

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2024**

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

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

Absent: Stepfanie Alfonso and Joshua Bature.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Juan Padilla, Ayanna Mcalister, Allie Hunter, Chris Suda and Zach Normann.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

M/S Chalk/Lopez: To amend the minutes for the second motion to be Mr. P. Gonzalez on the second consent calendar.

The minutes of September 13<sup>th</sup> were approved as amended.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was adopted.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

*President:* President Fajardo met with President Morales. He gave a speech at the Alumni Center Grand Opening. He has been meeting with Mr. Millan to discuss redesigning the ASI logo. He attended the Coyote Day One Textbook Access (CDOTA) Town Hall on September 18<sup>th</sup>. He will be attending CSSA on September 21st.

*Executive Vice President:* Mr. Rendon held 1:1 meetings with Ms. Babu, Mr. Mahadevan and Ms. Yurdakul. He previously held two Howl Squad orientations and the last one will be held today from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. He is working on updating the Campus-wide Committees list. He attended the Yotie Link Up Block Party and the Palm Desert Campus (PDC) Coyote Sunset. He met with two representatives from Visit Greater Palm Springs since he was nominated for a youth volunteer award. He will be attending CSSA on September 21<sup>st</sup>. He attended the Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

*Vice President of Palm Desert Campus:* Ms. Lopez stated that PDC held their first flag ceremony. She had 1:1 meetings with Dr. Oliverrez, Mrs. Bueno, Dr. Martinez and Dr.

Rodriguez. She met with Adolfo Velazquez, Director of Community Relations and Philanthropy, to discuss the Youth Advisory Council. She attended the PDC Coyote Sunset.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

*Executive Director:* Dr. Rister met with the Environmental Health and Safety department on September 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the student petition regarding air quality. ASI submitted their application to start receiving grant opportunities from the Office of Grants and Research.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Ms. Hunter attended The Players of the Pear Garden meeting. She met with Mr. Rendon, President Fajardo and Ms. Hudson to discuss student views on the new Performing Arts Center. She attended the Meet over Pasta event. She explained that she dropped her Fundamentals of Directing class due to gratuitous sexual content and emailed both the Department Advisor and Department Head regarding this content. She also filed a report with the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance. She attended the Paint and Sip event. Today, she plans to attend the Howl Squad orientation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BD 60-24 M/S Rister/Chalk: Discussion on Coyote Day One Textbook Access (CDOTA) pilot program.**

Dr. Rister stated that he would like to hear the Board's thoughts along with student feedback they received regarding the program.

Mr. Chalk stated that he noticed some graduate students were enrolled in the program despite the program explicitly being for undergraduate students.

Ms. Smith stated that she received an email from her professor which mentioned that those who opt out of the program would require an additional step. In order to have the CDOTA fee refunded to students' bank accounts, they will need to go to the Student Financial Services office before census on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Dr. Rister stated that if students would like to receive their refund prior to the census date that would be correct, otherwise, once census has been completed, it is an automatic refund to students and the extra step is not needed.

Ms. Hudson stated that as a STEM major there were no course materials available for any of her classes.

Mrs. Bueno stated that it would be beneficial if students could still have access to physical textbooks and not just eBooks.

President Fajardo stated that each professor decides if they would like a physical textbook to be offered.

Dr. Oliverez arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Lozano stated that she works in the Services to Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office and has received calls from students asking for further clarification about the program. She thinks a more visual example explaining how to opt out of the program and where to find it on Canvas would be beneficial.

Ms. Hudson stated that for many students with disabilities, their accommodation is a physical textbook and if a physical textbook is not offered that goes against their SSD accommodation.

President Fajardo suggested collaborating with Mrs. Bueno and having a discussion with Follet about what options are offered.

Mr. Benson stated that all of the freshman students he has spoken with are in favor of the program and some assume this is normally how the textbooks are offered.

President Fajardo stated that about 35 percent of students have opted out of the program. He thinks the survey will help determine how accurate the percentage is and find out why students opted out.

Mr. P. Gonzalez stated that most STEM majors have opted out. He thinks one of the main reasons is because the majority of the resources are accessible online for a cheaper price.

Dr. Oliverez inquired how students know where to get their books.

President Fajardo stated that if a professor opts in to have everybody in their class get a physical textbook, then it should have been provided to the class on the first day. He has heard that most classes have not gone that route and instead have a digital textbook. In that case, Follet or Bryte Wave will send an email at the start of each semester that has a link to access the textbook.

Ms. Lozano stated that one of her classes required her to go to the bookstore to get a physical textbook, however, it depends on the professor.

Mr. Sibrian arrived at the meeting.

Ms. O'Connell arrived at the meeting.

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

**BD 61-24 M/S Rister/Rendon: Creation of the Ad-Hoc Student Referendum Committee.**

Dr. Rister stated that the referendum would be placed on the ballot this year during our elections. If the student body were to vote in favor, then it would go to the Campus Fee Advisory

Committee as well as the President's Office for approval. If all three areas are approved, it would be in effect for the 2025-2026 academic year. Athletics has also asked to be on the ballot with ASI which has traditionally happened for the last three referendums.

President Fajardo explained that an Ad-Hoc Committee is a committee created for a specific reason and is in place until the task is complete.

Dr. Oliverez clarified that students would be voting on one fee under which a portion of that would go to Athletics.

Dr. Rister presented the Ad-Hoc Committee proposal.

M/S Lopez/Benson: To add an ASI Palm Desert Representative (Voting) to the membership. Passed unanimously.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Benson, Bueno, Chalk, Carrion-Fajardo, Fajardo, Gonzalez, Hudson, Hunsaker, Lopez, Lozano, Mahadevan, O'Connell, Oliverez, Rendon, Rister, Sibrian and Yurdakul.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: None.

Passed (18/0/0).

**BD 62-24 M/S Rister/Chalk: Approval of the ASI 2023-24 audit and financial statements.**

Dr. Rister introduced Chris Suda who presented the audit and financial statements. There were no findings.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Benson, Bueno, Chalk, Carrion-Fajardo, Fajardo, Gonzalez, Hudson, Hunsaker, Lopez, Lozano, Mahadevan, O'Connell, Oliverez, Rendon, Rister, Sibrian and Yurdakul.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: None.

Passed (18/0/0).

**BD 63-24 M/S Lopez/Sibrian: Appointment of Zhane Ramirez as a student-at-large representative to the ASI PDC Advisory Committee.**

Ms. Lopez spoke in favor of Mr. Ramirez.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Benson, Bueno, Fajardo, Gonzalez, Hudson, Hunsaker, Lozano, Mahadevan, O'Connell, Oliverez, Rister, Sibrian and Yurdakul.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Rendon, Carrion-Fajardo and Lopez.

Passed (14/0/3).

**BD 64-24 M/S Rister/Gonzalez: Appointment of Christian Gordo as a student-at-large representative to the ASI PDC Advisory Committee.**

Ms. Lopez spoke in favor of Mr. Gordo.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Benson, Carrion-Fajardo, Fajardo, Gonzalez, Hunsaker, Lozano, Mahadevan, O'Connell, Oliverez, Rister, Sibrian and Yurdakul.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Rendon, Bueno and Lopez.

Passed (13/0/3).

**BD 65-24 M/S Lopez/Sibrian: Appointment of Laylah Morales as a student-at-large representative to the ASI PDC Advisory Committee.**

Ms. Lopez spoke in favor of Ms. Morales.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Benson, Carrion-Fajardo, Fajardo, Gonzalez, Hunsaker, Lozano, Mahadevan, O'Connell, Oliverez, Rister, Sibrian and Yurdakul.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Rendon, Chalk, Bueno and Lopez.

Passed (13/0/4).

**BD 66-24 M/S Lopez/Sibrian: Appointment of Christian Gordo as the Vice President of Palm Desert Campus Pro-Tem.**

Ms. Lopez spoke in favor of Mr. Gordo.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Babu, Benson, Chalk, Fajardo, Gonzalez, Hunsaker, Lozano, Mahadevan, O'Connell, Oliverez, Rister and Sibrian.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Rendon, Carrion-Fajardo, Bueno and Lopez.

Passed (12/0/4).

**BD 67-24 M/S Benson/Chalk: Appointment of Kim Hunsaker as the Staff Council representative to the ASI Board of Directors.**

Mr. Rendon spoke in favor of Ms. Hunsaker.

President Fajardo explained that the Staff Council typically gives ASI the name of the person they would like to serve on the Board. This position will now be approved by Staff Council and then approved by the Board to create a check and balances process.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

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

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Rendon and Hunsaker.

Passed (14/0/2).

## **REPORTS:**

M/S Rendon/Chalk: To extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Passed unanimously.

*College of Business & Public Administration:* Ms. Yurdakul met with Mr. Rendon. She would like to create a digital business card to give to students. She met with Marina Kamel, the Jack H. Brown College Communication Specialist. She attended the Alumni Center Grand Opening.

*Clubs and Organizations:* Ms. Carrion-Fajardo plans to attend the OSLE Student Club and Org Town Hall. She will soon be meeting with Amber Vargas, Student Engagement Coordinator. She plans to create a survey that will narrow the list of clubs for students based on their interests. She is helping the Computer Science and Engineering Club find resources for their upcoming event.

*International:* Ms. Babu met with the Dean to discuss the issues students have with academic advising.

*College of Social and Behavioral Sciences:* Mr. Chalk met with Dean Hassija. He will be hosting an open forum series starting September 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Student-at-Large:* Mr. Sibrian attended the Valley-wide Employment Expo. He met with Mrs. Bueno to discuss one of her upcoming open forums.

*Students with Disabilities:* Mrs. Bueno will be holding an open forum titled “Pack Chat” at PDC. She attended the Veterans Entrepreneurship Program. She met with Grace Borbe, the Director of Campus Operations at PDC.

*External Affairs:* Ms. Smith held a Civic Canvas Paint and Sip event; 34 students attended. Civic Seekers will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at PDC.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. Smith stated that the Young Legislators Program will be on campus on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Lobby Corp applications are open and will close on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Lopez stated that Fall Fest will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Rendon reminded the Board to complete their monthly reports by September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Oliverez attended one of the Howl Squad orientations this week. She will be holding Tea

with the VP on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. The Soccer Game Bash will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. H. Gonzalez stated the Coyote Garden will be holding a clean-up on September 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Trash Talk and Walk event will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.



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Diego Rendon  
Executive Vice President