

## **SPRING 2022 STATE OF AFFAIRS REPORT**

## Submitted Anna Nguyen, ASI President

ASI has continued to make good efforts towards bettering the college experience of our student body; this includes both programming and advocacy work across all positions. Unfortunately, at the beginning of this semester, we had a lot of vacancies which significantly affected our operations. Many of the vacancies were executive officers and several meetings were cancelled due to our inability to meet quorum. Without meetings taking place, policy revisions and major programs could not get approved and voted on in a timely manner. Despite this, with aggressive recruitment, ASI managed to fill most of the positions and there was a general consensus that the situation and transition was handled well. Some worry the transition to the next administration might not be as smooth due to the newer members not having much to input in terms of what was done this past year. The implementation of SharePoint this year, however, will provide better file sharing and continuity between one administration and the next. There is positive feedback in terms of it being a useful way of sharing documents and keeping everyone on the same page.

Another issue that members brought up this semester was the way the organization communicated internally. For instance, some discussions that were had one-on-one were not communicated to the broader group. This sometimes resulted in overlapping events during planning or people just generally not being on the same page. Some of this miscommunication was due to the executive leadership transitions and several meetings being cancelled in the middle of the year. Another reason was a result of the virtual environment for classes and conducting ASI business in the Fall, which hindered the bonding of ASI student leaders and student engagement with ASI and the campus. The two issues are connected: needing more participation and engagement from the student body as well as ASI's lack of exposure. With the return of in-person classes, we have seen an increase in student participation but there is still a lot of room for improvement. The hope is for the trend to continue upwards as more and more classes return to being in-person and ASI continues to strengthen our marketing and outreach to effectively connect with students as they return to campus.

Moving onto events, Spirit Week and Earth Week both had many successful events with a lot of students partaking. Other events hosted by college representatives, including but not limited to, town halls and alumni panels were successful but could have had better attendance. Addressing Student Needs is a webinar with administration that will be happening soon and is expected to be helpful and informative for the students. Additionally, ASI's programming team is planning several fun and interactive events at the end of the year to boost a sense of community and belonging and encourage school spirit.

Getting students to engage in committees and advocacy efforts was difficult this year, a trend that was echoed throughout the CSU and higher education. ASI's internal and the campus-wide committees had vacancies and even with ASI's outreach efforts, many remained vacant. There was a slight increase in interest toward the end of the Spring semester, but the student voice was not well-represented on several important committees. Although we have the incentive program to help recruit for those, there is still a lack of exposure. Whether this is due to students being too busy or not knowing about the committees is unclear, but we must think of new methods to incentivize the students to participate and voice student concerns through committee involvement.

ASI's financial health is strong and the organization was able to build a reserve to support infrastructure projects without taking away from student support programs. Some of the savings came from unfulfilled positions as well as unused travel and programming dollars which were not used during the pandemic. ASI remained flexible



this year by allocating unused funds to different projects, programs, and initiatives to redistribute support as the need arose.

Overall, there will always be room for improvement when it comes to marketing and outreach, but every member is currently doing the best they can, and we are still seeing a lot of positive feedback and outcomes from our programs and advocacy work.