



Dear Board of Trustees, Chancellor's Office and CSU Campus Presidents,

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has taken on the form of a pandemic that is historically unprecedented for all of us. This is a huge hurdle that we are all gearing up for in the upcoming weeks and months to come. However, we cannot help but commend the strong leadership that has been displayed by our universities and campus leaders as well as staff, faculty, and administrators who are working tirelessly to make sure that students and their safety have been put first in these perilous times. We also note the postponement of Chancellor's White retirement as well as President Harrison and President Morishita. We appreciate the work that you will continue to do for students in these uncertain times.

As the CSU and its 23 campuses respond to the COVID-19 virus and its unprecedented effects, the Cal State Student Association believes it is critical to consider specific student populations and issues. As the official voice of the 480,000 CSU students, we have highlighted some of the most pressing concerns below.

Accessibility to Student Services

With many students displaced and no longer local to their campus, critical resources have become inaccessible. Some students will now lack access to the internet and laptops as well as student success services, enrollment offices, mental health resources, and meetings with academic advisors. With this in mind, campuses should make sure that students are able to utilize these services, including technological resources.

Maintaining University-Operated Housing for Students

Each of the 45,000 students that call a CSU campus 'home' are in a unique situation, many of which their on-campus residences are their sole housing option. For those who rely on university housing, it is critical to ensure original housing remains open and available to them, including dining. For others, the loss of income has made university housing a compounding financial burden. For these students, universities should release them from their contracts, only paying a prorated amount, and allow them to return home or to find more appropriate housing options.

Access to Academic & Student Services for Students with Disabilities

On March 17, 2020, the CSU announced the acceleration of the transition to virtual instruction across the CSU. Virtual instruction has made distance learning accessible for many, while creating barriers for others. With the transition, students with disabilities must have access to the course material and resources to ensure equal access to success. This may also require additional resources to faculty as they translate the curriculum to this new format.



As universities commit to the full transition to online & virtual courses for the remainder of the semester, there is a concern for students with disabilities and the access to online content while learning from home. The campuses should guarantee that all students can have the capability to provide accommodations and support for differently-able students during this time of online transition.

Refunding of student fees

The economic impact of COVID-19 has been devastating to both universities and students. Recognizing many of the mission-critical services paid for by student fees, there may be some services which students no longer have access to. If prorated refunds are sensible and possible, this would help students with their financial responsibilities in the upcoming months ahead.

Resources for our marginalized, undocumented, disabled, formerly incarcerated, international and out-of-state students

While the impact of COVID-19 has impacted every member of the CSU community, a deliberate effort must be made for marginalized and underrepresented communities to maintain retention and distribute resources needed to complete their coursework.

Financial compensation to impacted student workers

As campus operations transition to only essential staff, student employees are at risk of not receiving compensation even as they continue to garner financial obligations. Students should be compensated for their hours for the Spring semester as well as students who are employed by on-campus third party vendors.

Inclusion of students in the critical-decision making surrounding the issues regarding COVID-19

As the day to day issues regarding COVID-19 constantly change, student leaders should be able to be a part of the critical decision-making processes. Student leaders should be able to voice their opinion when these discussions occur on the campus level as well as the system-wide level. Student leaders should also be able to be notified of updates due to COVID-19 per campus before they realize the general student populations.

Postponement for Registration Procedures and Fees for Incoming CSU Students

The economic impact of this pandemic also reaches our incoming students and they are paying close attention to how campuses are responding to inform their enrollment decisions. To relieve incoming students of unnecessary stress, fees, and uninformed decisions due to campus tour closures, the CSU should postpone the Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) or Admission Acceptance or Enrollment Confirmation procedures and required monetary deposits of all 23 California State Universities for all incoming students.



Although CSSA acknowledges these are not holistic solutions, in times like these, we know that our most vulnerable students will be the ones that will need the most aid. As an organization, we wish to continue working in partnership to find solutions to overcome these unpredictable times. Through shared governance we can work to give the students of California a better future.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zahraa Khuraibet".

Zahraa Khuraibet
Chair
Cal State Student Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Wiafe".

Michael Wiafe
President
Cal State Student Association