

## 1. Financial Aid Reform

a. We are advocated for the four following things with our fellow college student associations

i. Funding for basic needs request

1. This is \$15 million in one-time funds for the CSU that would go to programs that address food and housing insecurity.

ii. More financial aid that addresses the total cost of attendance

1. Current financial aid packages, with a maximum Cal Grant, Pell Grant, can leave students with a large gap between their aid and their total cost

2. This advocacy would be asking for more aid to students to fill this gap

3. We are still trying to figure out what's possible, but for most students who qualify for financial aid, we're functionally asking that they receive approximately \$7,000 more a year

iii. Summer Cal Grant

1. Currently students can, but rarely, access Cal Grant dollars for summer courses because of the limit in funds available

2. This program would enable students who qualify for Cal Grant, access to new funds that would cover up to two semesters of summer courses

iv. Expand Access to Cal Grant

1. Currently, due to eligibility restrictions, over 200,000 college students across all segments who academically and economically qualify for Cal Grant, do not receive one. This advocacy would enable access to these students

2. For CSU students, this may mean around 30,000 new students may receive a Cal Grant who wouldn't before

## b. Budget Advocacy

i. CSU budget advocacy has historically been what CSSA has focused on. This year, they are advocating for the following things

1. Graduation Initiative 2025 - \$75 million

2. Compensation Increases for all staff, faculty, and administration - \$147.8 million

3. Five Percent Enrollment Growth - \$206.1 million

4. Infrastructure - \$80 million

5. Mandatory Costs - \$45.4 million

ii. In addition to these ongoing funding requests, the system also has two one-time requests

1. Basic Needs - \$15 million

2. Deferred Maintenance - \$250 million

iii. Two additional points to make on budget advocacy

1. Last year we had our most successful budget advocacy in three years. Typically what we see is a much smaller budget funded for the CSU the year after a fully funded budget request, which implies from this history, that the chances that the system receives a fully funded budget are smaller.
2. There is currently a 3% tuition increase proposal. All indications are this tuition increase, regardless of the success of CSU budget advocacy, is unlikely. Here's why
  - a. The state economy is doing extremely well. It will be hard for the board of trustees, who rejected a tuition increase last year for the same reason, will want to vote on one this year
  - b. The incoming governor has been a staunch opponent of tuition increases at any segment, and will make it hard for the CSU to approve a tuition increase
  - c. The amount of money generated by a tuition increase, approximately \$45 million, does not help the CSU significantly with any of their major budget request needs, and thus implies that even the Chancellor's office is not seriously pursuing a tuition increase