

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**MAY 2, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carson Fajardo at 10:06 a.m.

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

Absent: Megha Babu, Melis Yurdakul, Dr. Haakon Brown and Kim Hunsaker.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone and Juan Padilla.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of April 25<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was adopted.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

*President:* President Fajardo participated in writing thank you letters for first time donors. He attended an Instructionally Related Activities Committee meeting and the OSLE Club Leadership Awards Banquet. He had his last meeting with President Morales. He spoke at both the Elections Reveal and the Runoff Elections Reveal. He will be attending the Campus Fee Advisory Committee meeting this afternoon as well as CSSA this weekend.

*Executive Vice President:* Mr. Rendon participated in writing thank you letters for first time donors. Board reports were initially due on April 30<sup>th</sup>, however, they will be uploaded on May 6<sup>th</sup> which allows additional time for submissions. He will prepare transition documents for the incoming Executive Vice President and encourages Board members to do the same for their respective positions. He will be attending CSSA this weekend with President Fajardo and Ms. Smith.

*Vice President of Finance:* Ms. Hudson had a meeting with the Economic Impact Network club on April 29<sup>th</sup>. She attended the OSLE Club Leadership Awards Banquet. She has completed her transition document.

Mr. Gordo arrived at the meeting.

*Vice President of Palm Desert Campus:* Ms. Lopez attended the Alumni Hall of Fame Awards. The PDC Advisory Committee will hold its last meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>. She will be attending the Campus Fee Advisory Committee meeting this afternoon.

Dr. Oliverez arrived at the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

*Executive Director:* Dr. Rister stated that the average spending for ASI every month is approximately \$113,000 which includes utilities, programming, elections, and other operational costs. The current projected year-end budget is approximately \$1.56 million which is slightly under the anticipated \$1.62 million. Major year-end expenses such as the \$100,000 scholarship allocation, Coyote Fest support, insurance, and fourth-quarter cost allocations have yet to be deducted and these will affect the final budget total with an estimated 2% rollover expected. A \$40,000 reimbursement from SMSU for last year's Coyote Fest artist was received this year which required adjustments for audit transparency. ASI will be partnering with the College of Education's doctoral program to offer opportunities for graduate students to complete their dissertation research within DSA departments; ASI will serve as a campus-based platform for these students to conduct research and complete academic projects.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BD 35-25 M/S Lopez/Hudson: Approval of the 2025-26 ASI Budget. (First Reading)**

Dr. Rister gave a presentation on the 2025-26 budget. The budget is based on the anticipated student enrollment projections. He clarified that the current version of the budget does not include funds from the recently passed referendum as those allocations are still pending final approval. Each line item of the budget was explained.

Ms. Reigle inquired about the previously projected 12% COLA increase and asked why it was not implemented for student staff.

Dr. Rister explained that the original estimate was based on a proposed California minimum wage increase to \$18 which ultimately did not pass. A smaller general increase was applied instead.

Mr. Rendon asked for clarification about Howl Grant.

Ms. Hudson explained that CAB funds support both regular club allocations and the Howl Grant. Since club participation hasn't reached the full funding capacity of \$34,000 the leftover funds are used for the Howl Grant.

Ms. Saldana asked about ASI's \$144,000 annual contribution to the Children's Center.

Dr. Rister explained that these funds support operating expenses such as utilities, staffing, and supplies. While students still pay a fee for daycare services, he noted that the Children's Center operates independently once funds are transferred.

Ms. Lopez proposed the idea of converting a student-at-large position into a dedicated Palm Desert representative to ensure budget equity since executive officers do not currently receive Board incentive funds.

President Fajardo agreed that the idea aligns with ASI's goals and encouraged the next Board to consider it as part of future STAND objectives and Bylaw revisions.

Ms. McAlister stated that the cost for students to access the Children's Center remains a barrier for many students despite ASI's large financial contribution. She recommended that the next Board revisit how these funds are allocated.

Dr. Rister confirmed that a new Children's Center Director is being hired and suggested that future ASI leaders meet with them and university leadership to discuss changes. He emphasized the need to research legal and operational constraints before proposing new policies and recommended using the Policy Committee as the appropriate venue for developing any reforms.

Mr. Bertolo suggested exploring whether a portion of the referendum funds could be allocated to specifically waiving student daycare fees.

President Fajardo stated that while the ASI contribution to the Children's Center is fixed due to a 2007 student-approved referendum the Board could create a separate process to allocate future funds conditionally.

Dr. Rister supported this idea and advised that any such process should be developed through the Policy Committee once the new Board and Children's Center leadership are in place.

Discussion closed.

**BD 36-25 M/S Sibrian/Bertolo: Revision of the ASI Financial Policy and Procedures. (First Reading)**

President Fajardo deferred to Mr. Gonzalez who briefly reviewed the Financial Policy and Procedures.

Discussion closed.

**REPORTS:**

*College of Arts & Letters:* Ms. Reigle met with Greater Palm Springs and the Palm Desert City Council to discuss collaborating on networking events for the students in Palm Desert. She was awarded an SSI grant for her graduate research which she used to enhance the Media Lab at PDC.

*Clubs and Organizations:* Ms. Carrion-Fajardo attended the LGBTQIA+ Focus Group meeting, the Coyote Student Nurses Banquet and the OSLE Club Leadership Awards Banquet. She was interviewed by Coyote Radio on May 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss her leadership within ASI as well as on campus.

*College of Education:* Mr. Ramirez-Castillo met with the Dean to discuss the concerns he has received from students and the suggestions he has for the future of the college. He attended the OSLE Club Leadership Awards Banquet, an Interfraternity Council meeting and a showing of the "You Don't Even Speak Spanish" play.

*College of Natural Sciences:* Mr. Gordo has scheduled a "Donuts with the Dean" event with the Dean of Natural Sciences at PDC on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

*Student-at-Large:* Mr. Sibrian attended Lunch with The Entrepreneurs event at PDC. The CSUSB graduate team earned runner-up for Best Overall Performance and Best Presentation at the International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition while the undergraduate team received second runner-up for Best Overall Performance and won the award for Best Presentation.

*Student-at-Large:* Ms. Saldana is working to secure additional resources for undocumented students at CSUSB by reaching out to local nonprofit organizations that support communities in the Inland Empire. She plans to schedule a meeting with the Children's Center to gain a deeper understanding of their operations, staff experiences, and financial structure.

*Internal Affairs:* Ms. McAlister participated in writing thank you letters for first time donors. She has been developing a flyer to help recruit new Howl Squad members for the upcoming academic year.

*Programs:* Ms. Stone stated that Coyote Fest will be held tonight from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

M/S Ramirez-Castillo/Bertolo: To extend the meeting for 2 minutes. Passed unanimously.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. O'Connell stated that the location for the Student-Athlete Showcase has been changed and that an email with the new details would be sent out.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.



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Diego Rendon  
Executive Vice President