

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
California State University, San Bernardino

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

MARCH 28, 2025

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carson Fajardo at 10:12 a.m.

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

Absent: Megha Babu, Juan Sibrian and Dr. Paz Oliverez.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Juan Padilla, Joseph Morales, Miguel Millan, Matthew Calhoun and Dr. Edna Martinez.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of March 21st were approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

M/S Rister/Rendon: To place BD 27-25 through BD 29-25 on a consent calendar. Passed unanimously.

The agenda was adopted as amended.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

President: President Fajardo attended the Student Voices Forum and the SMSU Board meeting. He also attended a senior class gift initiative meeting during which ASI agreed to match the total donation amount. He has been working on the Cal State Student Association elections. All name tags have been successfully distributed.

Executive Vice President: Mr. Rendon reminded the Board that the final deadline is approaching to submit campus-wide and ASI committee information. He plans to upload the monthly Board reports soon. He will need ASI student leaders to serve on committees on his behalf during the month of April. He submitted a proposal to the SMSU Policy and Procedures Committee to include a PDC representative on the SMSU Board. He attended Evergreen and will attend Choose CSUSB Day at PDC.

Vice President of Finance: Ms. Hudson met with the Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals Club to discuss their upcoming conference. The proposed budget for the 2025-2026 academic year will soon be presented to the Finance Committee.

Vice President of Palm Desert Campus: Ms. Lopez attended the Storytelling with LinkedIn event along with Mr. Sibrian; an additional workshop will be hosted after Spring break. She met with the Ford Foundation to discuss the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program alongside Mr. Millan, Mr. Davalos and Ms. Gutierrez. She will be meeting with the Vital and Expanded Technologies Initiative (VETI) Committee during Spring break. She will be attending Choose CSUSB Day at PDC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Executive Director: Dr. Rister stated that he has scheduled a meeting with Ms. Hudson to finalize the budget for the 2025-2026 academic year. During a recent meeting with the Ad-Hoc Student Referendum Committee it was suggested that the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships be notified of the upcoming referendum. If the referendum is approved by students, it will now begin in Spring 2026. This may lead to a slightly lower financial return, however, it still allows for effective planning and budgeting. He confirmed that the new timeline is supported by Athletics as well.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Edna Martinez, Associate Vice President and Administrator in Charge of the Palm Desert Campus introduced herself. She shared that their mid-year Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) report highlighted increased student engagement at PDC. She emphasized her passion for the PDC community and thanked the Board for their continued advocacy and support. She referenced the success of recent events such as Evergreen where students and their families were actively engaged. She highlighted several upcoming developments including the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Student Services Building on May 9th at 9:30 a.m. This will be the first new campus building in 16 years. She emphasized the importance of this space which will provide students with areas to study, socialize, and rest. She announced the submission of a VETI grant proposal to renovate the upstairs computer lab, inspired by similar spaces such as the Wedge and The Cave at the San Bernardino campus. The campus also plans to launch a “Cody Cereal Bar” to provide students with basic breakfast options and is working to explore the implementation of hot food vending machines, ideally piloting the program before the new building is completed. She noted that PDC recently hosted the Ford Foundation and praised student leaders who helped represent the campus. She shared excitement for the upcoming PDC Graduation Recognition Ceremony as well as the planned launch of a Ford Foundation Fellowship Program in Fall 2025.

Ms. Reigle inquired about the newly announced Ford Foundation Fellowship Program at PDC.

Dr. Martinez explained that the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program is a leadership development opportunity for students at PDC supported by the Ford Foundation. The program includes leadership seminars, networking events with community leaders, and opportunities for national exposure, including potential funding to attend leadership events in Washington, D.C. She noted that students who complete the program will be recognized at graduation with cords or a stole.

Mr. Rendon proposed the idea of hosting an alumni mixer to coincide with the opening of the new Student Services Building as a way to strengthen alumni engagement and support.

Dr. Martinez agreed and shared that Alumni Relations is already working on an invitation for PDC alumni to attend the building's groundbreaking. She also supported the idea of hosting a more informal gathering afterward and mentioned that alumni have expressed interest in commemorative items like engraved bricks similar to those at the San Bernardino campus.

OLD BUSINESS:

BD 25-25 M/S Gordo/Bertolo: Appointment of Utsav Dharani as a student-at-large representative to the ASI Elections Committee.

Mr. Gordo deferred to Mr. Calhoun who spoke in favor of Mr. Dharani.

Passed unanimously.

BD 26-25 M/S Lopez/Ramirez-Castillo: Revision of the ASI Board of Directors Incentives Policy. (Second Reading)

Ms. Lopez deferred to Mr. Gonzalez who briefly reviewed the Board of Directors Incentives Policy.

M/S Reigle/Ramirez-Castillo: Student directors who are appointed into the Board after week two of the semester will only be eligible for CSUSB bookstore credit or CSUSB food services vouchers, however, graduating seniors may access their bookstore incentive earlier, contingent upon verification of graduation status and approval per ASI policy.

Dr. Rister requested clarification on the term “earlier,” recommending the policy specify a timeframe and clearly define which incentive is eligible for early access. He noted that bookstore credit might be appropriate for early distribution to assist with regalia purchases whereas parking permits should remain on the standard timeline.

Ms. Hudson suggested that graduating seniors receive bookstore credit during Grad Days to take advantage of discounts and ensure timely access. She recommended limiting early access to bookstore credit only, not other incentive options.

Ms. Reigle emphasized the importance of setting a clear timeframe and focusing on bookstore credit exclusively for early access. She further recommended removing the food services voucher from early distribution eligibility as it remains valid up to one year post-graduation.

Mr. Bertolo expressed concerns about maintaining policy consistency and upholding the original intent of incentives which are meant to offset the opportunity cost of service. He noted that early distribution without completed service could reduce accountability and questioned whether other groups should also be considered for similar early access if the policy is amended solely for graduating seniors.

Ms. Reigle stated that the early incentive should apply only to graduating students choosing bookstore credit and proposed removing food vouchers from the early access language entirely. She also asked whether early incentives for graduating seniors would be subject to percentage calculations based on service length or granted at a flat rate.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bertolo sought clarification regarding graduating seniors who receive bookstore credit early. He asked whether the incentive would reflect only the time already served or the entire semester, including time not yet completed.

Mr. Gonzalez explained that under the current language, the full value of the semester's incentive would be provided with an understanding that the student would complete their term. If the student does not fulfill their duties, the unearned portion would be forfeited.

Mr. Bertolo expressed disagreement with this approach. He suggested that the policy should apply consistently to all students serving on the Board. He noted that creating a special exception for graduating seniors opens the door for similar requests from students in other situations, such as those taking a leave of absence or withdrawing. He emphasized the need for clearer and more equitable language stating that incentives should be earned, not given in advance, and questioned the fairness of differing timelines for graduating and non-graduating students.

Ms. Reigle acknowledged Mr. Bertolo's concerns and suggested withdrawing the proposed amendment. She instead proposed exploring a separate form of recognition for graduating seniors, such as cords or another symbolic gesture that would not impact the incentive structure.

Ms. Reigle withdrew her motion.

President Fajardo asked if there were any objections to withdrawing the motion. Hearing none, the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Bertolo requested clarity regarding reimbursement for students who purchase an annual parking pass but begin their term of service mid-year. He questioned whether these students would be eligible for reimbursement.

President Fajardo explained that reimbursements would only apply to semester parking passes and not to annual passes purchased before a Board member is appointed.

Dr. Rister stated that reimbursement is tied to the period of active service and dividing up annual passes for partial reimbursement would be difficult to manage.

M/S Reigle/Lopez: The incentive value will be calculated based on the number of weeks remaining in the semester with the total incentive amount being equivalent to the CSUSB general semester parking permit. The value may be prorated accordingly to reflect the remaining duration of the semester. Passed unanimously.

M/S Reigle/Bertolo: All student directors will receive their semester incentive based on the weeks served in ASI, whether they have resigned, been removed, or completed their term as defined in the ASI Bylaws. The incentive value will be calculated based on the number of weeks remaining in the semester with the total incentive amount being equivalent to the CSUSB general semester parking permit. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Gonzalez initiated a discussion regarding incentive forfeiture for student directors who transition into ASI Executive Officer roles, noting that such individuals would relinquish their Board incentive upon assuming the new position.

Ms. Reigle inquired whether this policy also applies to Pro-Tem appointments since Pro-Tem roles are unpaid and questioned the rationale behind forfeiture in such cases.

President Fajardo clarified that while Pro-Tem roles are unpaid, the intent is for the Pro-Tem to assume the full Executive Officer role if a vacancy occurs, at which point they would receive an hourly wage and no longer qualify for Board incentives.

Mr. Gonzalez suggested that language be included to clarify that student directors will forfeit incentive eligibility for the remainder of the semester once they transition into an Executive Officer role, while still receiving a prorated amount for the weeks served.

Mr. Bertolo supported the clarification, stating that it aligns with previously approved amendments. He emphasized that the incentive should only cover the period during which the student served as a director.

M/S Ramirez-Castillo/Rendon: To extend meeting end time to 12:15 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Ms. Hunsaker left the meeting.

M/S Ramirez-Castillo/Bertolo: In the case that a student director is voted into a role within the ASI Executive office, they will be forfeiting their incentive for the remainder of the semester but will receive their incentive based on the weeks served as a student director. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Brown left the meeting.

Vote on motion as amended passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

M/S Rendon/Gordo: To open the following consent calendar:

BD 27-25: Appointment of Axel Perez as the Programming Specialist to the ASI Activities Committee.

BD 28-25: Appointment of Dominic Bertolo as a Board of Director representative to the ASI Activities Committee.

BD 29-25: Appointment of Jesus Ramirez-Castillo as a Board of Director representative to the ASI Activities Committee.

Passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

College of Education: Mr. Ramirez-Castillo stated that the College of Education Recruitment and Job Fair went well and included participation from several school districts including Utah. He will be attending Choose CSUSB Day at PDC and will assist the Division of Student Affairs during the event.

College of Natural Sciences: Mr. Gordo met with Dean Pantula to discuss the possibility of holding an open forum for students at PDC. He plans to schedule a meeting with Dr. Rodriguez to facilitate Dean Pantula's visit to PDC. He assisted with the Evergreen promotional videos and attended the Women and Femme of Color Storytelling and Advocacy Dinner. He will be attending Choose CSUSB Day at PDC.

Student-at-Large: Ms. Saldana posted her office hours on Instagram. She attended Spring Fest where she connected with the Student Health Center and campus advocates about fentanyl awareness outreach ahead of festival season. She volunteered at the College of Education Recruitment and Job Fair where she promoted campus resources. She will be attending Choose CSUSB Day at PDC to assist with marketing efforts.

External Affairs: Ms. Smith met with President Fajardo and Dr. Rister to discuss a potential initiative aimed at creating a pipeline for high school students into ASI through scholarships or internships; the goal is to encourage early campus engagement by involving student leaders in ASI as soon as they arrive at CSUSB. The groundbreaking for the PDC Student Services Building will be held on May 9th with Assemblymember Greg Wallis in attendance. She encouraged the Board to take the opportunity to speak with him during the event.

Internal Affairs: Ms. McAlister stated that she served as a student panelist for the Women and Femme of Color Storytelling and Advocacy Dinner on March 25th. She plans to attend the Public Relations Student Society of America mixer where she will connect with students from various majors to share information about ASI and student engagement opportunities.

Programs: Ms. Stone stated that the Evergreen event was held on March 27th and went well. If the referendum passes they are considering investing in a new photo booth due to ongoing issues with the current one. A Board of Directors recap video will be filmed later today. ASI will be present at Choose CSUSB Day at PDC on March 29th. She and Mr. Gonzalez will be looking for potential retreat locations during Spring break. ASI is working on finalizing the keynote speaker for an upcoming event with hopes to announce it by April 4th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Smith stated that the CSU Office of the Chancellor has recommended that campuses issue a statement regarding the proposed budget cuts. A draft is currently in progress and will be brought to the Board for review upon completion.

Ms. O'Connell stated that the Student-Athlete Showcase will be held on May 5th. She asked anyone interested in attending to RSVP by April 18th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.



Diego Rendon
Executive Vice President