

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.**  
**California State University, San Bernardino**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 18, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carson Fajardo at 10:06 a.m.

Present: Carson Fajardo, Diego Rendon, Autumn Hudson, Alondra Lopez, Megha Babu, Dominic Bertolo, Jesus Ramirez-Castillo, Jeidi Carrion-Fajardo, Niamh Murphy-Gonzalez, Christian Gordo, Alaina O'Connell, Amanda Reigle (Zoom), Melissa Saldana (Zoom), Juan Sibrian, Melis Yurdakul (Zoom), Ayanna McAlister, Ashley Smith, Dr. Haakon Brown (Zoom), Dr. Michael Rister and Dr. Paz Oliverez.

Absent: Kim Hunsaker.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Juan Padilla, Jiselle Villegas and Mira Enriquez.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of March 28<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was adopted.

Ms. Murphy-Gonzalez arrived at the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

*President:* President Fajardo attended Beyond the Booth: Jesus Ortiz Paz and recognized students and staff who helped with the event. He attended a CSSA virtual plenary meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> and CSSA Hill Day where he met with members of Congress. CSSA elections were held. He met with Chief Gutierrez this week to discuss campus safety efforts. He spoke at the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. He met with representatives from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo alongside Ms. Carrion-Fajardo and Dr. Oliverez to discuss their club matchmaking system. He encouraged the Board to continue advocacy for the referendum.

Dr. Oliverez arrived at the meeting.

*Executive Vice President:* Mr. Rendon and Ms. Lopez presented a proposal at the SMSU Policy Committee meeting to add a PDC representative to the SMSU Board. He gave a speech at the Meeting of the Minds event. He attended Choose CSUSB Day at PDC. He met with Dr. Brandon Gamble on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Vice President of Palm Desert Campus:* Ms. Lopez attended a club mixer and Choose CSUSB Day at PDC. She is working with Dr. Rodriguez to plan late-night study sessions for PDC

students. She will be meeting with the PDC administration soon to discuss plans for the PDC graduation celebration. A Board meeting at PDC is being planned for May 9th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

*Executive Director:* Dr. Rister stated that the budget for the 2025-26 academic year will be presented at the upcoming Finance Committee meeting which is scheduled a week before the referendum results. IRA training will be included in the summer Board training by Dr. Matthew Smith, the new Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students. The Board transition will take place on June 1<sup>st</sup> this year. He is serving on the PDC graduation planning committee. He is working with other departments to explore ways to simplify the CAB process for students.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

President Fajardo passed the gavel to Mr. Rendon.

**BD 30-25 M/S Fajardo/Ramirez-Castillo: Approval of Executive Order #02 issued on March 28th for the appointment of the following Elections Committee members: Megha Babu, Alaina O'Connell and Dominic Bertolo.**

President Fajardo explained that the order was issued due to the Board's absence and the urgency to appoint Board members to the Elections Committee who are not running for re-election or will be graduating.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Brown, Ramirez-Castillo, Murphy-Gonzalez, Gordo, Hudson, Lopez, Oliverez, Reigle, Rendon, Rister, Saldana, Sibrian and Yurdakul.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Babu, Bertolo, Carrion-Fajardo, Fajardo and O'Connell.

Passed (13/0/5).

Mr. Rendon passed the gavel back to President Fajardo.

**BD 31-25 M/S Lopez/Sibrian: Appointment of Nikita Lnu as a student-at-large representative to the ASI Sustainability Committee.**

Ms. Villegas spoke in favor of Ms. Lnu.

Passed unanimously.

**BD 32-25 M/S Gordo/Rendon: Discussion to gather feedback and ideas on summer training sessions for ASI Board of Directors.**

President Fajardo emphasized the need to better support students appointed later in the semester and asked for input on how summer training and transition processes could be improved.

Mr. Rendon recommended increased emphasis on Robert's Rules of Order and the STAND goals, along with greater use of survey data to help guide advocacy and training objectives.

Ms. Smith supported segmenting the STAND goal training into multiple sessions and encouraged face-to-face meetings in place of surveys to strengthen student feedback.

Ms. McAlister suggested clarifying ASI's organizational structure and responsibilities across roles and recommended improving integration between ASI and SMSU during training.

Mr. Ramirez-Castillo expressed interest in learning more historically about the people who held these positions previously and their responsibilities.

Mr. Bertolo advocated for a directory of influential campus committees to help Board members understand how they are involved with ASI.

Mr. Sibrian proposed creating a Canvas course training module for Board members who are unable to attend summer sessions, especially for those onboarding during the middle of the academic year.

Ms. Saldana recommended adding a visual guide to explain roles and responsibilities within ASI to improve transparency and collaboration.

Mr. Rendon proposed adding guest speakers, including ASI alumni and campus partners, to share leadership experiences and foster broader institutional understanding.

President Fajardo deferred to Mr. Gonzalez who confirmed that three full-day training sessions are planned for June and encouraged ongoing feedback regarding Board members who will be appointed after summer training.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gonzalez requested that feedback on training be submitted within two weeks to support the timely development of the summer training agenda.

Discussion closed.

**BD 33-25 M/S Hudson/Rendon: Appointment of Vanehya Jenkins as a student-at-large representative to the ASI Finance Committee.**

Ms. Hudson spoke in favor of Ms. Jenkins.

Passed unanimously.

## REPORTS:

*Student-at-Large:* Mr. Sibrian attended the PhD Project Annual Conference in Chicago on March 20<sup>th</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup>. He co-hosted The Art of Digital Storytelling workshop with Ms. Lopez and the Career Center. He participated in the Student Fast Pitch Competition on April 9<sup>th</sup> where his team placed third. He joined the Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) club on a tour of Tamarisk Country Club on April 10<sup>th</sup>. He led a session at the College Corps Fellows Emotional Regulation Workshop on April 12<sup>th</sup>. He attended the club networking mixer at PDC. He attended the Board Boba and Boardgames event.

*External Affairs:* Ms. Smith stated that she met with the Vice President of External Affairs and her team from the University of California, Riverside (UCR) to discuss advocacy efforts. A lobbying partnership with UCR was established which will allow CSUSB student perspectives to be shared with legislators more frequently. CSSA elections have concluded. CSUSB currently holds first place in the College Involvement and Values Impacting Communities (CIVIC) Challenge.

*Clubs and Organizations:* Ms. Carrion-Fajardo stated that all student clubs will be required to resubmit and recharter for the upcoming academic year. She plans to attend all club rechartering meetings to offer support and guidance. She met with representatives from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to discuss their club matchmaking system designed to connect students with organizations based on their interests.

*College of Social & Behavioral Sciences:* Ms. Murphy-Gonzalez attended a club event for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences before spring break. She plans to collaborate with the Dean and student organizations to improve outreach and marketing efforts.

*College of Education:* Mr. Ramirez-Castillo stated that the deadline to submit credential program applications was last week. He assisted students with last-minute application submissions and through experience realized that there is a lack of informational sessions offered. He has a meeting scheduled with the Dean on April 21<sup>st</sup> to address these issues. He attended the Venue Committee meeting alongside Ms. Lopez.

*President's Representative:* Dr. Oliveres accompanied a group of students on a spring break trip to Italy and encouraged students to consider participating in study abroad programs. The second annual Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Symposium will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in SMSU South. The newly appointed Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Dr. Matthew Smith will be visiting the campus on April 25<sup>th</sup>; his official start date is June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Undocumented Success Center Spring Community Meeting will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in SMSU South. The PDC Student Services Building groundbreaking will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

*International:* Ms. Babu met with a graduate professor to discuss student awareness regarding Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) timelines. She stated that many international students are unclear on post-graduation options and proposed hosting a

Zoom session or creating a video to provide guidance. She had a meeting with a student to discuss an idea for a carpooling app specifically designed for international students.

*College of Arts & Letters:* Ms. Reigle received a concern by students regarding the scheduling of ASI's keynote speaker event on April 17<sup>th</sup> which directly overlapped with the Black Student Union's Black Bazaar, an event that has long been scheduled and was organized with care and intention. This was not just an unfortunate scheduling event, it was experienced as a micro aggression, another example of how black student efforts can feel overlooked or minimized by the very systems that are meant to uplift them. The real issue is that a high-profile ASI sponsored event was scheduled at the exact time as a major student led cultural event and that decision has a real impact on how students feel seen, supported and respected.

M/S Sibrian/Bertolo: To extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Passed unanimously.

Though Ms. Reigle believes this conflict was not created in malice, she realizes that intent does not erase impact. As a governing body, we must be willing to ask ourselves, if we are truly inclusive in how we program, promote and prioritize, or if we are falling into patterns of self-congratulation and siloed decision making. She encouraged every current and future Board member to use their voices and represent their students. As leaders, we do not need to have all the answers, however, we need more people who are willing to start these conversations.

Ms. Murphy-Gonzalez left the meeting.

M/S Rendon/Sibrian: To extend the meeting for 5 minutes. Passed unanimously.


*College of Natural Sciences:* Mr. Gordo attended a presentation hosted by the Dean for prospective students considering enrollment at CSUSB. He attended the Board Boba and Boardgames event. He is working with Dr. Rodriguez to organize a visit from the Dean to the Palm Desert Campus. He attended a club mixer.

*Students with Disabilities:* Mr. Bertolo met with staff at the Services to Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to discuss key concerns affecting students who are registered with the department. He has been attending ChatGPT Steering Committee meetings where recent discussions have centered on proposed faculty policies regarding the use of AI in academic settings.

*Programs:* Ms. Stone stated that ASI hosted a successful event featuring Jesus Ortiz Paz on April 17<sup>th</sup>. ASI referendum handouts have been distributed and "Take Back Your Campus" stickers are being placed around campus. She encouraged Board members who are not running in the election to wear their referendum shirts throughout voting week. An ASI pro-staff member will be present at PDC each day during the voting period.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

  
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Diego Rendon  
Executive Vice President