



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS
1000 E. Victoria St., Carson, CA 90747 ♦ Ph: 310-243-3686 ♦ Fax: 310-928-7141
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Minutes

Board of Directors

Friday, July 14, 2023, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

President's Conference Room (WH 444)

- I. Called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Edgar Mejia-Alezano, Chairperson

- II. Roll Call
Voting Members Present: Edgar Mejia-Alezano, Jhanella Martinez, Janna Villanueva, Michelle Gonzalez, Rahul Vattigunta, Juan Valladolid, Efrain Contreras, Andrea Cocjin, and Aanisah Duru
Liaisons Absent: Markus Biegel
Advisors Present: Rasheedah Shakoor, Michellena Lakey, Donisha Quiller, and Morelia Castaneda-Patino,
Advisors Absent: Raven Emmert, Kevin Troung and Dr. Matthew Smith

- III. Approval of Agenda – Action Item
*M/Contreras, S/Villanueva to approve the agenda of July 14, 2023 as submitted
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

- IV. Approval of Minutes (June 9, 2023) – Action Item
*M/Villanueva, S/Contreras to approve the minutes of June 9, 2023 as submitted
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

- V. Reports
ASI President – Mejia-Alezano attended conference at Panetta Institute in Monterey Bay. He learned a lot and met AS Presidents from the 23 campuses. He attended his first transition meeting at CSSA and participated in NSO. He has also started his one-on-one with university administrators
Executive Vice President – Martinez attended CSSA meeting where they discussed affirmative action and tuition increase.
Director of Student Services – Vattigunta met with the Aramark Representative to address the food quality, food pricing, and student worker schedules. The Representative offered Vattigunta an opportunity to oversee the making of the food for a day and has promised to address the three main issues brought to her attention. Vattigunta is trying to partner with Aramark to donate daily leftover food to the student food pantry.
Organizations Commissioner – Villanueva announced the success of New Student Orientation (NSO) presentation promoting ASI. She further noted that Office of Student Life has rebranded themselves to be known as “LEAD” and they are reaching out to the Clubs & Organizations to attend upcoming August LEAD retreat.

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College of Arts & Humanities Representative – Contreras is working with the ASI Event Coordinator on upcoming event. He contacted his college dean for a meeting with them.

College of Business Administration & Public Policy Representative – Valladolid is working with his college dean to create a panel for students to address the dean of the college.

Executive Director – Shakoor met with the Student Affairs where it was confirmed the enrollment numbers have gone down, as a result programs around campus will be reduced and the budget will be tight. ASI will have to cut back on several areas as well. NAEYC unofficially accredited CDC. Senate Bill 640 is going to change how the campus deals with the vendors.

Associate Director – Lakey has two new hires in CDC as Student Aides, there is ongoing search for Accounting & Finance Manager. The 5500 Tax requirement regarding retirement for employees has been submitted.

Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator – Emmert is finalizing the first draft of the ASI Annual Report of 2022-2023 which will highlight the great work ASI has done. Emmert thanked and encouraged BOD members to continue their presence and participation at NSO.

Accounting Clerk – Castaneda-Patino is participating in the August training with LEAD. She will assist Student Activities Commissioner and Organizations Commissioner with any questions on their new role.

Leadership Graduate Assistant – Flores is preparing for the ASI August training.

VI. Open Forum – Agenda Items Only

Time for members of the audience to address the Board on specific agenda items only. None

VII. Unfinished Business – None

VIII. New Business

A. Board of Directors/Student-at-Large Appointment – Action Item

The Board will discuss and consider appointments for Board of Directors and Student-at-Large Interns and Liaisons

Mejia-Alezano asked all the candidates to introduce themselves and tell the Board why they are interested in joining ASI. After introduction, they were asked to step out while the Board discussed appointments. Mejia-Alezano asked the Board to first suspend the ASI Bylaw appointment rule due to a candidate being appointed for Vice President position has not served on Board position for 4 consecutive months or one complete academic year on Board.

*M/Valladolid, S/Vattigunta to suspend ASI appointment rule in the Bylaw for this appointment. **VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

*M/Contreras, S/Martinez to appoint Janna A. Villanueva as ASI Vice President of Academic Affairs. **VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

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*M/Contreras, S/Valladolid to appoint Marcelo Cowo as ASI Vice President of Finance.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

*M/Cocjin, S/Vattigunta to appoint Adilene Tinoco as ASI Director of Legislative Affairs. **VOTE: 6/0/1 MOTION CARRIES**

*M/Valladolid, S/Cocjin to appoint Pedro Rossel as ASI Organizations Commissioner.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

*M/Duru, S/Contreras to appoint Alexandra Huitzacua as ASI College of Natural & Behavioral Sciences Representative. **VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

Candidates were called back and Matinez welcomed and congratulated them on Board.

Shakoor followed with the Induction Ceremony for the newly appointed members.

B. CSU Policy Updates – Discussion Item

The Board will hear from Associated Students, Inc President, Edgar Mejia-Alezano regarding the CSU Tuition Increase Policy discussed at CSSA (Cal State Student Association)

Mejia-Alezano announced how the CSU tuition increase policy would affect all the CSU students. The tuition proposal of 2024-2025 will increase up to 6% which raises concerns for most students that are not able to keep up with the tuition and is not guaranteed that the increase will stop. They are scheduled to vote this September 2023. He encouraged all students to sign up for public comment at the Board of Trustees meeting. ASI President voted “NO” at CSSA but how would we present this to the students. There were questions about why this happens during the summer when most of the students are not present. Shakoor noted that they have been following the rules and encouraged Board members to read the 18-page document on their website to understand why this is being voted on now. Quiller shared data on how they are following the process. It is up to the students to speak up but this is happening in September with the inflation and President’s salaries going up they must consider all this. Emmert is working on the position ASI would take saying “NO” and get the students understand all this in a video. Cowo suggested starting a campaign on the situations. It was noted that 40% of students on this campus are not financial aid eligible students. How do we expect them to pay rising tuition. If enrolment is down now what would happen once the tuition starts going up. There was also concern that the proposal does not state an end date for the tuition increases. Board members should continue to discuss and understand what to say to the students coming back in fall. Emmert asked to set a timeline to work on a “Did You Know” video and joint statement with CSSA. The Board would continue to discuss how to come up with solutions to present to the students.

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- IX. Open Forum – Discussion Item
Time for members of the audience to address the Board. None

- X. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

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