

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carson Fajardo at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Carson Fajardo, Diego Rendon, Autumn Hudson (Zoom), Alondra Lopez, Megha Babu, Jeidi Carrion-Fajardo, Alaina O'Connell, Amanda Reigle (Zoom), Juan Sibrian (Zoom), Ayanna McAlister, Dr. Haakon Brown (Zoom), Kim Hunsaker (Zoom) and Dr. Michael Rister.

Absent: Melis Yurdakul, Ashley Smith and Dr. Paz Oliverez.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Juan Padilla, Jiselle Villegas, Matthew Calhoun, Niamh Murphy-Gonzalez, Dominic Bertolo and Christian Gordo.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of February 14<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Ms. Babu arrived at the meeting.

Dr. Brown arrived at the meeting.

M/S Lopez/Rendon: To place BD 13-25 through BD 14-25 on a consent calendar. Passed unanimously.

M/S Rendon/Rister: To move BD 19-25 below BD 12-25. Passed unanimously.

The agenda was adopted as amended.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

*President:* President Fajardo attended CSSA and a Solidarity and Equal Partnership Task Force meeting. He met with David Marshall to explore collaborations between the Honors Program and ASI. He also met with the Alpha Phi President to discuss ways to engage with Greek life and student leaders across campus organizations. He encouraged Board members to attend Coyote Cares Day on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Executive Vice President:* Mr. Rendon attended the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) Road Show. He encouraged Board members to promote the upcoming elections for the 2025–2026 academic year. He attended the IT Governance Executive Committee meeting and a Philanthropic Foundation Executive Committee meeting. He reminded the Board of the two existing vacancies and urged members to continue encouraging peers to run for office.

*Vice President of Finance:* Ms. Hudson stated that a CAB Funding Workshop at the Palm Desert Campus (PDC) was canceled due to the holiday and will be rescheduled.

*Vice President of Palm Desert Campus:* Ms. Lopez had a meeting with College Possible Academic Coaches at PDC to plan their annual Basketball Tournament. She has a meeting with the PDC Soccer Club on February 24<sup>th</sup>. She met with Dr. Oliverez to discuss updates for both campuses.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

*Executive Director:* Dr. Rister stated there is an 8% rollover from the Fall to the Spring semester, as well as a 2.7% increase over the projected figures for the Spring semester. He is working with Ms. Hudson to finalize the budget for the 2025–2026 academic year. He confirmed with the university that there will be a projected 5% increase in its cost allocation for the upcoming year which will be incorporated into the budget proposal.

### **OPEN FORUM:**

Ms. Reigle recognized President Fajardo and Mr. Rendon for their accessibility and visibility to students.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **BD 11-25 M/S Rendon/Lopez: Revision of the ASI Elections Policy and Procedures. (Second Reading)**

Mr. Rendon deferred to Mr. Gonzalez who briefly reviewed the Elections Policy and Procedures.

Passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

President Fajardo passed the gavel to Mr. Rendon.

#### **BD 12-25 M/S Fajardo/O’Connell: Authorization of the 2025 Student Fee Referendum to be placed on the ballot for a student vote to increase the ASI student fee starting Fall of the 2025-26 academic year.**

President Fajardo emphasized that the proposed ASI fee increase is not a decision taken lightly but one driven by the university's recent enrollment decline. Enrollment has dropped from 19,000 to about 17,000 students which has resulted in financial challenges for ASI. This reduction in student fees has resulted in cuts to student positions, marketing efforts and overall student services. The fee increase aims to stabilize ASI's finances, ensuring that students continue to receive quality experiences, services, and support similar to those at other CSU campuses. It also aligns with efforts to sustain athletics which are vital for student life and to support events like Coyote Fest, scholarships, and parking passes, particularly for commuter

students. He stressed that this is a critical moment for ASI. He acknowledged the importance of investing in student life and leadership for the long-term benefit of the campus community.

President Fajardo left the meeting.

Ms. Reigle suggested that if the fee increase is approved, there should be a future discussion on how to market these changes to students, ensuring they are aware of the benefits and the upcoming changes.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Carrion-Fajardo, Hunsaker, Lopez, O'Connell, Reigle, Rendon and Sibrian.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Babu, Brown, Hudson and Rister.

Passed (7/0/4).

**BD 19-25 M/S Rister/Lopez: Revision of the ASI Bylaws. (First Reading)**

Dr. Rister deferred to Mr. Gonzalez who briefly reviewed the Bylaws.

Discussion followed.

M/S O'Connell/Reigle: To adjust the Bylaws to where the Athletics Representative will be able to miss Board meetings in case of any practices or games.

Ms. Lopez raised concerns about commitment, noting that the Board's meeting schedule is set in advance and attendance is emphasized during onboarding and interviews. She stressed that the Board relies on consistent participation from all members for important decisions.

Mr. Rendon deferred to Ms. McAlister who responded to Ms. Lopez's concerns by explaining that when the Board reviewed its policy on excused absences, they considered both athletic and academic commitments, such as practices, games, and clinicals for nursing students. She clarified that if the Board does not formally approve practices as excused absences, a solution was proposed allowing athletes to notify either the Executive Vice President or President at least two days in advance of any scheduling conflicts. This would offer some flexibility for last-minute changes while ensuring that attendance is still prioritized. She acknowledged the importance of attendance but emphasized that athletic schedules can be unpredictable.

President Fajardo returned to the meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sibrian left the meeting.

Vote on adjustment passed (4/1/6).

Mr. Rendon passed the gavel back to President Fajardo.

Ms. Reigle inquired about caps on transferring funds between budget line items, referencing a \$3,000 cap for flexibility and asking if there was a limit for both the main campus and Palm Desert Campus (PDC). President Fajardo provided context, explaining that previously the cap was \$500, and now it has been raised to \$3,000 to allow for more flexibility.

Dr. Rister confirmed the PDC's restriction of one transfer per semester and recognized there was no restriction for the San Bernardino campus. President Fajardo suggested aligning policies across campuses.

Discussion closed.

M/S Lopez/Hunsaker: To open the following consent calendar:

**BD 13-25: Appointment of Vonetta Jones as a student-at-large representative to the ASI Finance Committee.**

**BD 14-25: Appointment of Melissa de La Rosa as a student-at-large representative to the ASI Finance Committee.**

Passed unanimously.

**BD 15-25 M/S Rendon/Reigle: Appointment of Jesus Ramirez-Castillo as the College of Education representative to the ASI Board of Directors.**

Mr. Rendon spoke in favor of Mr. Ramirez-Castillo.

Passed unanimously.

**BD 16-25 M/S Rendon/Lopez: Appointment of Niamh Murphy-Gonzalez as the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences representative to the ASI Board of Directors.**

Mr. Rendon spoke in favor of Ms. Murphy-Gonzalez. He deferred to Ms. Murphy-Gonzalez who shared why she believes she will be a good fit for the position.

Passed unanimously.

**BD 17-25 M/S Rendon/O'Connell: Appointment of Dominic Bertolo as the representative of Students with Disabilities to the ASI Board of Directors.**

Mr. Rendon spoke in favor of Mr. Bertolo. He deferred to Mr. Bertolo who shared why he believes he will be a good fit for the position.

Passed unanimously.

**BD 18-25 M/S Rendon/Reigle: Appointment of Christian Gordo as the College of Natural Sciences representative to the ASI Board of Directors.**

Mr. Rendon spoke in favor of Mr. Gordo. He deferred to Mr. Gordo who shared why he believes he will be a good fit for the position.

Passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

*College of Arts & Letters:* Ms. Reigle stated that she sent a survey inviting students to join the Ad-Hoc Committee; 13 responses have been received thus far. The committee has already designed a flyer to further recruit students.

*Productions:* Mr. Padilla stated that Donuts with Diego will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Coyote Walk. Cosmic Coyote was held with approximately 600 students attending. ASI will be involved in the Pioneer Breakfast contributing to a student scholarship and creating content with the scholarship recipients.

*Elections:* Mr. Calhoun expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Elections Chair.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. O'Connell stated there are softball games today from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and it is recommended that attendees wear blue to show support; the Division of Student Affairs will be offering food, drinks, and giveaways.

Ms. Hunsaker stated that an Optometry Clinic will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at PDC. The next Optometry Clinic at the San Bernardino campus will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.



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Diego Rendon  
Executive Vice President