

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**AUGUST 30, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carson Fajardo at 10:22 a.m.

Present: Carson Fajardo, Diego Rendon, Alondra Lopez, Megha Babu, Aden Benson, Valeria Bueno (Zoom), James Chalk, Alaina O'Connell, Pedro Gonzalez, Brianna Lozano, Tendulkar Mahadevan, Juan Sibrian, Melis Yurdakul, Ashley Smith, Dr. Michael Rister and Dr. Paz Oliverez (Zoom).

Absent: Stephanie Alfonso, Jeidi Carrion-Fajardo, Autumn Hudson and Joshua Bature.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Jorge Paz Mondragon and Lahari Gummalla.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of August 22<sup>nd</sup> were approved.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was adopted.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

*President:* President Fajardo reminded the Board to submit their monthly reports. He attended the Campus Police Advisory Council meeting where they discussed academic year parking passes now being connected to students' license plates. He had a meeting with Dr. Oliverez and discussed the game day shirts ASI and the Department of Athletics will distribute at in-person games. He attended the Coyote Day One Textbook Access Town Hall, the IT Governance meeting and the Waves event. The Board meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup> will be canceled as a result of Mr. Rendon and Mr. Fajardo attending the Hispanic Educational Technology Services Student Passport conference in Puerto Rico that week.

*Executive Vice President:* Mr. Rendon attended the Campus Police Advisory Council meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Today, he will meet with Herbert Gonzalez to discuss Howl Squad. He emailed the Faculty Senate Committee list for the 2024-2025 academic year to the ASI BoD. He has 1:1 meetings scheduled with four Board members. He gave a speech at the Palm Desert Campus (PDC) Coyote Experience.

*Vice President of Palm Desert Campus:* Ms. Lopez gave a speech at the PDC Coyote Experience. She has been scheduling meetings with Dr. Oliverez. The flag ceremony at PDC will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Mahadevan arrived at the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

*Executive Director:* Dr. Rister stated that there are over 100 students registered for the CAB Funding Canvas program. Juan Padilla suggested that ASI create a marketing internship for specifically social media. After hearing Mr. Padilla's idea, President Fajardo recommended partnering with the Jack H. Brown College of Business & Public Administration and have them post the marketing internship for course credit; the position was posted today. ASI is working with the Office of Grants and Research on connecting ASI with grants and for additional funding.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Mr. Mondragon stated that the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships has been heavily impacted this semester due to changes in the FASFA system which caused delays in the financial aid disbursement. Many students are having to scramble and plead for solutions that will alleviate these financial burdens. He is wondering if ASI is aware of this issue and whether it is possible to address the issue. Many students are also confused and asked questions about The Coyote Day One Textbook Access Program, in particular, why the program is an all or nothing with no option to opt out for specific classes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BD 47-24 M/S Rendon/Sibrian: Appointment of Executive Vice President Pro-Tem.**

Mr. Rendon nominated Ms. Babu as the Executive Vice President Pro-Tem.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Benson, Bueno, Chalk, Gonzalez, Lopez, Lozano, Mahadevan, Oliverez, Rister, Sibrian and Yurdakul.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Fajardo and Rendon.

Passed (12/0/2).

**BD 48-24 M/S Sibrian/Yurdakul: Discussion on Fall semester priorities and key initiatives for ASI Directors.**

Mr. Rendon stated he would like to hear any goals or ideas the Board may have for their position.

Mr. Chalk stated that one of the events he will be holding is a series of open forums to educate students on ASI.

Mr. Sibrian stated he would like to be more involved with the clubs at PDC and hear from student representatives.

Ms. Yurdukul stated that she plans to table at the College of Business & Public Administration Resource Fair.

Ms. Lozano stated that her short-term goal is to meet with each community in the Department of Housing and Residential Education to hear any concerns or any information they would like to know about ASI. She plans to hold an open forum in October.

Mr. P. Gonzalez plans to hold open forums.

President Fajardo asked the Board about their thoughts on their current roles and inquired about areas in which they need assistance.

Mr. Benson stated that his goal is to represent the freshman class and help aid students with the high school to college transition. He would like to have more knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order.

Dr. Rister encouraged the Board to collaborate with their Deans, Chairs and other Board members.

M/S Chalk/Sibrian: To close discussion. Passed unanimously.

**BD 49-24 M/S Lopez/Chalk: Discussion on approaches to promote student engagement.**

Ms. O'Connell arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Lopez has noticed that there are more students on campus this year than in previous years and as a result there are more students visiting the Rancho Mirage Student Center asking for advice, information on the gym membership, and about positions. She met many students there and thinks meeting students in person is helpful for connecting with them.

Mr. Chalk has noticed that students sometimes do not have the time to participate in certain events on campus. The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences plans to hold their own Career Fair which should allow students to attend this type of event. He recommends asking students what events they would like to see and obtain feedback.

Dr. Rister stated that professional staff hold town hall meetings within their divisions and receive good participation. He thinks it would be a good idea if ASI held a town hall meeting with the student body. This would allow students to ask questions and learn about what ASI's role is on campus. These meetings could be in person, online or both. This would give students an opportunity to provide feedback and shape the Board's initiatives.

Ms. Lopez recommended hosting a podcast with the programs and clubs within each Board member's college.

President Fajardo suggested filming videos for Instagram that show Board members Week In The Life. The videos could show student life, what each Board member is doing in their position and life outside of school.

Mr. Benson stated that most freshman have no idea what ASI is. He thinks ASI needs to be more involved with orientation.

Ms. Lopez thinks making short videos that show each Board member's personality as well as the behind-the-scenes will allow students to get to know them better.

Dr. Rister recommended including professional staff in the social media videos because their positions are held to directly support students. He thinks it is important for students to know who the professional staff are and how they can help.

Mrs. Bueno thinks it is a good idea to show how students' voices go from the Board to faculty members and to show how that action is initiated.

President Fajardo recommended having Board members film a video explaining what occurred at the Board meeting each week.

Ms. Lopez stated she has a professional social media account that she plans to format as a resource for students to use to find information about the campus.

President Fajardo suggested making a sticker that Board members can give to students indicating they met or spoke with a Board of Director.

M/S Chalk/Gonzalez: To close discussion. Passed unanimously.

**BD 50-24 M/S Lopez/Sibrian: Discussion and showcase on Fall civic engagement efforts at CSUSB through “Voice Your Choice” campaign.**

Ms. Lopez deferred to Mr. H. Gonzalez who gave a brief presentation on the webpage “Voice Your Choice” listed on the ASI website. The “Voice Your Choice” webpage is meant to be a place students can go for resources on the upcoming election such as how to register, how to vote, important dates, upcoming events on both campuses, etc. CSUSB is participating in the California Ballot Bowl which is a competition amongst the different colleges across California to see which campus can get the most students registered to vote. The California Ballot Bowl officially opened on August 12<sup>th</sup> and will end on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The polling station on the San Bernardino campus will be in the Alumni Center on November 5<sup>th</sup> and the polling station located at PDC will be in the Indian Wells Theater from November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>; polling stations will be open to the community.

M/S Chalk/Yurdakul: To close discussion. Passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

*Student-at-Large:* Mr. Sibrian attended the PDC Coyote Experience on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

*College of Social and Behavioral Sciences:* Mr. Chalk mentioned that various graduate students have opted in to the Coyote Day One Textbook Access program.

*Students with Disabilities:* Mrs. Bueno mentioned that veterans are having issues with the Coyote Day One Textbook Access program since it is not covered by the G.I. Bill or the CalVet; it is only covered by VR&E.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Dr. Oliveriez stated that there will be a men's soccer exhibition game on August 31<sup>st</sup> in Palm Desert. It is encouraged to wear blue or CSUSB gear for Spirit Thursdays; a spirit cart will be driven around campus giving out prizes every Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The first home volleyball games will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. The first tailgate for soccer will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Rister stated that Yotie Eats is donating cookies to give out to students for Spirit Thursdays; 200 cookies will be given out each month.


Mr. Rendon recommended the Board write down the goals they have for their position.

President Fajardo recommended the Board attend the Coyote Day One Textbook Access Town Hall on September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Stone stated about 1,000 students attended the Waves event on August 29<sup>th</sup>. There is only one box of planners left that will be handed out to only graduate students on September 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



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Diego Rendon  
Executive Vice President