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## CSU Board of Trustees Meeting November 7-8, 2023

### Faculty Trustee Report Darlene Yee-Melichar

The CSU Board of Trustees meets six times a year. Meetings allow for communication among the Trustees, Chancellor, campus presidents, Academic Senate, California State Student Association and Alumni Council.

The 2023-24 Meeting Schedule of the Board completed on November 7-8, 2023. It started in the morning on Tuesday, November 7 (half day) in Closed Session for discussion about Executive Personnel Matters [Government Code §11126(a)(1)], Pending Litigation [§11126(e)(1)]; and Collective Bargaining [Government Code §3596(d)]. The Board then met in the afternoon on Tuesday, November 7 (half day) and Wednesday, November 8 (half-day) in Open Session for public comments, information items and action items.

The Board's full agenda and background materials (207 pages) for the November 2023 meeting are available at <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2023/Documents/FULL-BINDER-nov-7-8.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/Pages/november-7-8-2023.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](mailto:dyee@calstate.edu)). I look forward to hearing from you; **thank you**.

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### **November 7-8, 2023 (Full Agenda)**

On November 7-8, 2023, the meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees was held at the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach.

**On Tuesday, November 7**, at 9:00 a.m., the Board convened in Closed Session to discuss Executive Personnel Matters and Pending Litigation including Hernandez, et al. v. The Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta, et al.; CSU v. SELF; and Cole v. CSU, et al.

**On Tuesday, November 7**, at 10:00 a.m., the Board continued in Closed Session for the Committee on Collective Bargaining. In my role as Faculty Trustee, I am not party to this latter 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."

**On Tuesday, November 7, at 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday, November 8**, the Board convened in Open Session.

**Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

**11:00 a.m. - Plenary Session (Day 1)**

[Agenda](#)

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

During public comment in Open Session of the November CSU Board of Trustees meeting, several in-person and virtual speakers passionately addressed various pressing issues concerning the university system, mainly focusing on the decision to increase tuition by 6% for each of the next five years. The speakers articulated concerns about the impact of this decision on students, faculty, and staff while highlighting what they considered to be financial mismanagement within the CSU system.

Among the speakers were a communication student at Cal State Long Beach and a Students for Quality Education (SQE) member who expressed frustration regarding the tuition hike's impact on students. The speaker emphasized students' challenges, including housing and food insecurity, working multiple jobs, and accumulating substantial student loan debts. Similarly, another student from Students for Quality Education (SQE) at Cal State Long Beach criticized the decision-makers for neglecting the struggles faced by students and faculty due to financial constraints.

Other speakers highlighted the disparities in CSU's budget allocation, emphasizing the massive financial reserves and investments while faculty and staff struggle for fair wages. A student from Students for Quality Education (SQE) at CSU Los Angeles pointed out the extensive financial resources available to the CSU and demanded fair compensation for faculty and staff.

A history student at Cal State Fullerton raised concerns about the tuition hike's impact on working-class students aspiring to become educators. They urged the Board to reconsider the decision and advocated for accessible education. Furthermore, a political science major at Cal Poly Pomona, expressed frustration over the tuition increase, emphasizing its adverse effects on students' futures and demanding justice for students and staff.

Other speakers criticized the Board for neglecting students of color and misallocating funds, particularly highlighting the lack of resources in cultural centers and the systemic issues that affect marginalized communities. Additionally, speakers highlighted broader social issues, such as the contribution of CSU funds to weapon manufacturers and the lack of financial assistance for undocumented students, urging the Board to prioritize accessible education and equality for all students.

Overall, the speakers collectively addressed concerns about financial mismanagement, lack of transparency in budget allocation, the impact of tuition hikes on students, faculty, and staff, and broader social responsibilities of the CSU system. Their impassioned pleas aimed to hold the CSU Board of Trustees accountable and urged them to prioritize students' well-being and equitable access to education.

**1:15 p.m. – Plenary Session (Day 1)**

[Agenda](#)

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

**CSU Board of Trustees Chair Wenda Fong** began the meeting with a detailed report primarily focusing on introducing new leadership and celebrating various initiatives. Chair Fong opens with the introduction of [Dr. Mildred García](#) as the new CSU Chancellor. Chancellor García's previous roles, including her presidency at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and her tenure at CSU Dominguez Hills and Cal State Fullerton, are highlighted, emphasizing her outstanding leadership qualities and keen commitment to student success.

The appointment of [Dr. Mandara Savage](#) as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE) is another significant announcement. His role is pivotal in managing and enhancing diverse, high-quality online and hybrid programs across the CSU's 23 campuses.

The session also showcases the positive impact of the PaCE program through student success stories. [Maria Del Carmen Gonzalez](#), a master's student in counseling at CSU Fullerton, and Sukoon Swing, a Bachelor of Arts graduate in social sciences, share their transformative experiences with the PaCE program. These stories highlight the program's role in providing accessible and flexible educational opportunities, accommodating a diverse range of students and their unique life situations.

**Beth Steffel, Chair of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU)**, presented her report. Chair Steffel acknowledged Native American Heritage Month and shared updates on the ASCSU's activities. She highlighted their involvement in the Graduation Initiative 2025 Symposium, emphasizing faculty roles in achieving graduation goals. Chair Steffel detailed the ASCSU resolutions passed; notably, one focused on advancing Black student success, urging campuses to resource and act on findings, and another addressed COVID-19 mitigation on CSU campuses. She emphasized the importance of shared governance in curricular changes and condemned acts of terrorism and war crimes in light of the Israel-Palestine crisis.

**Dominic Treselor, President of the California State Student Association (CSSA)**, followed with a comprehensive report. President Treselor expressed gratitude for the interim Executive Director's leadership and discussed CSSA's commitment to representing CSU students to the state legislature and the Board of Trustees. He highlighted CSSA's policy agenda, addressing financial aid barriers and student support, and mentioned successful legislative endorsements benefiting students. President Treselor also urged equitable consideration for students amidst faculty salary negotiations, expressing concerns about the impact of potential strikes on students' academic progress and financial aid.

**John Poli, President of the CSU Alumni Council**, presented his report. President Poli stressed the role of alumni in showcasing the value of higher education and their advocacy efforts to incorporate alumni voices into state and federal relations. The CSU Alumni Council also participated in the search for crucial CSU positions, emphasizing the importance of engaging alumni in student success priorities.

**CSU Chancellor Mildred García** presented a comprehensive inaugural Chancellor's report. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the first Latina CSU Chancellor and highlighted her commitment to social mobility, equity, and leadership collaboration across CSU campuses. Chancellor García emphasized the CSU's impact on social mobility, fostering cooperation between public higher education segment heads and condemning acts of terrorism while ensuring campus support and safety. She emphasized storytelling to highlight CSU's achievements and mentioned future goals, including addressing financial obligations, Native American repatriation, and securing fair agreements amidst collective bargaining.

Overall, the speakers presented reports encompassing student advocacy, alumni engagement, and the CSU's overarching mission for social mobility, equity, and collaboration, showcasing a commitment to student success and a vision for the CSU's future.

**2:15 p.m.**  
**[Committee on Collective Bargaining](#)**  
**[Agenda, Video](#)**

Trustee Steinhauser chaired the Committee on Collective Bargaining. The committee swiftly moved through the consent agenda consisting of seven items, with Trustee Steinhauser seeking input on separating items for discussion but receiving no requests. Consequently, the consent agenda was promptly approved without

objections. Trustee Steinhauser concluded the meeting, signaling the session's brevity, centered on approving agenda items without further discussion or objections from the committee members.

**2:20 p.m.**

**Committee on Educational Policy**

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

Trustee Arambula chaired the Committee on Educational Policy. The committee approved the minutes and discussed two information items. "Implementation of the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act of 2021" was presented by Deputy Vice Chancellor Nathan Evans, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Laura Massa and ASCSU Chair Beth Steffel. The implementation of the STAR Act of 2021, also known as Assembly Bill 928, seeks to simplify the transfer pathway for California community college students who intend to transfer to both the CSU and UC systems. It involves creating a single lower-division general education pattern called the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) to streamline the transfer process.

The presentation included a comparison between the current CSU General Education Breadth requirements and the proposed Cal-GETC pattern. Notably, the Cal-GETC pattern would require five fewer units, offering greater flexibility to students planning their degrees.

Taylor Thomas, a transfer student at CSU Bakersfield, shared her personal experience during the meeting. She emphasized the need for a more streamlined transfer process, detailing her challenges and the impact on her academic journey and personal life. Her testimony highlighted the importance of simplifying the transfer process for students like her.

The discussion showed a clear commitment to center equity and success while implementing these changes. The Board acknowledged that the timeline for potential Title 5 amendments related to admissions and general education frameworks is crucial, with an information item planned for January and an action item scheduled for March.

In summary, the Board and various stakeholders are actively working together to enhance the transfer experience for California students, focusing on equity, simplicity, and success.

Trustee McGrory raised several points, including concerns about the complexity of the proposed changes, the high number of General Education (GE) requirements in the current system, and the need for enhanced civic education within the CSU system. He highlighted that reducing the required GE courses could give students more flexibility in their academic journeys, especially for those pursuing demanding majors. Trustee McGrory emphasized the importance of creating enlightened voters and suggested incorporating a civics course into the curriculum to address the lack of understanding about democracy and civics among students. Trustee McGrory encouraged further examination of these issues and proactive steps to find a more balanced approach to GE requirements and improve civic education within the CSU system.

Trustee Kimbell expressed admiration for Taylor's persistence in pursuing her education despite facing challenges. She inquired about the timeline of Taylor's community college journey, which began in 2016. Trustee Kimbell sought clarification on the status of transfer pathways between community colleges, UCs, and CSUs. ASCSU Chair Steffel provided information about the associate degree for transfer, highlighting that it currently serves as a pathway to CSUs while UCs still need to adopt it fully. She mentioned legislation encouraging UCs to accept ADTs and a pilot program at UCLA for accepting ADTs. Trustee Kimbell wanted more significant progress in simplifying transfer pathways and thanked Taylor for her input.

Trustee Rodriguez thanked Taylor for sharing her story as a fellow transfer student. She highlighted the importance of having accessible pathways for transfer students and asked the team about the data

regarding the 177,000 individuals who applied but did not enroll. She inquired if there was information on why those students didn't register. In response, the team explained that they analyze data for admitted and non-admitted applicants. They mentioned that some applicants may still need to meet the unit requirements for transfer, and others may have chosen to enroll at a community college or a different institution. They also conduct surveys with admitted students who declined offers to gather more information, including factors like financial aid packages and program availability. The team examines common patterns to understand better why students choose not to enroll at CSU campuses.

Trustee Yee-Melichar expressed appreciation for the team presentation and emphasized the importance of AB 928 and Cal-GETC as the Common Singular Transfer Pathway in streamlining the transfer process. She noted concerns raised by the Academic Senate CSU about the impact on first-year CSU students and the autonomy of CSU campuses in curriculum design. Trustee Yee-Melichar posed three critical questions for team consideration.

Firstly, Trustee Yee-Melichar asked how a balance would be struck between standardization and consistency in general education pathways while maintaining the individuality and autonomy of each CSU campus in curriculum design. DVC Evans emphasized that AB 928 would not alter campus autonomy in curriculum design and stressed the need for holistic discussions about its implications. Secondly, Trustee Yee-Melichar inquired about supporting meaningful faculty, staff, and student involvement in policy development and implementation. DVC Evans stressed the importance of engagement from multiple stakeholders in addressing the legislation's impact. Lastly, she questioned how Cal-GETC would align with academic requirements for transfer admission to CSU and UC systems and how changes to Title 5 would be effectively implemented. Interim AVC Massa acknowledged the need for clarity in language and pledged to address concerns about transfer eligibility requirements.

Trustee Faigin expressed a sense of irony in the complexity of AB 928 and Cal-GETC, highlighting the importance of maintaining a commitment to General Education (GE) courses. He shared a personal anecdote about how GE courses led him to pursue a philosophy major. Trustee Faigin then asked about the differences between CSU GE Breadth (39 units) and Cal-GETC (34 units), seeking clarification on whether there would be separate systems for students entering as freshmen and those transferring after two years. He emphasized the need to avoid a fragmented approach and maintain clarity. Additionally, Trustee Faigin commented on the significance of GE courses and their role in fostering critical thinking. He also briefly discussed previous debates on GE course reductions and the importance of good Civics courses.

A follow-up question inquired about the total GE requirements, to which it was clarified that the CSU GE Breadth consists of 39 lower division units and nine upper division units, totaling 48 units. The conversation also touched upon Trustee Eisen's earlier recommendations and the status of the proposal submitted by the CSU GE Task Force.

Trustee Lopez acknowledged the complexity of AB 928 and Cal-GETC, emphasizing the need to identify and address pain points early in the process. She mentioned the history of previous attempts to streamline the transfer process and stressed the importance of focusing on implementation to make Cal-GETC a standardized and effective policy across all 23 CSU universities, regardless of regional differences. She highlighted the goal of fulfilling the promise of a smoother transfer process for all students.

Trustee Gilbert-Lurie questioned the potential impact of the unified approach on diminishing transfer students in the CSU system. She also commented on the importance of infusing education about prejudice, collaboration, and empathy into the curriculum, emphasizing the need for students to develop these skills for addressing existential problems. Trustee Gilbert-Lurie expressed her hope for incorporating these values into the curriculum for transfer students. In response, Chancellor García acknowledged the importance of these values and suggested that the unified approach and clearer transfer pathways positively affect the

transfer pipeline, providing students with a more straightforward path to transfer and potentially increasing efficiency and completion rates.

Trustee Clark appreciated the conversation and found it extremely useful. He expressed the importance of having detailed information and reasoning when the item is returned to the Board, emphasizing the need to understand how potential pain points are resolved and how the implementation will work. He also commended Taylor's inspirational comments during the discussion.

Chair Fong appreciated the comments made by her Trustee colleagues and shared her concern about potentially having two different credit requirements (Cal-GETC and CSU GE Breadth) and the need for clarity on why both are being adopted. She asked for a presentation in January that would provide reasons for adopting Cal-GETC and address the possibility of combining the two programs. She also emphasized the importance of including all stakeholders in the decision-making process. Chair Fong thanked Taylor for sharing her story and commended her perseverance. Finally, she thanked ASCSU Chair Steffel for her participation and the CSU team for their work, wishing everyone a happy Veterans Day.

The committee then reflected on the recent Graduation Initiative 2025 Symposium held at San Diego State University, which brought together various stakeholders, including faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees. The Symposium aimed to address the goals set almost a decade ago under the Graduation Initiative and plan for the next ten years.

Several key points were discussed during the presentation on the "Graduation Initiative 2025 and Student Success" by Chancellor García, Deputy Vice Chancellor Dilcie Perez, and Associate Vice Chancellor Jennifer Baszile. Firstly, there has been significant progress in graduation rates within the CSU. The four-year graduation rate for first-time students has risen to 35%, a marked improvement from the 19% rate at the initiative's start. Similarly, the six-year graduation rate for these students is now 62%, although more progress is needed to reach the goal of 70%. However, there remain challenges in achieving graduation goals for Community College transfer students, with a two-year graduation rate of 41% and a slight decrease in the four-year graduation rate for transfer students to 79%, while the goal is 85%.

Equity gaps in graduation rates were another focal point. These gaps persist, with a 12-percentage point gap for Pell Grant recipient students and a 13-percentage point gap for historically underserved students, including black, Latinx, and American Indian students. When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, there are even wider disparities in graduation rates.

The presentation also acknowledged the challenges faced by students due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including disrupted learning, limited social interaction, and financial hardships. Enrollment declines and changing student attitudes toward higher education have further complicated the landscape. However, these challenges also present opportunities for the CSU to reimagine its approach to student success.

The CSU proposed a year of strategic engagement and consultation with stakeholders to address these issues and shape the future of Student Success and Equity work. This includes consultations with campus Student Success and Equity teams to refine the preliminary vision. The goal is to have a clarified vision by June 2024, followed by introducing the Student Success framework.

Chancellor García expressed gratitude for the inspiring event and highlighted the challenges faced by K-12 students due to the pandemic. She emphasized the urgency of the CSU's work, with the nation's vitality depending on higher education's role in preparing students for the workforce and society. Chancellor García called for immediate action to support current students, accelerate progress toward GI 2025 goals, and uphold equity as the highest priority. She emphasized the importance of a year of engagement with all stakeholders to shape future efforts, break down silos, use data for improvement, and transform campus cultures.

Interim AVC Massa expressed her excitement and readiness to serve as the CSU prepares to lead in Student Success, equity, and access. She thanked and acknowledged Dr. Jeff Gold's departure at the end of the year, recognizing his significant contributions to advocating for equitable education and using data for actionable insights.

In his concluding remarks, Trustee Arambula expressed his excitement about the work being done to improve Student Success and equity. He highlighted the importance of finding innovative ways to help students recognize and realize their potential, acknowledging both the progress made and the urgency to do more. He mentioned his enthusiasm for the collaborative nature of the Student Success framework and emphasized the need for the Board to stay actively engaged in the process. He also noted the importance of identifying effective practices across the 23 campuses and encouraging their adoption.

Trustee Rodriguez expressed gratitude for the efforts of the university presidents and their teams in advancing Student Success. She mentioned her pride in the students who persisted despite challenges and commended their hard work. She also emphasized the need for continued innovation and leadership within the CSU system. She suggested enhancing collaborative synergy, meeting students where they are, and addressing changing demographics, including adult learners.

Trustee Steinhauser added his appreciation for the students' determination and hard work in achieving graduation. He highlighted the importance of reaching out to a diverse range of learners, including older adults returning to education. He suggested engaging with alumni, community stakeholders, and businesses to encourage lifelong learning.

Chair Fong concluded the discussion by thanking the team for their presentation and emphasizing the significance of closing equity gaps. She referred to it as a civil rights and economic issue and expressed confidence that the CSU system can significantly impact this area. She also extended best wishes to Dr. Jeff Gold, who was leaving the CSU.

**3:45 p.m.**

**[Joint Committee on Educational Policy and Finance](#)**  
**[Agenda, Video](#)**

A motion to approve the consent agenda without discussion passed. The meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Trustee Steinhauser opened the session, emphasizing the importance of financial aid policies in ensuring equitable access to higher education. DVC Evans presented an overview of the Chancellor's Strategic Workgroup on Financial Aid and activities related to financial aid policy. He highlighted the guiding principles, including affordability, aligning financial aid with CSU priorities, and addressing fairness and equity.

Trustee Lopez emphasized the importance of financial aid at CSU and its role in making education affordable. They pointed out that most students who applied for financial assistance received grants to cover all or part of their tuition, making CSU financially accessible to many. They stressed that tuition does not make education unaffordable, but rather other costs such as housing and food expenses.

The critical challenge discussed was how to fund these additional costs associated with attending college, primarily housing and food. Trustee Lopez highlighted that the workgroup focuses on the cost of attendance and how financial aid packages can address these costs. They acknowledged the need to balance ensuring tuition coverage and managing other expenses. Trustee Lopez also mentioned the impact of changes in Cal Grant reform, highlighting both positive and negative aspects. While the reform simplifies the Cal Grant program and expands its coverage to community college students, it also raises concerns about the eligibility of transfer students for Cal Grants, potentially shifting the cost burden to the CSU.

In conclusion, Trustee Lopez emphasized the complexity of the decisions ahead and the need to align financial aid with CSU's affordability mission. They discussed the importance of understanding the trade-offs involved in different financial aid options and how every choice has an opportunity cost. Additionally, Trustee Lopez raised concerns about the potential financial burden on the CSU for transfer students' tuition costs and the need for policy discussions on this matter.

Trustee Adamson inquired whether these principles would be presented as a complete package or if they would be brought to the Board separately. Trustee Lopez clarified that the guiding principles had already been adopted as part of the tuition policy, and they are working on modeling the implications of following those principles. They will present the Board with recommendations based on maximizing state and federal aid, allocating SUG funds, and addressing opportunity costs related to their choices.

Trustee Yee-Melichar asked questions and commented on financial aid and scholarship distribution. Her first question was about the distribution of State University Grant (SUG) Program funding based on campus location and cost of living expenses. She inquired if there had been discussions about addressing cost variations due to geographic location in the new policy being developed. The response indicated that there have been discussions about standardizing cost of attendance calculations across all CSU campuses to ensure consistency, addressing geographic cost variations.

Trustee Yee-Melichar's second question pertained to student scholarship awards and their impact on financial aid status. She sought clarification on how scholarships could be awarded without negatively affecting a student's eligibility for financial aid. Trustee Lopez mentioned that a recent California law prevents scholarships from reducing a student's eligibility for other financial assistance, ensuring that scholarships can supplement a student's funding without displacing existing financial aid awards. These questions help to highlight the importance of addressing geographic cost variations and ensuring fair scholarship distribution without impacting financial assistance status.

Trustee Clark expressed deep gratitude for the presentation and acknowledged Trustee Adamson's questions regarding Cal Grant reform. He emphasized that the Board's role is to make value-based decisions when dealing with limited resources and that this topic lies at the core of the Board's responsibilities. Trustee Clark highlighted the importance of having a thorough discussion within the Board to arrive at decisions that reflect their collective expertise and values.

Trustee Gilbert-Lurie appreciated Trustee Lopez's presentation and noted that it's essential to have clear information about the trade-offs and opportunity costs involved in decision-making. She asked if part of the spirit of this discussion was to look at advocacy opportunities to expand programs like Cal Grants and Pell Grants. Trustee Lopez responded that it is the CSU's stated position to advocate for expanding Pell Grants. Regarding Cal Grants, while it has been discussed, it may require legislation. Trustee Lopez emphasized the importance of being informed advocates for more grant funding without needing to be experts in the tax code.

Finally, Trustee Aguilar Cruz focused on the navigation and accessibility for students regarding financial aid, particularly in light of AB 288. She inquired about how the CSU plans to help financial aid offices navigate these changes and how students will be informed about their financial aid options. DVC Evans assured that they emphasize the importance of training financial aid teams and communicating clearly to students and families.

In conclusion, the CSU Board of Trustees meeting provided insights into the ongoing efforts to develop a comprehensive financial aid policy that aligns with CSU's mission and goals while ensuring affordability and equity for all students. The discussion highlighted the complexity of these issues and the commitment to finding solutions that benefit CSU students.



**4:15 p.m.**

**Committee on Audit**

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

The Committee on Audit meeting, chaired by Trustee Rodriguez, commences with considering the consent agenda, which was approved without any objections. The committee then discussed an information item presented by Vlad Marinescu, Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer, focusing on the status report on Audit and Advisory Services activities for the fiscal year 2022-2023. VC Marinescu detailed the completion of 52 assurance audits covering diverse topics like information security, student health services, executive travel, and hospitality. He emphasized the continuous effort to ensure that corrective actions from audit recommendations were being implemented, with more than half already in progress.

The report also highlighted the strategic emphasis on value-based auditing, going beyond traditional assurance reviews to improve the organization. VC Marinescu discussed systemwide themes of audit reviews, including Athletics Fiscal Administration, Training Compliance, and Auxiliary Organizations. These reviews identified areas for improvement, such as budgeting processes for athletic programs and training compliance procedures. Additionally, incorporating data analytics in audits was outlined, showcasing increased efficiency and quality in audit procedures.

Following this, VC Marinescu presented proposed revisions to the Audit and Advisory Services Charter, stressing the alignment with Institute of Internal Auditor standards. The changes aimed to clarify independence, emphasize adherence to state law and Board of Trustees policies and enhance communication processes between campuses and audit services. He also proposed updates to the Audit Committee Charter, aligning it with the Audit and Advisory Services Charter and ensuring consistency in oversight duties.

Throughout the meeting, Trustee Rodriguez and other Board members expressed appreciation for the diligent work of the Audit and Advisory Services team. They acknowledged the importance of collaboration and continuous improvement. Both items presented—revisions to the charter and the status report—were approved after discussions and a vote.

The meeting concluded with gratitude from several trustees for the educational opportunity afforded by serving on the committee, acknowledging the valuable insights gained into various campus operations and the commitment shown by the audit team. Trustees Firstenberg, Yee-Melichar and others lauded VC Marinescu for his work, expressing gratitude to conclude the session.

**5:15 p.m.**

**SF State Video**

**[Video](#)**

During the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees meeting, a video highlighting San Francisco State University (SF State) was presented. The video emphasizes SF State's commitment to equity, community inclusion, and the transformative impact of higher education. SF State, established in 1899, aims to empower every student to pursue their educational aspirations through an inclusive campus environment, distinguished faculty, and support services.

The video features testimonials from diverse SF State students, showcasing their experiences and the university's impact on their lives. A student engaged in biology and biotechnology research highlighted the opportunities SF State provides, including access to biotech startups and research fellowships from innovative institutions like Genentech. The student also emphasized how SF State nurtured their passion and readiness for graduate school.

Another student shared personal experiences of feeling different and the importance of the student community, faculty, and staff in fostering compassion and respect. The student acknowledged SF State's legacy, referencing the 1960s student-led strike, the establishment of the first college of ethnic studies in the U.S., and the university's emphasis on advocacy and student empowerment.

A student passionate about astrophysics and aerospace engineering discussed a project involving an eco-friendly mobile home to test resilient materials in extreme conditions. The support and care received from SF State's faculty and staff were highlighted as instrumental in the student's professional growth and learning experiences.

Additionally, the segment showcased a student interested in marketing and public relations who found SF State's Communication Studies department and campus environment welcoming. The student emphasized the sense of belonging and community fostered by the university, mentioning programs like EOP (Educational Opportunity Program) and campus associations that contribute to a supportive environment.

Overall, the video encapsulated SF State's role as a regional hub driving innovation, change, and inclusivity, producing graduates who embody the San Francisco Bay Area's forward-thinking culture. CSU Board of Trustees Chair Fong thanked SF State for presenting a compelling portrayal of their university, and recessed the meeting for the day.

### **Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

**8:00 a.m.**

#### **Committee on University and Faculty Personnel**

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

The Committee on University and Faculty Personnel meeting, chaired by Trustee Adamson, approved the consent agenda without any objections. The committee then approved one action item and discussed several information items. During the Committee on University and Faculty Personnel session, Vice Chancellor Leora Friedman presents a detailed report on the progress of implementing civil rights programs and services within the university system. She discusses the creation of a new division focusing on civil rights, its structure, staffing, and the challenges encountered in building this infrastructure. VC Friedman acknowledges the scarcity of qualified professionals in civil rights and the need for collaboration among different universities to share expertise.

Several Trustees express appreciation for the comprehensive report and commend VC Friedman for handling the complex matter efficiently. They also highlight the necessity of resource allocation, emphasizing the need for adequate funding, collaboration among educational systems, and creative solutions like growing internal talent pools to address staff shortages. Additionally, they stress the importance of effective communication with students, faculty, staff and the legislature to ensure transparency and progress updates.

Throughout the discussion, the speakers emphasize the need for patience, understanding, and ongoing support for the implementation teams working on these initiatives. They underscore the significance of compliance and fostering a culture of accountability and respect within the university system. Trustee Kimble expresses optimism about the work ahead but cautions that the process will require time, dedication, and perseverance.

The oversight committee, composed of trustees, presidents, academic senate representatives, and administrators, is highlighted to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process. Overall, the speakers are committed to the initiative, acknowledging its complexities and emphasizing the

importance of a collaborative, patient, and transparent approach to effectively implement and enforce civil rights programs across the university system.

**9:30 a.m.**

**Committee on Governmental Relations**

[Agenda, Video](#)

The Committee on Governmental Relations meeting was convened by Vice Chair Clark. The committee approved the meeting minutes, gathered to discuss the state legislative update and considered endorsing the Fresno County ballot initiative, Measure E.

Executive Vice Chancellor Steve Relyea introduced the Fresno County ballot initiative, Measure E, explaining that it aimed to implement a quarter-cent sales tax in Fresno County, with the proceeds directed towards Fresno State. President Sandoval detailed how Measure E would impact Fresno State, emphasizing its potential to transform the university, promote affordability, and enhance infrastructure. The measure would raise an estimated \$56 million annually, totaling \$1.4 billion over 25 years, exclusively for Fresno State. Funds would support student success, academic projects, deferred maintenance, and infrastructure improvements.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Nathan Dietrich provided specifics on Measure E's logistics, highlighting the oversight committee's role in allocating funds and ensuring transparency. The presentation emphasized that the funds from the measure would be dedicated to capital projects and scholarships for low-income students and veterans.

During the meeting, various individuals spoke. During the discussion, committee members strongly supported the measure, highlighting its potential to uplift marginalized communities and transform the region's economy. They praised Fresno State's role in the community and its impact on the lives of students from marginalized backgrounds.

Trustee Kimbell commented, emphasizing the importance of a clear legislative agenda for financial aid. This was supported by committee members and underlined the significance of financial aid initiatives for the future. Trustee Lopez discussed addressing opposition concerns about regressive sales tax, highlighting its direct benefits for lower-income individuals. Trustee McGrory shared his admiration for the partnership between Fresno State and the local community, offering support for the initiative.

The meeting ended with Vice Chair Clark commending the presentation's quality and Measure E's anticipated success. The committee unanimously approved the motion to endorse the Fresno County ballot initiative.

Throughout the meeting, trustees and officials strongly supported Measure E, recognizing its potential to benefit Fresno State and the broader community significantly. They underscored the importance of this initiative in addressing infrastructure needs and promoting accessibility to higher education for marginalized communities in the region.

**10:00 a.m.**

**Committee on Finance**

[Agenda, Video](#)

A motion to approve the consent agenda passed, and the meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Trustee Lopez moderated the information session on "Annual Systemwide Report on Hate Incidents on Campus" presented by Executive Vice Chancellor Steve Relyea, SJSU President Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President Tomás Morales, SF State Provost Amy Sueyoshi, and Director Melinda Latas. The presentation

started with various speakers addressing hate crimes, prevention efforts, and support mechanisms within the CSU campuses.

The discussion began with Trustee Gilbert-Lurie commending the report and expressing concern about the low number of reported hate crimes compared to the CSU's vast population. They stressed the need to embed anti-hate and anti-prejudice education into the curriculum.

Trustee McGrory highlighted the need for better-reporting mechanisms beyond federal definitions, suggesting a lower tier of writing for incidents not meeting federal hate crime thresholds but still significant enough to track and address.

Trustee Adamson expressed confidence that the CSU is leading in addressing hate incidents. They sought information about the prosecutions resulting from reported hate crimes, showing concern about the lack of accountability, and hoped for more significant actions to deter such crimes.

Chair Fong appreciated the work of San Francisco State in addressing hate crimes, acknowledging the contributions of organizations like the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. They highlighted the significance of addressing hate incidents beyond federal definitions and urged further discussion.

Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis raised concerns about hate incidents on campuses, particularly related to anti-Semitism, urging action to combat such hatred and emphasizing the importance of understanding and differentiating anti-Semitism from other forms of hate.

Throughout the discussion, Presidents and Provosts from various campuses detailed proactive approaches to address hate incidents. They highlighted the importance of engagement, proactive planning, collaboration with law enforcement, mental health support, counseling services, open forums, and outreach to affected student groups to provide resources and help.

Additionally, they emphasized embedding social justice, anti-hate, and anti-prejudice education across the curriculum and co-curricular activities. They mentioned existing programs and classes focused on these issues, aiming to educate and support students dealing with trauma or facing hate-related challenges.

The discussion underscored the need for more comprehensive reporting mechanisms, heightened educational efforts, and proactive approaches across CSU campuses to address hate incidents, support affected students and foster a more inclusive and supportive environment. Various speakers emphasized the importance of collaboration, education, and intentionality in combating hate incidents.

**10:40 a.m.**

**[Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds](#)**

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

The Joint Committee on Finance and Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds meeting convened by Trustee McGrory began with the approval of minutes from a prior meeting, hearing no objections. EVC Relyea then commenced the discussion on the approval of a public-private partnership project for residential and retail development at SDSU Mission Valley. He outlined the significance of this project, stating that it aligns with the university's commitment to providing housing during a regional shortage. President Adela de la Torre emphasized the collaborative effort with Avalon Bay Communities, highlighting the mixed-use development's inclusion of apartments, a grocery store, restaurants, and parking, which will address the pressing housing needs in the region. Robert Eaton provided insights into the key terms of the agreement, emphasizing the extended 99-year land lease, escalating ground rent structure, and revenue-sharing provisions. The committee, expressing enthusiasm and acknowledging the importance of these initiatives, unanimously approved the project.

Following this, the committee shifted focus to approving an affordable housing project at SDSU Mission Valley. President de la Torre reiterated the university's commitment to affordable housing, highlighting plans for below-market apartments and childcare facilities. AVC Gannoe presented the schematics, emphasizing sustainability measures and a range of amenities to be included in the affordable housing project. Robert Eaton delved into the key terms, detailing the 75-year land lease, funding sources, and annual ground rent calculations. The committee members showed appreciation for the university's efforts to address the region's housing needs and explored strategies to subsidize housing for faculty and grad students potentially. The committee unanimously approved the affordable housing project, commending SDSU, private developers, and advisory committees' collaborative efforts to address the housing shortage.

Throughout the discussions, committee members, including Trustee McGrory and Vice Chairman Clark, lauded the university's dedication and attention to detail in bringing forth these complex deals. President de la Torre thanked the SDSU Mission Valley team, external consultants, and the Chancellor's oversight and advisory committee for their contributions to these significant projects. The committee acknowledged the importance of these initiatives in setting a precedent for future developments, expressing satisfaction with the thoroughness and collaborative approach evident in SDSU's endeavors.

**11:10 a.m.**

**[Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds](#)**  
**[Agenda, Video](#)**

The Committee on Campus Planning, Buildings, and Grounds discusses two main projects: 1) the California State University Fresno Affordable Student Housing Schematic Design Approval, and 2) the San Diego State University Imperial Valley Broly Science Building Project Schematic Design Approval.

Chair McGrory opened the meeting, and several speakers presented, including EVC Relyea, President Jiménez-Sandoval, VP Adishian-Astone, President de la Torre, and AVC Gannoe. EVC Relyea introduced the California State University Fresno Affordable Student Housing project. VP Adishian-Astone elaborated on the need for affordable housing to support students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. She highlighted Fresno State's limited on-campus housing capacity and the importance of this project in meeting student demand.

Details regarding Fresno State's housing statistics, the need for additional affordable housing, and the project's design were discussed. The project aimed to provide 228 new bed spaces, meeting sustainability guidelines while ensuring cost-effectiveness and maximizing operational efficiency.

The second project presented was the San Diego State University Imperial Valley Broly Science Building. President de la Torre emphasized the significance of this project in providing STEM education opportunities in the Imperial Valley region, particularly in the field of alternative energy sciences. AVC Gannoe elaborated on the project's design, site plan, and the challenges faced in construction due to the remote location and nature of the building.

Trustee McGrory highlighted the importance of the project for the region's economic development. They mentioned that the project would be carried out in conjunction with their Calexico campus and expressed positivity about it. Additionally, they noted that the state had provided funding for the project.

Trustee Yee-Melichar, a former biology faculty and lab director expressed support for the project but raised a concern about whether the building's design considered ADA requirements to prevent the need for retrofitting in the future. This may be a concern for faculty, staff and students with disabilities needing physical lab equipment/space accommodations.

Trustee Adamson shared their initial apprehensions regarding the project's cost. However, they mentioned that after discussions with the project's team, they understood that the site had not been developed previously, leading to increased costs due to utility and sewer installations. They also praised the use of concrete tilt-up construction as a cost-effective choice.

President de la Torre expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the project and recognized its significance in providing access to education in Imperial County and expanding opportunities for various job sectors. She emphasized the historical context of the region, highlighting years of neglect. They stressed the psychological importance of the project for the community, extending beyond economic development.

Chair Fong thanked Trustees McGrory and Adamson for their service on the construction cost committee and praised the quality of the presentation.

Trustee Kimbell recommended visiting the Imperial Valley campus, emphasizing its unique setting and the deserving nature of the students studying there. She expressed strong support for the project, understanding the necessity of the building's cost due to its proximity to the Salton Sea and the potential opportunities it could bring to the region.

Ultimately, the committee moved forward with the approval of both projects, acknowledging the challenges and the significance of these endeavors in expanding educational opportunities and supporting regional development.

**11:40 a.m.**

**Plenary Session Day 2**

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

The California State University Board of Trustees convened under the able leadership of Chair Wenda Fong, recognizing Dr. Leory Morishita's retirement, and spotlighting CSU San Marcos' achievements in a video presentation (see below). The Board swiftly approved the Consent Agenda, setting the stage for honoring two remarkable women—Billie Jean King and Lynnette Zelezny.

Billie Jean King, an iconic athlete and advocate, was commended for her extraordinary contributions. Chancellor García and Trustee Firstenberg praised Billie Jean King's impact, accompanied by a heartfelt video message from Billie Jean King herself, expressing gratitude for the recognition and celebrating CSU's commitment to education and diversity.

In a similarly celebratory tone, Lynnette Zelezny received recognition for her transformative leadership at CSU Bakersfield, earning the title of President Emerita unanimously from the board. President Lynnette Zelezny, visibly touched, expressed deep appreciation for her near-50-year career within the CSU system and its meaningful impact on the Central Valley and its students.

Chair Fong closed the meeting, expressing gratitude and outlining the schedule for future Board sessions. Throughout the gathering, the focus remained on CSU's core values of student success, diversity, and academic excellence, echoed through the remarkable achievements of the honorees and their lasting legacies.

**11:55 a.m.**

**CSUSM Video**

**[Video](#)**

The video introduction was delivered by an unidentified presenter, expressing excitement about featuring CSU San Marcos as a beacon of progress in the region. The Northern San Diego County university was presented as a powerhouse of higher education, focusing on student success. Notably, it's a federally designated Minority Serving Institution (MSI) with over half its first-generation students and a significant population of military-affiliated students.

The video emphasized CSUSM's commitment to social mobility, noting its status as the number one ranked university in the nation in this aspect. The university collaborates with partners to ensure college exposure for students through programs like The Alliance Program, opening doors for those who might not otherwise consider higher education. The significance of showing up and providing additional support to those who need it was highlighted, aiming for a thriving community.

Dr. Ray Malfavon-Borja, a first-generation undergraduate turned mentor at the Center for Training, Research, and Educational Excellence, shared his journey from being a CSUSM student to mentoring underrepresented students in the Sciences. He emphasized the importance of relatability, as he and his colleagues are also first-generation academic professionals, creating a strong connection with students.

A recent graduate, Sophia Lombardi, exemplified CSUSM's focus on practical skills by starting her sustainable swimsuit business during her undergraduate studies. Her success in winning the University's Quick Pitch competition and leading a socially responsible fashion brand showcased the real-world experiences CSUSM offers its students.

The video further highlighted Mariposa Rodarte-Iman, a first-generation student excelling in the engineering program, emphasizing CSUSM's dedication to addressing critical workforce needs and fostering diversity in STEM fields. The university's commitment to the future, particularly with establishing the engineering program in 2019 and the upcoming Integrated Science and Engineering Building, demonstrates its dedication to innovation, social justice, and the transformative impact it aims to have on the region.

The video concluded with a message about CSUSM's role as a beacon of promise and possibility, emphasizing the institution's dedication to its students' success and the community's development.

#### **Brief Queries or Requests for Feedback**

Based on what I have shared with you above (links to the specific meeting materials and videos; brief summaries using ChatGPT with technical assistance provided by [SF State Academic Technology](#) and in concurrence with my personal meeting notes), I would like to pose some brief queries or requests for feedback. I invite and look forward to any comments and/or questions that you may wish to share with me on the following items. Please email me at [dyee@calstate.edu](mailto:dyee@calstate.edu); thank you for your kind consideration.

1, I have been appointed to four [Board of Trustees Standing Committees](#); these include Audit; Campus Planning, Buildings, Grounds; Educational Policy; and Finance.

*Do you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate have any concerns/items that you would like to bring to my attention at this time? I would especially like to hear about your campus feedback on the above Board meeting items related to these four standing committee assignments.*

2, the ASCSU has weighed in on state legislative bills through prior resolutions including:

- [2023 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY POSITIONS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY \(ASCSU\)](#)
- [2022 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY POSITIONS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY \(ASCSU\)](#)



*Do you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate have any feedback regarding the [CSU State Legislative Update – End of Session Legislative Summary](#)? Do you have specific legislative bills that are of concern and/or of interest to you?*

3, The next regular meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees will be on [1/29-31/2024](#). The ASCSU is not meeting the week immediately before this Board meeting, and the Board agenda and materials are not yet available. Consequently, I would like to propose some items that you, your ASCSU standing committee and/or your campus senate may wish to consider:

*Note: I suggest ASCSU committee(s) that may be interested in considering these items given [its committee charge and responsibilities](#).*

#### **Academic Affairs**

GI 2025 and Student Success  
Implementation of AB 928

Free [courses](#) and [certificates](#) – loss leader pricing strategy to promote programs/enhance enrollments?  
Online Education – [UC take another look at online education](#)

#### **Academic Preparation and Educational Programs**

GI 2025 and Student Success  
Implementation of AB 928

[The misguided war on the SAT](#) - do standardized tests hurt diversity? Colleges have fled standardized tests, on the theory that they hurt diversity. That's not what the research shows ...

#### **Faculty Affairs**

[Academic integrity and AI writing policy](#) – Perhaps follow-up on ASCSU resolutions:  
[AS-3360-19/AA \(Rev\) "Call For The Establishment of a Working Group on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) on Higher Education"](#)  
[AS-3610-23/AA/FA \(Rev\) "RENEWING THE CALL FOR A WORKING GROUP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE \(AI\) IN HIGHER EDUCATION"](#)  
Annual Systemwide Report on Hate Incidents on Campus  
Update on Civil Rights (Title IX and other Nondiscrimination) Programs and Services

#### **Fiscal and Governmental Affairs**

GI 2025 and Student Success  
Implementation of AB 928  
Chancellor's Strategic Workgroup on Financial Aid  
State Legislative Budget Advocacy

#### **Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

GI 2025 and Student Success  
Implementation of AB 928

[The misguided war on the SAT](#) - do standardized tests hurt diversity?  
Annual Systemwide Report on Hate Incidents on Campus  
Update on Civil Rights (Title IX and other Nondiscrimination) Programs and Services

4, I want to get to know each of you through your standing committees, during meal breaks, through campus visits, during system events, and much more.

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

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