

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
California State University, San Bernardino

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

MAY 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carson Fajardo at 12:02 p.m.

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

Absent: Jeidi Carrion-Fajardo, Niamh Murphy-Gonzalez and Melis Yurdakul.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Juan Padilla, Joseph Morales, Sydney Acosta, Sanu Bautista, Jennifer Puccinelli, Miguel Millan and Juan Falcon.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of May 2nd were approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was adopted.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

President: President Fajardo attended CSSA where he sat on the Solidarity and Equal Partnership Task Force. He attended the Sacramento Budget Day of Action. Elections were held for the Faculty Senate as well as the SMSU Board of Directors. He deferred to Mr. Calhoun who gave a detailed report on the ASI Board of Directors elections. He stated that 16 candidates participated in the election of which six Board of Directors and four Executive Officers were elected; the ASI referendum passed.

Executive Vice President: Mr. Rendon attended CSSA where he sat on the System Wide Affairs Committee. He is currently writing a report to the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs to discuss the top five goals he believes are important to all CSUs. He attended the Student-Athlete Showcase and the Quarterly Campus Police Advisory Committee meeting. He met with Mr. Gonzalez regarding summer training. Faculty Senate and the SMSU Board of Directors elections were held. He tabled with Ms. McAlister to promote Howl Squad. He will be a part of the Philanthropy Committee and Executive Committee. He is continuing to prepare transition documents for the incoming Executive Vice President.

Vice President of Finance: Ms. Hudson stated that all CAB forms need to be submitted by May 16th and all CAB requests will be processed by May 31st. An email will be sent to club officers informing them of the new Vice President of Finance. She attended the Student-Athlete Showcase and the SLAM Tennis Club Banquet.

Vice President of Palm Desert Campus: Ms. Lopez thanked everyone who attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the PDC Student Services Building. She gave a speech at the PDC Graduation ceremony. She gave a presentation with Mr. Rendon to the orientation leaders to share more about ASI.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Executive Director: Dr. Rister stated that the ASI referendum was approved by the Campus Fee Advisory Committee and is now with the administration for system processing; he is coordinating with the Division of Student Affairs as well as the Registrar's Office to ensure timely implementation. The ASI office is preparing its end-of-year report which will include data on budget, programming, and student impact; this report is expected to be released in early July. During the summer, ASI will develop and update several policies. One of the new policies will focus on the parking pass scholarship created through the recent referendum. The audit process will begin soon. ASI will participate in a CSU systemwide assessment which involves reviewing financial, operational, and other procedures. ASI has awarded \$97,000 in student scholarships for the current year with individual awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. Scholarships include various categories such as community service and veteran recognition including the Dacia Woods Scholarship. The Finance Committee approved \$3,000 in support of the Financial Summit with scholarship recipients from both the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses.

OPEN FORUM:

Mr. Falcon thanked the Board for their time and dedication in recognizing the challenges involved in serving various student communities.

OLD BUSINESS:

BD 35-25 M/S Rister/Sibrian: Approval of the 2025-26 ASI Budget. (Second Reading)

Dr. Rister confirmed that there have been no changes to the proposed budget figures since the first reading. The budget remains based on current enrollment projections and does not yet include any referendum related adjustments.

Ms. Reigle asked about the 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Executive Officers. She questioned why the increase would apply to higher-salaried positions, as COLA is typically associated with minimum wage adjustments. She requested clarification to help the Board better understand and decide whether to support the increase.

President Fajardo explained that the 3% increase is a standard cost-of-living adjustment used to address wage compression and stay competitive with other universities. He emphasized the value of ASI's staff, their responsibilities and the importance of fair compensation.

Dr. Oliverez stated that COLA adjustments are also implemented on the state side of the university and that auxiliaries like ASI often mirror these standards to maintain alignment.

Mr. Sibrian stated that he initially shared similar concerns about the increase, however, he now supports it since he recognizes the added workload for Executive Officers following the passage of the referendum.

Ms. Reigle clarified that her concern was with the approval process itself and not with the amount or the justification. She recommended the development of a formal process for proposing and approving executive salary increases.

Mr. Bertolo stated that he views COLA not as a raise but as a necessary adjustment to account for inflation. He supported maintaining the current process as long as the increases remain reasonable and consistent with employment practices.

Dr. Rister explained that the 3% increase is a standard COLA and noted that performance-based raises could also be considered in the future. He recommended that the Personnel Committee develop a formal process if ASI decides to pursue that approach.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Brown, Bertolo, Ramirez-Castillo, Fajardo, Gordo, Hudson, Hunsaker, Lopez, O'Connell, Oliverez, Reigle, Rendon, Rister, Saldana and Sibrian.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: None.

Passed (16/0/0).

BD 36-25 M/S Lopez/Babu: Revision of the ASI Financial Policy and Procedures. (Second Reading)

Ms. Lopez deferred to Mr. Gonzalez who briefly reviewed the Financial Policy and Procedures.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Brown, Bertolo, Ramirez-Castillo, Fajardo, Gordo, Hudson, Hunsaker, Lopez, O'Connell, Oliverez, Reigle, Rendon, Rister, Saldana and Sibrian.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: None.

Passed (16/0/0).

REPORTS:

Athletics: Ms. O'Connell shared that she has been meeting with many student-athletes who have recently taken on leadership roles. She is working to ensure they are well-prepared for the upcoming year and to continue building partnerships across campus.

College of Arts & Letters: Ms. Reigle stated that she has been meeting with department chairs and faculty within the college to promote the open Board positions; several instructors have invited her to speak directly with their students and she has begun visiting classrooms to share information about the opportunity.

College of Education: Mr. Ramirez-Castillo attended the Mental Health Carnival on May 8th.

College of Natural Sciences: Mr. Gordo attended the PDC Graduation ceremony. Donuts with the Dean were held.

Student-at-Large: Mr. Sibrian attended a meeting with Motivate Lab and with Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP).

Student-at-Large: Ms. Saldana attended the College Corps Closing Ceremony where she and Juan were awarded the Spirit of College Corps. She attended the Student-Athlete Showcase. She will be attending the “From the Ashes Drag Show and Kiki Ball” event tonight.

President’s Representative: Dr. Oliverrez attended the last baseball game on May 3rd, the Lavendar Graduation on May 4th, the Student-Athlete Showcase, the Native American Graduation on May 7th and the PDC Graduation on May 8th. The Latinx Graduation and Black Graduation will be held on May 10th. The Undocumented Graduation will be held on May 11th. She thanked everyone who voted on the Alma Mater remix. She attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the PDC Student Services Building.

External Affairs: Ms. Smith attended CSSA where she sat on the Student Trustee Committee. ASI placed second in the College Involvement and Values Impacting Communities (CIVIC) Challenge.

Internal Affairs: Ms. McAlister attended the Student-Athlete Showcase and the SLAM Tennis Club Banquet. She has been working with Mr. Gonzalez and the legislative team on the Transition Dinner. She tabled with Mr. Rendon to promote Howl Squad.

Programs: Mr. Padilla stated that Yotie Sunset was held on May 8th. Ms. Stone asked the Board to advertise the open ASI positions. The team is working on preparing for orientation and the rebranding project. Over 67 events were held at both the CSUSB and PDC campuses this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Rister thanked everyone for their work throughout the year.

Dr. Oliverrez stated that the application for the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) Academy will be released this summer.

Mr. Gonzalez asked the Board to RSVP for the May 28th Transition Dinner. He emailed transition documents for the Board to complete.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



Diego Rendon
Executive Vice President