

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 25, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carson Fajardo at 10:08 a.m.

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

Absent: Jeidi Carrion-Fajardo, Melis Yurdakul and Dr. Haakon Brown.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Juan Padilla, Dr. Matthew Smith, Ayanna Cobb and Ahmed Burgos.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

M/S Reigle/Sibrian: To strike the verbiage “from their perspectives” in Ms. Reigle’s report. Passed unanimously.

The minutes of April 18<sup>th</sup> were approved as amended.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was adopted.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

*President:* President Fajardo met with Dr. Oliverez, Dr. Rister, and SMSU leadership to try to facilitate a leadership open forum on May 6<sup>th</sup>. He attended the Faculty Senate meeting and the SMSU Board meeting. The Solidarity and Equal Partnership Task Force is working on a memorandum of understanding to send to the Chancellor’s Office.

*Executive Vice President:* Mr. Rendon attended the SMSU Board meeting, the Arab Heritage Month Party and the Yotie Awards. He asked the Board to RSVP for the donor cards if they would like to write thank you letters for first time donors; the event will be held next week. He reminded the Board to submit their Board reports next week. He asked the Board to advertise available ASI positions.

*Vice President of Finance:* Ms. Hudson stated that there are currently seven pending CAB requests. The deadline for clubs to submit their CAB funding request forms is on May 16<sup>th</sup>. A Finance Committee meeting will be held today at 1:00 p.m. She and Dr. Rister met with the Process Improvement Leadership and Oversight Team (PILOT) to discuss the CAB process and how it connects with the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement (OSLE) and Accounting Services. She met with the IRA Board. She along with Dr. Rister and President Fajardo will be

meeting with the Career Center and Dr. Oliverez to discuss possible funding opportunities for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) for the upcoming academic year. She has meetings with the Flying Coyotes club and the Economic Impact Network club. The Club Leadership Awards Banquet hosted by OSLE will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in SMSU South. The chartering process with OSLE has opened.

*Vice President of Palm Desert Campus:* Ms. Lopez attended the IRA Committee meeting. She had lunch with the Undocumented Student Success Center (USSC), Dr. Martinez and other students to see what challenges students are facing and ways ASI can support them. She had a meeting with the Career Center to discuss hosting workshops for the upcoming academic year. She had a meeting with the committee that is overseeing the groundbreaking of the PDC Student Services Building. A Board meeting at PDC is being planned for May 9<sup>th</sup>. The PDC Student Services Building groundbreaking will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

*Executive Director:* Dr. Rister met with Accounts Payables to discuss an issue that occurred with the transfer of funds during the Fall semester. There should have been \$25,000 deducted during the Fall semester, however, this error was corrected during the Spring 2025 transfer which resulted in a slightly lower net amount of \$667,486.80. He clarified that this adjustment does not negatively impact ASI's financial standing. Coyote Fest will be held next week. He attended an HR training session hosted by the Division of Student Affairs. The Coyote Experience event will be redesigned.

### **OPEN FORUM:**

Mr. Burgos stated that he is the founder of Ride Splits which is a carpool based social platform designed to connect students from the same area who share similar destinations. The goal of the platform is to encourage carpooling through financial incentives while helping reduce carbon emissions, traffic congestion, and infrastructure strain. Currently 78.3% of students commute to campus alone. His goal is to lower that number to 40%, with at least 30% of students participating in carpooling and earning incentives. He expressed interest in collaborating with Board members, particularly those representing Housing, International students and the College of Business and Public Administration on an initiative. His proposal involves partnering with local students to arrange weekend outings where they can provide rides to others such as international or housing students to places like Los Angeles or Coachella Valley.

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Dr. Matthew Smith, Incoming Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students introduced himself. He stated that he currently serves as Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at CSU Dominguez Hills and will be officially joining CSUSB in June. He emphasized his commitment to working closely with ASI and student leaders to enhance the student experience.

Mr. Sibrian inquired about his involvement with the CSU Young Males of Color Consortium. Dr. Smith responded that the initiative is part of his life's work and has followed him throughout his career. He hopes to bring a version of the program to CSUSB to meet the campus's unique needs.

Ms. Smith asked about his future responsibilities. Dr. Smith explained that the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students role involves overseeing areas such as student conduct, basic needs, housing, and student engagement. He will also serve as a key advocate for students and work closely with campus leadership to support their growth and success.

Mr. Bertolo asked about the specific campus initiatives he will support. Dr. Smith stated that he looks forward to engaging directly with students and exploring innovative approaches to repurpose underutilized housing spaces to better serve campus needs.

Dr. Oliverez stated that the selection process for this position was thorough to ensure the right fit and affirmed that Dr. Smith will be a valuable asset to CSUSB.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **BD 34-25 M/S Rister/Sibrian: Discussion on the outcome of the ASI Fee Referendum.**

Dr. Rister stated that the purpose of the referendum is always to benefit all CSUSB students. He emphasized the long-term impact the referendum will have on student life and infrastructure.

President Fajardo stated that this was the first ASI referendum in 13 years. He shared that the approved funding is projected to generate approximately \$800,000 annually for ASI after the three-year implementation process. These funds will directly support events, scholarships, programming, and student engagement initiatives. He credited the success to student leadership and community collaboration, particularly highlighting the efforts of student-athletes.

Ms. Lopez thanked the team for their dedication in distributing materials and speaking directly with students across both campuses.

Ms. Reigle noted that some Board members might be unaware of the previously approved funding change set to take effect if the referendum passes and she asked Dr. Rister to provide clarification.

Dr. Rister confirmed that pending Finance Committee and Board approval the passage of the referendum would allow Board members to access significantly increased budgets for college based events. The proposed increase would raise the annual allocation from \$100 to \$3,000 per Board member with \$1,500 per semester. This expansion would allow for broader programming and deeper student outreach across colleges.

Mr. Rendon highlighted the referendum's importance for underserved students across regions, including Coachella Valley and Los Angeles County. He commended President Fajardo for his leadership in launching the referendum.

Dr. Rister provided further clarification regarding the allocation timeline. Due to the proximity of registration and the referendum vote the new fee schedule will not take effect until Spring 2026 to allow students ample notice. Full implementation will be phased over three years with the first complete cycle starting in Fall 2026. He also noted that the referendum includes funding for a student driven parking pass scholarship valued at \$190 per student; a policy for its distribution will be developed during the summer.

Ms. Reigle asked Dr. Rister to clarify when Board members would have access to the increased funding approved through the referendum.

Dr. Rister confirmed that Board members are expected to access the new funds starting in Spring 2026, pending census confirmation and final approvals. While the projected allocation could total \$3,000 per Board member, these figures are preliminary and must still be reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Board.

President Fajardo reminded the Board that while student approval was the most significant step the referendum still requires review and approval from the Campus Fee Advisory Committee, the University President, and potentially the Chancellor's Office. He emphasized that this is the beginning of a transformative era for ASI and CSUSB student life.

Discussion closed.

## **REPORTS:**

*Athletics:* Ms. O'Connell attended the Yotie Awards and will be attending the Alumni Hall of Fame event.

*College of Arts & Letters:* Ms. Reigle attended the Communication Day at PDC where she was able to promote ASI to students.

*Student-at-Large:* Mr. Sibrian went to the Yaamava Resort and Casino with the Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) club where he learned about their opportunities. He finished his mentoring of the International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition competitors.

*President's Representative:* Dr. Oliveres stated that the Student Affairs Academy has finished for this academic year. A DEI Board Retreat was held this week. She attended the Yotie Awards and a performance by the Acto Latino Theatre Group on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The College of Natural Sciences is holding a Science Carnival for K-12 students today. RHA and the Division of Student Affairs are having a kickball game on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Undocumented Student Success Center (USSC) will be hosting its spring community meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*Programs:* Ms. Stone stated that ASI hosted the Beyond the Booth: Jesus Ortiz Paz event where 1,987 students attended; Jesus Ortiz Paz will be donating approximately \$35,000 for scholarships

with ASI. The ASI Presidential Debate was held last week. Three voting days were held at both campuses where 250 ice creams, coffees, and nothing bundt cakes were provided for students who voted at the San Bernardino campus and 75 crumble cookies, coffees, and nothing bundt cakes were provided for students who voted at PDC. A debriefing meeting will be held to discuss what can be improved for the upcoming academic year. A successful referendum campaign was conducted. The new ASI logo will be revealed today. The ASI Election Reveal will be held today.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Fajardo asked the Board to attend the ASI Elections Reveal after the meeting.

Dr. Rister encouraged the graduating seniors on the Board to contact him as soon as possible if they need letters of recommendation or additional guidance.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.



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Diego Rendon  
Executive Vice President