

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
California State University, San Bernardino

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2025

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

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

Absent: Juan Sibrian and Dr. Paz Oliverez.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Juan Padilla and Matthew Calhoun.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of March 7th were approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was adopted.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

President: President Fajardo attended CHESS and the Campus Fee Advisory Committee meeting. He also attended a student club meeting alongside Ms. Yurdakul and Ms. Carrion-Fajardo. He is leading the senior class gift initiative for the Office of Annual Giving. The ChatGPT feature for faculty and staff will be available starting on March 24th. He sent out a survey to gauge student opinions on AI usage and encourages everyone to participate and share the survey with other students. A survey has been released regarding food options for SMSU South. He reminded Board members about the PDC Board meeting on March 28th and mentioned that transportation will be arranged; Zoom will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

Executive Vice President: Mr. Rendon encouraged all Board members to update and share their campus-wide and ASI committee lists to assist him in preparing the end-of-year report for Dr. Rister and Mr. Gonzalez. He attended CHESS where he met with teams from Assembly Member Jeff Gonzalez and Senator Eloise Gomez Reyes to discuss the impact of the proposed 8% budget cuts to higher education funding. He attended the President's Leadership Retreat, the Sustainability Committee meeting and the IT Governance Executive Committee meeting where they discussed transitioning from Duo Mobile to a code or Face ID method to enhance student security. Student access to ChatGPT will be enabled on April 14th. He will be attending Choose CSUSB Day.

Vice President of Finance: Ms. Hudson met with the Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals Club at PDC. A Finance Committee meeting will be held today at 1:00 p.m.

Vice President of Palm Desert Campus: Ms. Lopez is preparing a presentation with the Career Center on their "Storytelling with LinkedIn" initiative. She met with Dr. Rodriguez to discuss how ASI can support end-of-year events. She met with Dr. Oliverez to explore ways to improve services for clubs and scheduled a meeting with the Ford Foundation to discuss launching a Ford Foundation Fellowship Program at PDC. She attended the Vital and Expanded Technologies Initiative (VETI) Committee meeting and the CAB workshop last week.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Executive Director: Dr. Rister announced that Matthew Smith, the new Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students will be joining the Board in early June. Mr. Smith has been encouraged to attend an ASI event before his official start day to get familiar with the organization. A seminar hosted by the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (SSD) and Veterans Success Center (VSC) is scheduled for April 8th. Jesús Ortiz Paz, known as Fuerza Regida will be the guest speaker for an upcoming event.

Dr. Rister deferred to Mr. Padilla and Ms. Stone.

Ms. Stone stated that one of the annual traditions at ASI is bringing a keynote speaker to campus. Mr. Padilla had the idea of inviting an artist to speak on campus and was able to contact Jesús Ortiz Paz from Fuerza Regida. The contract is still being finalized and the details remain confidential at this time.

Mr. Padilla stated that they have been working on this project for a couple of months now. He thought it would be interesting to approach an artist who is local to the San Bernardino area and understands the community here. After reaching out to Jesús Ortiz Paz and his team, they expressed interest in attending and they are currently in the process of securing him for the event. The event will be held on April 17th around 6:00 p.m. and they are planning on using the Coussoulis Arena. A large turnout is expected. They are also using this opportunity to promote the referendum.

NEW BUSINESS:

BD 24-25 M/S Ramirez-Castillo/Lopez: Appointment of Anek Yu as a student-at-large representative to the ASI Elections Committee.

President Fajardo stated that the Elections Committee must be appointed annually. This committee is responsible for reviewing any violations submitted by candidates or any potential breaches of election rules. The committee assesses the situation and makes decisions on whether to suspend a candidate from campaigning or disqualify them entirely based on their actions during the election. The committee operates in accordance with the ASI Elections Policy and Procedures and provides a formal check on the election process.

Passed unanimously.

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

President Fajardo asked if there was any discussion on the topic.

Mr. Gordo stated that the appointee did not answer the supplemental question on the application and asked if this was a required part of the process.

President Fajardo clarified that this was the submission sent by the Elections Committee Chair.

Ms. Saldana asked if there was a way for the Board to follow up with the candidate to better understand their motivation for seeking the position.

President Fajardo responded that the formal process is through the application and the Elections Committee Chair has submitted the applications to the Board. At this point, there is no direct way to follow up with the candidate. He suggested that the Board proceed with either a formal approval or disapproval or alternatively table the item and invite the candidate to a Board meeting.

Dr. Brown noted that the current candidate did submit a resume, unlike the first candidate. The resume may provide additional information that was not required but could help assess their qualifications.

President Fajardo deferred to Mr. Calhoun who stated he had not yet spoken with the candidate or addressed the supplemental questions. He offered to organize a meeting or ask the candidate to provide answers to the questions to facilitate the decision.

President Fajardo asked whether the candidate should be invited to attend the next meeting via Zoom to answer any questions before the Board votes.

Mr. Bertolo suggested that instead of having the candidate attend via Zoom, Mr. Calhoun could gather responses to the questions and present them to the Board.

President Fajardo confirmed that the candidate will be asked to provide answers to the two questions.

M/S Lopez/Hudson: To table BD 25-25 until the next Board meeting. Passed unanimously.

BD 26-25 M/S Rister/Rendon: Revision of the ASI Board of Directors Incentives Policy. (First Reading)

Dr. Rister deferred to Mr. Gonzalez who briefly reviewed the Board of Directors Incentives Policy.

Mr. Bertolo inquired about the compensation for Board members who may assume an Executive Officer position.

Ms. McAlister suggested compensating Board members for their time served before taking on an Executive Officer role. Ms. Hudson explained that the forfeiture was to prevent "double dipping" since Executive Officers are already paid full salaries.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gonzalez clarified that students would be reimbursed for parking permits purchased for the Fall semester as well as in the Spring semester if they continue in their position.

Mr. Bertolo emphasized that the incentive policy is designed to offset the opportunity cost of serving on the Board, offering flexibility in choosing between dining dollars, parking permits or bookstore credit. He suggested adding explicit language to clarify compensation for mid-semester position changes.

Ms. Reigle emphasized the frustration graduating seniors might face in waiting for incentives after graduation. President Fajardo acknowledged this concern and noted that language had been added to ensure graduating seniors receive incentives before they graduate.

Mr. Bertolo stated that compensation should only come after the work is completed, not in advance. He acknowledged the unique position of graduating seniors but felt they should still adhere to the same compensation timeline as others.

Dr. Rister recommended reviewing the policy further before the next Board meeting.

Discussion closed.

REPORTS:

Athletics: Ms. O'Connell met with student-athletes to discuss preparations for the upcoming Student-Athlete Banquet.

College of Business & Public Administration: Ms. Yurdakul met with Ms. Kamel from the College of Business & Public Administration and will be providing updates on the student club meeting that was held.

Clubs and Organizations: Ms. Carrion-Fajardo is working on a potential event for the College of Business & Public Administration clubs and plans to collaborate with Ms. Yurdakul.

College of Education: Mr. Ramirez-Castillo attended the VETI Committee meeting. He recently tabled at the College of Education to listen to students' concerns and collect feedback on what they would like to see within the college which he plans to present to the Dean. The College of Education Career Fair will be held on March 26th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He will be attending Choose CSUSB Day.

College of Natural Sciences: Mr. Gordo organized a workshop for PDC students who are interested in volunteering at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs; 13 students attended. He has also been working with the Rancho Mirage Student Center (RMSC) in creating content for Evergreen. He is scheduled to meet with the Dean later today.

External Affairs: Ms. Smith attended CSU Advocacy Day to address concerns regarding the proposed 8% budget cuts. She is working on bringing senators and representatives to campus in collaboration with President Morales.

Internal Affairs: Ms. McAlister stated that she recently met with Howl Squad members to discuss committees and gather feedback. She is working with Ms. Smith and the programs team to host a town hall with Representative Pete Aguilar. She will be serving as a student panelist at the Women and Femme of Color event.

Programs: Mr. Padilla is working on elections and finding ways to encourage students to vote. Ms. Stone stated that all ASI election events are listed on the website with food provided for students at each event. She is working with the legislative affairs team to arrange a meeting with Pete Aguilar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Rendon will be attending the Student Voices Forum.

President Fajardo updated the ASI Board of Directors Zoom link.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.



Diego Rendon
Executive Vice President