive activities against CSU personnel, property, buildings, facilities, and equipment. This meeting focused on threats from recent and possible future protest activities on CSU campuses. No specific actions were taken by the Board during this session.

**On Tuesday, May 21**, at 8:30 a.m., the Board continued in Closed Session for the Committee on Collective Bargaining discussion. 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, May 21, 2024**

#### **9:00 a.m. - Plenary Session (Day 1)**

#### **Agenda**

#### **Video (Public Comments)**

On May 21, 2024, the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees convened its meeting in Open Session. Chair Wenda Fong called the meeting to order and conducted a roll call, confirming the presence of a quorum. The meeting began with public comments, during which a diverse group of speakers addressed critical issues concerning the CSU system.

Amy Parker, Nio Gonzalez, and Wen Beltron voiced strong disagreement with Chancellor Mildred García, accusing her of supporting actions they described as repressive and violent towards students and faculty, particularly regarding protests and investments related to political conflicts. They called for her dismissal and for the CSU to divest from entities they believe are involved in human rights violations.

Dagoberto Argueta, President of the Academic Professionals of California (APC), emphasized the detrimental effects of low salaries and the increasing number of

temporary positions within the CSU system. He highlighted the high turnover rates and the negative impact on the quality of education, particularly noting that a significant portion of the affected employees are women.

Vincent Rasso from the Campaign for College Opportunity congratulated the class of 2024 and thanked Trustee Aguilar-Cruz for her student service. He also addressed students' challenges in accessing financial aid and urged the CSU to continue implementing innovative responses (Black Student Success) to support students, especially those from marginalized communities.

Several faculty and staff members from Cal Poly Humboldt, including Jim Graham, Cindy Moyer, Gillian Black, Kelly Fortner, and Bonnie Ludka, expressed no confidence in President Tom Jackson and Chief of Staff Mark Johnson. They criticized the administration's handling of recent student protests, alleging excessive use of police force and poor communication. They called for independent investigations into the events and the immediate removal of both Jackson and Johnson.

Supporters of President Tom Jackson, including alumnus Dan Phillips, former CTO of Hulu, praised his leadership during the Humboldt's transition to a polytechnic institution and the positive impact on the local economy. However, they also acknowledged the disturbing nature of the recent protests and supported the administration's measured response.

Faculty members from other CSU campuses, such as Kevin Pina and Stephanie Seitz from Cal State East Bay, highlighted budgetary issues, including course cuts and administrative salary increases, which they believe are detrimental to student success and faculty morale.

Additional speakers discussed the rising tuition costs and the challenges students from low-income backgrounds face. They urged the Board to reconsider tuition hikes and prioritize funding for student support services.

In summary, the public comments session revealed significant concerns about administrative decisions, financial management, student support, and the handling of campus protests across the CSU system. The speakers called for greater accountability, transparency, and a focus on equitable support for students and faculty.

### [Plenary Session \(Day 1 - Continued\)](#) [Video \(Reports\)](#)

**Wenda Fong, Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees (CSU BoT):** Chair Fong began the meeting by expressing gratitude to the facilities team for their hard work in ensuring the

meeting could occur despite an air conditioning failure at the Chancellor's office in Long Beach. She also addressed recent protests at several universities, emphasizing the CSU's

commitment to free speech and nonviolent protest. She indicated that Chancellor García will address this in greater detail in her upcoming report.

Chair Fong thanked several individuals for attending the last Board meeting in their current roles, including President Dominic Treseler of the California State Student Association (CSSA), who also graduated from San Jose State with a Political Science and Government degree. Chair Fong highlighted the accomplishments and dedication of these individuals and wished them well in their future endeavors. Chair Fong also celebrated the graduation of 27,000 CSU students, acknowledging their resilience, especially those who missed their high school graduations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Fong discussed the CSU Trustees Award for Outstanding Achievement, encouraging all trustees to contribute to this program and recognizing students for their academic accomplishments, leadership, and community service. Chair Fong also congratulates Chancellor García for being elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and for receiving the 2024 TELACU "CREO" Award, for empowering the next generation of Latinx leaders through the transformative power of higher education.

Chair Fong reflected on her tenure, noting the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and the steps taken to restore trust and confidence in CSU leadership. She highlighted several accomplishments, including comprehensive assessments of Title IX and discrimination practices, the establishment of oversight committees, and implementing changes to Board operations and governance.

Chair Fong announced her final meeting as Board Chair, marking it as a significant moment, especially as it coincides with Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. She emphasized the importance of diversity and the strides made by the CSU in this area. Chair Fong thanked Board Vice Chair Clarke for his support and introduced a video showcasing CSU Channel Islands, highlighting its unique programs and commitment to student success.

**Beth Steffel, Chair of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU):** Chair Steffel presented her final report, reflecting on the Academic Senate CSU's expanded advocacy efforts, both state and federal. She mentioned significant legislation like AB 928 and AB 927 and discussed the increased relationships and presence in Sacramento. She highlighted the ASCSU's work on various issues, including artificial intelligence, equity, and accessibility. Chair Steffel also introduced the incoming leadership team for the Academic Senate CSU, expressing confidence in their future contributions.

**Dominic Treseler, President of the California State Student Association (CSSA):**

President Treseler provided his final report, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between CSSA and the Chancellor's Office. He outlined recent plenaries, the election of new CSSA leaders, and critical issues like tuition increases, budget constraints, and global

conflicts. He also discussed CSSA's advocacy efforts, including Cal Grant reform and support for student rights to free speech during protests. President Treseler expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and highlighted the continued need for student advocacy.

**John Poli, CSU Alumni Council President:** President Poli reported on efforts to enhance alumni-student connections, including projects funded by the Student Success funds and advocacy events in Washington, DC. President Poli mentioned upcoming events and collaborations to support CSU students and graduates.

**Mildred García, Chancellor of the California State University:** In her report, Chancellor García addressed the complex and pressing issues facing the California State University (CSU) system, emphasizing unity and strategic action. She began by acknowledging the emotionally charged atmosphere on campuses nationwide, noting that recent protests have highlighted the tension between two core CSU values: diversity of thought and freedom of expression. She reassured that while the CSU stands firmly against acts of hatred, violence, and discrimination, it is equally committed to protecting the right to peaceful protest. This dual commitment, she explained, is essential to the educational mission and democratic values of the CSU.

Chancellor García reflected on her extensive experience in educational leadership, noting that she has never before received as much communication on a single topic as she has in the past few weeks. This influx of thousands of calls, letters, and emails illustrated the polarized nature of current discussions, particularly surrounding issues of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Chancellor García underscored the importance of maintaining safety and respect within the CSU community while ensuring that educational activities and the right to free speech are not compromised.

Regarding financial matters, Chancellor García provided a candid overview of the Governor's May revision to the state budget proposal. She described the revised proposal as presenting a significant fiscal challenge, equating to a \$500 million cut in the CSU's ongoing state budget. This reduction, she noted, is equivalent to the annual operating budget of San Diego State University. Chancellor García called for a unified advocacy effort from all CSU stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, leadership, and alumni, to ensure continued support and funding for the CSU's mission. She highlighted the need for bold advocacy to remind elected officials of CSU's critical role in educating the nation's future leaders and driving social and economic prosperity.

On the federal front, Chancellor García recounted the successful CSU week of advocacy in Washington, DC, where a delegation of over 120 individuals, including students, faculty, staff, and alumni, met with federal legislators to discuss key priorities. These priorities include doubling the Pell Grant, increasing funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI),

and securing protections and support for Dreamers and DACA recipients. She emphasized the importance of these initiatives in supporting the diverse student body of CSU and enhancing the overall educational experience.

In addition to policy and budget updates, Chancellor García acknowledged several outgoing leaders for their contributions to the CSU. She deeply appreciates Stanislaus State Interim President Dr. Susan E. Borrego, ASCSU Chair Beth Steffel, and CSSA President Dominic Treseler, highlighting their dedication and impact on the CSU community. She also congratulated the approximately 127,000 graduating students from the class of 2024, celebrating their achievements and the positive changes they have brought to their campuses and communities.

Chancellor García concluded her report by addressing the CSU's compliance with the Education Code regarding changes in the admissions policy. She confirmed that all 23 universities have adhered to the required public hearings and disclosures, expanding student access to undergraduate programs. Finally, she offered heartfelt gratitude to Board Chair Wenda Fong, acknowledging her transformative leadership and the significant strides made under her tenure. Chancellor García looks forward to continued progress and collaboration with the incoming Board leadership.

Overall, the meeting reflected on past achievements, addressed current challenges, and looked forward to future efforts to support and advocate for the CSU community.

#### **12:45 p.m. - Committee on Institutional Advancement Agenda, [Video](#)**

During the Committee on Institutional Advancement meeting, Trustee Ortiz-Morfit convened the session. The meeting began with the approval of the minutes from the March 2024 meeting, which were approved without objections.

The committee had two discussion items on the agenda. The first item was a facility naming request from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for the John Madden Football Center. Vice Chancellor for External Relations and Communications Greg Saks and Cal Poly President Jeff Armstrong presented the item. The proposed naming recognizes a significant gift from the John and Virginia Madden family to support the construction of the 33,000-square-foot football center. The center was planned with input from John Madden and his family and aims to serve the daily needs of Cal Poly's football program and aid in recruiting top student-athletes. President Armstrong highlighted Madden's deep

connection to Cal Poly, where he played football and baseball in the late 1950s and his continued involvement and support of the university. A video from Madden's son, Mike Madden, expressed the family's excitement and commitment to realizing John Madden's vision for the facility. The committee unanimously approved the naming of the John Madden Football Center.

The second item was an academic naming request from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for naming the Noyce School of Applied Computing. This naming recognizes a transformative \$60 million gift from the Robert Noyce Trust to establish the new interdisciplinary school within the College of Engineering. Vice Chancellor Saks and President Armstrong presented this item as well. They discussed Robert Noyce's significant contributions as a co-founder of Intel and inventor of the integrated circuit. The gift will create an endowment to fund the school's operations in perpetuity, providing state-of-the-art facilities and interdisciplinary research opportunities for students and faculty. The committee also read a message from Michael Groom, co-trustee of the Robert Noyce Trust, expressing pride and confidence in the investment's impact on future generations of students. The committee unanimously approved the naming of the Noyce School of Applied Computing.

The meeting concluded with Trustee Ortiz-Morfit thanking the Madden family and the Noyce Trust for their generous contributions, noting the significant impact these gifts will have on Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's programs and students.

### **1:15 p.m. - Committee on Audit**

#### **Agenda, Video**

The Committee on Audit meeting was convened by Trustee Rodriguez, who began by calling the session to order and moving to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda, which included the minutes from the previous meeting, was approved without objections. This paved the way for a detailed and focused discussion on two primary agenda items: the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Audit Plan, the audited financial statements, and the single audit report.

Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer Vlad Marinescu presented the audit plan, emphasizing a comprehensive risk-based approach tailored to address the unique challenges and operational complexities within the California State University (CSU) system. VC Marinescu outlined various audit activities, including operational, financial, and compliance audits, specialized Information Technology (IT) audits, and data analytics. The audit plan was structured around three core areas: Administration and Compliance, Business and Finance, and Information Technology. Specific focus areas within these categories included the budget process, Title IX compliance, admissions, and counseling services, reflecting the CSU's commitment to enhancing governance and operational efficiency.

VC Marinescu highlighted the integration of data analytics to enhance audit coverage, noting the shift towards more dynamic and continuous monitoring in critical areas such as payroll and travel expenses. This approach allows for real-time insights and more proactive management of potential risks. He explained how this transition to continuous monitoring represents a significant advancement in audit practices, aiming to provide

more timely and actionable information to the CSU's leadership. The committee engaged in a robust discussion about the implications and benefits of this approach, expressing strong support for the initiatives outlined. Following this discussion, the committee approved the audit plan after a motion was made and seconded, with no objections raised.

The second agenda item presented the audited financial statements and the single audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. This presentation was led by Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, alongside Tracey L. Richardson, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Controller, and Chris Ray, Partner at KPMG. Relyea began by emphasizing the importance of the clean audit opinion received, which was particularly notable given the complexity and scale of CSU's operations. He praised the collaborative efforts between CSU's internal teams and KPMG, highlighting the rigorous processes and internal controls in place.

AVC Richardson provided a comprehensive overview of the CSU's financial performance, highlighting total revenues of \$15.1 billion for the fiscal year. She detailed the primary income sources, including state appropriations, tuition and fees, grants, and contracts. ABC Richardson noted that a significant portion of the revenue was dedicated to instructional activities and academic support, reflecting the CSU's mission to provide high-quality education and support services to its students. She also discussed the expenditure breakdown, emphasizing the strategic investments in infrastructure, technology, and student services.

Chris Ray from KPMG elaborated on the audit process, mentioning the adoption of new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards, specifically GASB 94 and 96. He explained how these standards impacted the CSU's financial reporting, particularly regarding changes in fiduciary activities. Ray provided insights into the rigorous audit procedures, including a thorough review of compliance with federal grant requirements. He mentioned that the audit identified two minor findings related to reporting issues but confirmed no material weaknesses in the CSU's financial management or internal controls. Ray praised the CSU's economic management team for their dedication and professionalism.

During the discussion, trustees raised several questions about the auxiliary organizations' financial statements and the status of their audits. EVC Relyea explained that there were delays in the audits for two auxiliaries due to unique circumstances, including an ongoing investigation and auditor turnover. He assured the trustees that these issues were being



addressed and that the audits would be completed promptly. Trustee Firstenberg requested further clarification on the reserves for catastrophic events and economic uncertainty. EVC Relyea explained the rationale behind maintaining these reserves and agreed to provide a more detailed report at a future meeting, ensuring that the trustees understood the CSU's financial preparedness.

The session concluded with Chair Fong and other committee members expressing appreciation for the detailed and transparent presentation. They acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the audit team and the financial management staff across the CSU system. Special recognition was given to AVC Richardson for her significant contributions to the CSU, as she is set to retire at the end of the month. Trustees commended her for her exemplary service and wished her well in her future endeavors.

The meeting underscored the CSU's commitment to maintaining robust financial oversight and accountability. It highlighted the importance of ongoing improvements in audit practices and financial management to ensure that CSU remains a model of transparency and integrity in higher education. The discussions and decisions during the meeting demonstrated a clear focus on strategic risk management, continuous improvement, and proactive engagement with stakeholders to uphold the university's financial health and operational excellence.

#### **2:00 p.m. - Committee on Governmental Relations [Agenda, Video](#)**

The Committee on Governmental Relations convened on May 21, 2024, with Vice Chair Clarke calling the meeting to order. The consent agenda, including the minutes from the March 2024 meeting, was approved without objections. The meeting then transitioned to the discussion items, reflecting the CSU's active engagement with critical compliance and legislative issues.

The first discussion item was an update on NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA compliance, presented by Greg Saks, Vice Chancellor of External Relations and Communications, and Nathan Dietrich, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Advocacy and State Relations. VC Saks emphasized that California State University (CSU) must fulfill its moral and legal obligations to Native American tribes and descendants by repatriating ancestors and cultural items in the university's collections. AVC Dietrich detailed the progress since the March 2024 Board meeting, highlighting efforts to develop a systemwide NAGPRA policy as required by AB 389 and the state audit, with a draft policy to be submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission by July 1, 2024. To ensure thorough tribal consultation, the CSU has conducted ten listening sessions across the state, attended by more than 30 tribes. AVC Dietrich stressed the need for trust-building, routine inventory checks, and simplifying repatriation processes while respecting tribal knowledge and desires. Additionally, he noted the challenges in hiring qualified repatriation coordinators by the July 1 deadline, with 16 of 21 universities having posted or filled these positions.

President Tomás Morales provided examples of progress at individual campuses, such as successful repatriations at Sonoma State and Chico State, hiring repatriation coordinators at Fresno and Sonoma, and establishing director of tribal relations positions at multiple universities. He also shared the successful training session held at CSU San Bernardino in

April 2024, attended by CSU staff, tribal members, UC staff, and government representatives. President Morales emphasized the importance of these training sessions for newly hired and future repatriation coordinators, noting their crucial role in the ongoing compliance efforts.

The meeting also included a State Legislative Update by VC Saks and AVC Dietrich. VC Saks highlighted the extensive review and engagement with over 2,200 bills introduced in the legislature, focusing on those directly impacting the CSU. AVC Dietrich provided updates on three sponsored bills: AB 2005 (Ward), which authorizes CSU to utilize Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for affordable housing; AB 2395 (Quirk-Silva), allowing flexibility in the use of professional and continuing education funds; and a proposal for an exemption from out-of-state tuition for armed services members stationed in California. He also discussed the emerging legislative themes, including educational facilities bonds, Title IX, nursing programs, and governance issues. AVC Dietrich's update emphasized the strategic importance of these legislative efforts in supporting the CSU's mission and operational needs.

Trustee questions and comments followed the presentations. Trustees expressed appreciation for the proactive scheduling of listening sessions with tribal leaders, the comprehensive legislative monitoring and advocacy efforts, and the importance of continued engagement with legislators and stakeholders. Concerns were raised about the challenges in hiring qualified repatriation coordinators, the need for sustained commitment to NAGPRA compliance, and the potential impact of legislative measures on the CSU system. Trustee Firstenberg highlighted the importance of building long-term relationships with tribal communities to ensure ongoing trust and collaboration. Trustee Yee-Melichar echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the need for continuous improvement in CSU's repatriation processes.

The meeting concluded with acknowledgments of the efforts by CSU staff and trustees in advocating for the university's priorities and ensuring compliance with legal and ethical obligations. Vice Chair Clarke underscored the significance of these initiatives in reinforcing CSU's commitment to equity, inclusion, and responsible stewardship of cultural heritage. The collaborative efforts and proactive measures discussed during the meeting exemplified CSU's dedication to addressing complex issues through comprehensive and engaged strategies.

**2:45 p.m. - Committee on Collective Bargaining**  
**[Agenda, Video](#)**

Trustee Steinhauser convened the meeting during the Committee on Collective Bargaining open session. The committee quickly addressed the consent agenda, which included the approval of minutes from previous meetings and the adoption of initial proposals for a new collective bargaining agreement with Bargaining Unit 15 (Student

Assistants), represented by the California State University Employees Union (CSUEU). The consent agenda was approved without any items being removed for separate discussion.

Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Leora D. Freedman, presented the initial proposals for the new collective bargaining agreement with Bargaining Unit 15. The CSU's proposals focused on various aspects, including recognition of the bargaining unit, management rights, appointment notification processes, discipline procedures, employment evaluations, leaves of absence, non-discrimination policies, pay, work hours, grievance procedures, union access and rights, and contract duration. The proposals aimed to establish clear definitions and processes to enhance student assistants' working conditions and rights.

The CSUEU's initial proposals, represented by a video presentation, highlighted several critical demands from student workers. These included higher wages that reflect the cost of living, payment for all hours worked, comprehensive sick pay policies, holiday pay, reduced or eliminated parking fees, adherence to state labor protections, meal plan and housing support, and reformed schedules and hours. Additionally, the union proposed clauses related to recognition, preservation of existing standards, prohibition against discrimination, union security, grievance procedures, work uniforms, and other essential worker rights and protections.

After discussing and approving the initial proposals, the committee adjourned the session. This meeting underscored the ongoing efforts to address the needs and rights of student assistants within the CSU system through collective bargaining negotiations.

#### **2:50 p.m. - Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds Agenda, Video**

During the Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning, Buildings, and Grounds meeting of the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees, Trustee Lopez called the session to order. The only item on the consent agenda was the approval of the minutes from the January 2024 meeting, which was approved without objection.

The main focus of the meeting was the action item regarding the California State University, Fullerton (CSU Fullerton) Student Housing Phase 5 project, which included the schematic design and debt issuance approval. Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Steve Relyea, Vice President for Administration and Finance at CSU Fullerton Alex Porter, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Capital Planning, Design, and

Construction Paul Gannoe, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Financing, Treasury, and Risk Management Robert Eaton presented the project.

EVC Relyea introduced the project, emphasizing its importance in providing affordable student housing. VP Porter highlighted that the new housing project would accommodate

510 students in apartment-style living, targeting senior and graduate students. Of these, 390 beds would be offered at affordable rates due to funding from the state's Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, with the remaining 120 beds offered at standard rates. VP Porter stressed that this project aligns with CSU Fullerton's commitment to student success and well-being, helping to drive retention rates, support graduation goals, and enhance community engagement.

AVC Gannoe provided additional details on the site design and facility features, explaining that the six-story building would include study spaces, staff offices, a marketplace, a mailroom, and laundry facilities on the first floor, with the upper floors dedicated to student housing units and shared common spaces. He also highlighted the building's sustainability features, such as low-flow plumbing fixtures, high-quality air filtration, and drought-tolerant landscaping, which would contribute to lower operational costs.

AVC Eaton discussed the financing aspects of the project. The project's total cost is estimated at \$157.9 million, with funding coming from three sources: \$88.9 million from the state's Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program (converted to Systemwide Revenue Bond debt supported by ongoing state appropriation), \$63.75 million from Systemwide Revenue Bond debt supported by campus housing revenues, and \$12.45 million from campus housing program reserves. AVC Eaton noted that the financial plan projects a housing program debt service coverage of 1.22 in the first full year of operations, which meets the CSU benchmark.

Trustee comments and questions focused on the project's impact on CSU Fullerton's budget and the allocation of lower-cost housing units. Trustee Kimbell inquired about the ongoing state appropriations and their relationship to the project's debt service. Trustee Faigin sought clarification on the impact of the debt service on the university's budget. Both EVC Relyea and AVC Eaton assured that the debt service would be covered by the revenue from the housing project and that the state's grant program helps subsidize the cost, making it feasible and beneficial for the students.

The committee strongly supported the project, recognizing the critical need for affordable student housing and its benefits to the student community. Trustee Kimbell raised a question about the allocation process for the affordable housing units, which VP Porter explained would be based on financial aid eligibility and managed through the university's housing application system.

The motion to approve the schematic design and debt issuance for the CSU Fullerton Student Housing Phase 5 project was passed unanimously. The session concluded with Trustee Lopez highlighting the need for a future discussion on the broader implications of debt service on the university's operations budget, given the potential cuts in state funding.

This meeting underscored the CSU Board's commitment to addressing student housing needs and supporting initiatives that enhance student success and community engagement across its campuses.

### 3:20 p.m. - Committee on Finance

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

The Committee on Finance of the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees was convened and Trustee Lopez chaired the meeting. The consent agenda included two items and was quickly approved without any separate discussion, setting the stage for more detailed presentations and discussions.

The first major agenda item was the California State University Quarterly Investment Report. This report was presented by Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, and Robert Eaton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Financing, Treasury, and Risk Management. The report covered the December 31, 2023, period and provided a comprehensive overview of CSU's investment portfolios. The total value of these portfolios was approximately \$8.05 billion, divided into the Liquidity Portfolio (LP), the Intermediate Duration Portfolio (IDP), the Total Return Portfolio (TRP), and the State of California Surplus Money Investment Fund (SMIF). Significant highlights included the strong performance of the Total Return Portfolio, which yielded a 14.18% return for the year. Additionally, integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors into investment decisions was emphasized, reflecting CSU's commitment to responsible investing.

AVC Eaton provided a detailed breakdown of the investment allocations, noting that the CSU does not have direct investments in Israeli companies or defense industries; instead, any investments in these areas are primarily through mutual funds. This was a pivotal point, given the recent scrutiny and concerns from students and the public about the nature of CSU's investments. AVC Eaton highlighted that only a tiny fraction of the total assets, about 0.04%, was in Israeli companies and about 0.62% in defense and aerospace industries. The committee discussed the importance of transparency and effective communication in addressing these concerns, suggesting clearer, more accessible information be available through various platforms, including social media.

The second major topic of discussion was the 2024-2025 Operating Budget Update, presented by EVC Relyea and Ryan Storm, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget. This

presentation outlined the significant fiscal challenges facing the CSU system due to the state's substantial budget deficit. The Governor's May Revision proposed deferring \$240 million in compact funding to the 2025-26 fiscal year and introduced potential one-time and ongoing reductions. This deferral and potential reductions have significant implications for the CSU's financial planning and operations.

AVC Storm provided a detailed analysis of the proposed budget and its impact on the CSU system. The proposed budget cuts would affect various student financial aid programs, including the Middle-Class Scholarship and the Golden State Teacher Grant Program. These cuts could impact approximately 200,000 CSU students who rely on these programs. Additionally, the Learning Aligned Employment Program faces funding sweeps, and the implementation of the new Cal Grant 2 and Cal Grant 4 programs has been postponed due to insufficient state revenue.

CSU campuses are implementing several strategies to address these fiscal challenges, including using reserves, increasing enrollment, and various cost reduction measures. AVC Storm noted that CSU campuses have identified approximately \$99 million in potential new tuition revenue due to enrollment growth. However, the financial forecast also indicates significant budget gaps in the coming years, necessitating difficult trade-offs and decisions to align anticipated revenues with costs.

Trustee Lopez and other Board members emphasized the importance of a balanced approach that includes cost-cutting and revenue-enhancing measures. They stressed the need for clear communication and transparency with stakeholders, including students, faculty, and the public, regarding the financial decisions and their implications. The discussion also highlighted the importance of long-term economic sustainability and strategic planning to ensure CSU can continue fulfilling its educational mission despite fiscal challenges.

Board members engaged in a thoughtful discussion about the potential impact of these budget cuts and the strategies being considered. Trustee Faigin suggested that no program or expenditure should be regarded as untouchable, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive review of all costs and potential savings. Trustee McGrory echoed this sentiment, noting that while challenging, the situation requires innovative and bold approaches to financial management.

The meeting concluded with a call to action for all CSU stakeholders to advocate for restoring university funding. Trustee Lopez underscored the critical importance of state investment in higher education, particularly during times of financial challenge. The trustees collectively recognized the need to work together, leveraging all available resources and strategies, to navigate the economic challenges ahead while maintaining the quality and accessibility of education across the CSU system.

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

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

The Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings, and Grounds (CPBG) meeting of the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees was convened. Trustee Aguilar-Cruz, the Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and quickly moved to the consent agenda,

asking if any committee members wished to remove an item for a separate discussion. With no requests for removals, the committee approved the consent agenda unanimously, which included the approval of minutes from the previous meeting and other routine matters.

The main agenda item discussed was the San José State University (SJSU) Speed City & Spirit of '68 Track Facility Development Project and Grant Assignment. Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, Charlie Faas, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of SJSU, and Paul Gannoe, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Capital Planning, Design, and Construction, presented the project details.

This project involves developing a track and field facility at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds to honor the legacy of Speed City and the Olympic Project for Human Rights. The project is supported by a \$9 million grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, initially allocated to the County of Santa Clara, which will be assigned to SJSU. The presentation highlighted the first phase of the project, including the construction of an NCAA Division 1 nine-lane competitive track, field event areas, temporary restroom and storage facilities, and necessary utility infrastructure.

The committee discussed the project's educational and community benefits. It will serve as SJSU's primary track and field facility and provide access to teaching, recreational sports, and community use. The estimated budget for the first phase is \$10.5 million, with the additional \$1.5 million funded by previously committed donor contributions.

The committee also reviewed the fiscal impact and funding strategy, noting that SJSU will cover additional costs beyond the grant. The project is designed to integrate with the existing campus infrastructure and the surrounding environment, ensuring minimal disruption and maximum benefit to the university and community.

The committee recommended that the resolution to approve the project and accept the grant assignment be approved. The meeting concluded with Trustee Aguilar-Cruz thanking the presenters and committee members for their contributions and efforts in moving forward with this significant development for SJSU.

**4:10 p.m. - Committee on Educational Policy**

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

Trustee Arambula chaired the Committee on Educational Policy, with Vice Chair Steinhauser and other committee members present. The session began with Trustee Arambula calling the meeting to order and moving to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held in March 2024, which passed without objections.

The committee discussed three main agenda items, starting with a presentation on the Educator and Leadership Programs. Dr. Dilcie Perez, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and Dr. Shireen Pavri, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Educator and Leadership Programs, provided comprehensive insights into CSU's programs' ongoing efforts and successes to prepare California's educators. They highlighted the historical context of CSU's educator preparation, noting that institutions like San José State University began as normal schools dedicated to teacher training. The presentation underscored the CSU's pivotal role in preparing a significant portion of the state's teachers, approximately half of whom are CSU graduates. The programs also focus on diversity, with a considerable number of graduates being people of color, addressing the critical shortages of educators, counselors, and educational leaders.

DVC Perez and Dr. Pavri elaborated on the various pathways offered by CSU to enter the teaching profession, including traditional student teaching, teacher residency programs, and integrated undergraduate pathways. They highlighted the success of CSU's first doctoral program in educational leadership, launched in 2007 and has produced over 2,700 alumni who serve as distinguished leaders in public schools and higher education institutions. Additionally, they discussed the ongoing efforts to diversify the educator workforce and the impact of legislative investments in new pathways and grants to reduce barriers to entering the teaching profession.

The second item on the agenda was an update on the proposed amendments to Title 5 regulations concerning CSU's doctoral programs. Dr. Nathan S. Evans, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Laura Massa, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Faculty Programs, presented this information. They explained the implications of Assembly Bill 656, which grants CSU the authority to establish new professional and applied doctoral programs that do not duplicate existing University of California offerings. This legislative change addresses California's workforce needs more effectively by allowing CSU to offer doctorates in high-demand fields such as nursing, public health, and physical therapy.

DVC Evans and Dr. Massa detailed the planned consolidation of existing Title 5 doctoral regulations into a unified framework to streamline the implementation of these programs. This consolidation will ensure the new doctoral degrees adhere to consistent standards and guidelines, facilitating their development and approval processes. They also emphasized the importance of maintaining collaborative relationships with the



University of California to avoid duplicative efforts and ensure that both systems effectively contribute to meeting the state's educational and professional needs.

The final discussion item focused on advancing Black Student Success within the CSU system. DVC Perez and Sacramento State University President Luke Wood discussed the strategic action plan adopted in June 2023, which includes 13 recommendations to improve Black students' experiences and outcomes across the 23 CSU campuses. DVC

Perez highlighted allocating over \$4.6 million in one-time funding to support these initiatives, emphasizing the system-wide commitment to addressing the persistent equity gaps Black students face.

President Wood elaborated on Sacramento State's role as the new systemwide central office host for advancing Black Excellence. This office will coordinate efforts to implement the action plan, share promising practices, and support professional learning and capacity building. He outlined several key initiatives, including establishing a Black Honors College at Sacramento State to foster a supportive and enriching environment for Black students. Wood also mentioned the upcoming Juneteenth Symposium, which will serve as a platform to celebrate achievements and discuss ongoing challenges in advancing Black student success.

The committee emphasized the importance of accountability and ongoing evaluation to ensure the effectiveness of these initiatives. They discussed the need for transparent reporting and regular updates on the progress of the action plan's implementation. Trustee comments underscored a solid commitment to the outlined goals, recognizing the significant impact of successful implementation on the CSU system and the broader community.

The session concluded with a robust discussion among trustees who strongly support the presented initiatives. They highlighted the critical role of these programs in addressing the state's workforce needs and promoting equity and inclusion within the CSU system. Trustees also reiterated the importance of continued focus and commitment to achieving the outlined goals, acknowledging the challenges ahead and the collective efforts required to overcome them. The meeting adjourned with renewed purpose and determination to advance all CSU students' educational and professional success.

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

**8:00 a.m. - Announcements**

**Video**

The session opened during the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees meeting on May 22, 2024. Chair Fong welcomed attendees and introduced Trustee Faigin, who wanted to address a comment from the previous day. Trustee Faigin thanked Chancellor García for handling current controversies and emphasized the Board's support for her

efforts. Despite being unable to issue a formal resolution due to agenda constraints, Trustee Faigin extended his heartfelt thanks to Chancellor García.

Chair Fong echoed Trustee Faigin's sentiments, expressing her support for Chancellor García and gratitude for her contributions. Following this, Chair Fong made a significant announcement concerning the search for a new California State University, Fullerton president. She informed the Board that the search committee had completed its task and

selected Dr. Ronald S. Rochon as the next president. Dr. Rochon, currently serving as the president of the University of Southern Indiana, was recognized for his commitment to student success, access, inclusion, and educational equity. Chair Fong expressed the Board's enthusiasm for learning more about Dr. Rochon during the upcoming Committee on University and Faculty Personnel session.

Chair Fong also extended the Board's most profound gratitude to Dr. Sylvia Alva, who served as interim president of Cal State Fullerton. She praised Dr. Alva's exceptional leadership, intellect, and compassion during the transition. Dr. Alva's extensive experience and focus on student success at both university and system levels were highlighted as critical factors that made her an ideal interim leader. Chair Fong indicated that the Board looked forward to celebrating Dr. Alva's service more fully later.

With these announcements, Chair Fong transitioned to the day's agenda, marking the continuation of the Board's business for the May 2024 meeting on a high note, recognizing the contributions of its leaders and the exciting future ahead for Cal State Fullerton under new leadership.

### **Committee on University and Faculty Personnel** **Agenda, Video**

The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel convened under the leadership of Trustee Adamson. The meeting began with announcing a change in the agenda, deferring item seven on executive compensation to the July 2024 meeting. The committee then approved three items on the consent agenda, with no objections or removals noted.

The primary action item discussed was the executive compensation for Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, the newly appointed President of California State University, Fullerton. Chancellor García presented Dr. Rochon's impressive background and accomplishments. Dr. Rochon, currently the President of the University of Southern Indiana, is recognized for his advocacy for educational excellence, access, and equity. His tenure at Southern Indiana was marked by significant improvements in degree completion rates, student persistence, and securing substantial state funding. Dr. Rochon holds a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University and advanced degrees from the University of Illinois. The committee approved an annual salary of \$498,000 for Dr. Rochon, aligning it with the

peer group market median and reflecting a 4.6% increase from the previous president's salary.

Vice Chancellor Leora Freedman and Associate Vice Chancellor Haley Schwarzkopf provided an update on the progress of civil rights programs and services within the CSU system. This comprehensive report highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen Title IX compliance, including filling critical positions, implementing a unified case management system, and developing a strategic communication plan. The presentation emphasized

the iterative nature of these improvements and the commitment to meeting the July 2024 deadlines set by the California State Auditor.

Vice Chancellor Leora Freedman and Dr. Sarah Freed-Gintis discussed the draft guidance addressing "Other Conduct of Concern" (OCC). This guidance aims to manage behaviors that, while not violating non-discrimination policies, can still disrupt the working and learning environment. The guidance encourages direct communication between individuals involved, with the support of supervisors and HR, when necessary. The discussion underscored the importance of training and preventive measures in fostering a respectful and productive university culture. The document, still in draft form, is being refined based on feedback from various CSU stakeholders.

Chancellor García recommended salary adjustments for four CSU presidents based on their triennial performance reviews. These adjustments are part of an ongoing effort to align presidential salaries with market medians. The recommendations included a 10% equity adjustment for Presidents Jiménez-Sandoval, Sandeen, and Beck and a 2.22% adjustment for President Yao, reflecting their lag relative to peer group medians. The committee approved these adjustments, acknowledging the complexity and high responsibility of the presidential roles.

Trustees contributed to the discussions throughout the meeting. They expressed a range of perspectives on executive compensation, balancing the need for competitive salaries with sensitivity to broader equity issues within the CSU system. Trustee Raj highlighted the importance of rewarding hard work and dedication, aligning with the American ethos of merit-based compensation.

The meeting concluded by recognizing the intricate and demanding nature of university leadership roles and committing to ensuring fair and competitive compensation for those positions. Trustee Adamson thanked the presenters and acknowledged the ongoing efforts to improve the CSU system's handling of civil rights and conduct issues, setting a foundation for continued progress and accountability.

**9:40 a.m. - Plenary Session (Day 2)**

[Agenda, Video](#)

During the second day of the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees meeting on May 22, 2024, the session began with Chair Wenda Fong calling the meeting to order and conducting a roll call of trustees. The roll call confirmed the presence of trustees establishing a quorum. Chair Fong then introduced a featured video showcasing Sonoma State University, highlighting its inclusive learning community, vibrant campus life, and significant contributions to the local economy and arts through initiatives like the Wine Business Institute and the Green Music Center.

Following the video presentation, the Board moved on to the consent agenda. Trustee Faigin requested that item four, regarding the salary of the president of Cal State Fullerton, be removed for a separate discussion. The remaining items on the consent agenda were approved unanimously after a motion and a second, followed by a roll call vote. The Board then discussed the removed item, which was also approved after a detailed vote despite opposition and abstentions.

The meeting proceeded with action items, starting with Trustee Arambula's presentation of the Board of Trustees' standing committee assignments for 2024-2025. The proposed assignments, developed with trustee input and adherence to established criteria, were unanimously approved following a motion, second, and roll-call vote.

Next, Trustee Arambula presented the nominations for the election of the chair and vice chair of the Board of Trustees for 2024-2025. Jack Clarke, Jr. was nominated as chair, and Diego Arambula as vice chair. Both nominations were approved unanimously, and Trustees Clarke and Arambula accepted their new roles with gratitude, emphasizing their commitment to the CSU mission and students.

Chair Fong, whose tenure was concluding, was honored for her leadership with a crystal gavel and praised for her contributions to the CSU system, particularly her efforts in advancing equity, opportunity, and social justice. Chancellor García also commended Fong for her impactful service and presented her with a token of appreciation. The session concluded with a standing ovation and heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the Board members and attendees.

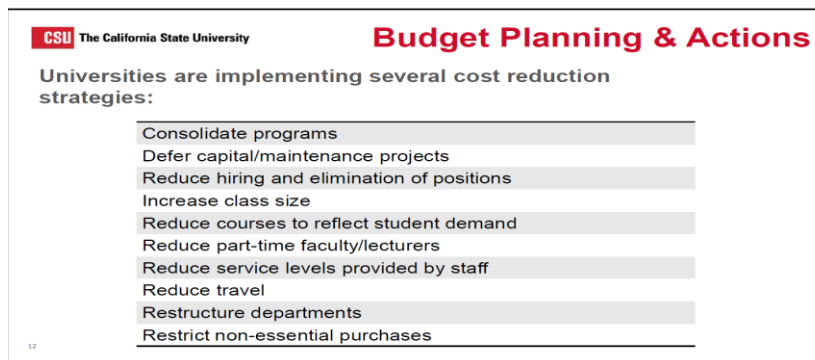
The final part of the meeting involved a roll call vote to approve two action items: the approval of the Board of Trustees' standing committee assignments and the election of the chair and vice chair for the next term. Both items passed unanimously. Chair Fong expressed her deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve and highlighted the Board's significant achievements and collaborative efforts during her tenure. The meeting adjourned with announcing the next scheduled meeting in July 2024.

**Brief Queries or Requests for 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 input 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 cross-campus or inter-campus cost reduction strategies that we might explore together as a system?



- 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 July Board of Trustees agenda and materials were just posted online on July 12, 2024 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 4 BoT standing committees, I am especially interested in your thoughts about the following:

Committee on Audit

2. Status Report on Audit and Advisory Services Activities

Committee on Educational Policy

2. Recommended Amendments to Title 5 Regarding California State University Doctoral Programs
3. Californians For All College Corps
4. Graduation Initiative 2025 Year of Engagement

Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance

2. Integration of California State University Maritime Academy and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Committee on Governmental Relations

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

Committee on Finance

5. 2024-2025 Final Budget
6. Planning for the 2025-2026 Operating Budget

I look forward to hearing and learning from you and your campus constituents. Please email me ([dyee@calstate.edu](mailto: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 rewarding and well-deserved summer break!