



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
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Minutes

ASI Board of Directors

Friday, February 28, 2025, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Loker Student Union (LSU) 326 & 327

- I. Called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Efrain Contreras, Chairperson.

- II. Roll Call
Voting Members Present: Edgar Mejia-Alezano, Krysten Tyler, Jhanella Martinez, Marcelo Cowo, Efrain Contreras, Gyanan Kolasani, Janet Alvarez, Michelle Gonzalez, Elliot Gonzalez, Treaunna Campbell, Rohan Sonawane Alexandra Huitzacia, and Scarlet Grave
Advisors Present: Michellena Lakey, Elaine Estrada, Kevin Truong, Christopher Ashley, and Candace Manansala
Advisors Absent: Rasheedah Shakoor and Raven Emmert
Non-Voting Members Present: Sheela Pawar, Gilbert Hernandez, Koatzin Kamil Cruz, Matthew Smith, Candace Manansala, Philip Lapolt
Visitors: Imari Taylor, Samuel Robles, Alani Alexander, Shann Davis Jr, Jalen Jones, Trimaine Davis, Adrian Cuevas, Rubi Hernandez, Lizbeth Roque, Edmund Keenan, Deborah Wallace

- III. Approval of Agenda – Action Item
*M/Grave, S/Tyler to approve the agenda as submitted.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

- IV. Approval of Minutes (January 31, 2024) – Action Item
*M/Gonzalez, S/Alvarez to approve the minutes of January 31, 2024, as submitted.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

- V. Time Certain – 12:30 PM - Dr. Deborah Wallace, CSUDH Vice President & CFO, Administration & Finance
Vice President Deborah Wallace will present to the Board regarding the XYZ Formula for University Finances.
Wallace discusses the XYZ Enrollment Reallocation Formula, which involves adjusting enrollment targets and resources among CSU campuses based on resident enrollment levels to meet system-wide goals. Mejia-Alezano inquired about restrictions, and Wallace

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noted factors like referendums and audit failures. Alvarez highlights retention efforts alongside new enrollment, mentioning outreach to high schools and students at risk of dropping out. Cowo plans to question the allocation of funds during CHESS. Overall, the focus is on improving enrollment and retention to achieve funding stability.

Key points include:

The goal is to achieve or exceed system-wide enrollment targets through the XYZ formula, which reallocates funds based on performance.

Negative trends (X) indicate poor enrollment, while positive trends (Z) reflect meeting or exceeding targets.

DH faces challenges in funding due to enrollment declines post-COVID and is working to "rightsize" the campus.

Current enrollment is 6% below the target of 11,723, with revenue impacts affecting student fees, grants, and overall campus finances.

Efforts include outreach to former students and potential funding adjustments based on enrollment performance.

In the discussion about student funding, Mejia-Alezano questioned whether money from other sources could be redirected to meet student needs, considering restrictions from consultations and referendums. Funds should align with their original intent, as highlighted by Alvarez regarding Title V. The focus on increasing enrollment and retention includes outreach to high schools and consultant support. Dr. Smith noted positive outcomes compared to last year, with improvements in outreach and student success centers, as well as help from the basic needs hub. Cowo raised concerns about the XYZ funding formula, questioning the logic of reallocating funds and its impact on students. He criticized the formula-driven approach for lacking context and suggested limiting funding reductions to 3% instead of 5%.

VI. Reports

Director or Student Services – Sonawane mentioned he met with Raven to discuss evening student surveys as they are not able to use campus services in evening as most of them are from working students. In addition, he is meeting with Raven, Kevin and Mayra Soriano to discuss the ASI Campus Safety Community Discussion Event.

Alumni Liaison – Hernandez mentioned dinner with the Toros next Friday and March 27th. Last week, they hosted a commencement fair, and many people signed up for the alumni association, which also provides access to your Toro Mail.

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Academic Senate Liaison – Pawar mentioned that they held a Senate retreat to discuss ongoing plans for the Digital Humanities (DH) in the future. The Senate retreat took place last week, during which they met with the Huron Consulting Group. Pawar participated in this meeting both as Senate Chair and as the chair of a working group aimed at reimagining the future. They expressed a desire to meet with ASI and will be on campus next week.

University President’s Designee – Smith mentioned that there will be a message today regarding work study. No student should be unpaid or without work. No actions will be taken on March 7th.

Associate Director – Lakey mentioned that Raven asked everyone to attend the community discussion. The Spring Fling assets will be distributed next week, and the election campaign will begin on Monday. The updated succession plan policy was approved at the Personnel Committee, and she met with TAP to request edits to the hospitality policy to better accommodate students, awaiting their response. At the SQE town hall meeting, they discussed escort services and housing safety.

Accounting Specialist – Ashley mentioned he's looking at clubs that are not using their funding and are a bit inactive. He is going over the budget for the organization's commission and meeting with clubs that are not using the dollars they requested.

Graduate Assistant – Estrada notes that CHESS is a week away. A new intern has been onboarded. The last CHESS workshop will be next week. Janie Lozano has been onboarded as an Events and Programming management intern.

Event Coordinator – Truong mentioned they are in the middle of planning the spring fling and will submit to the Fire Marshall soon; all contracts secured.

Vice President of Academic Affairs – Contreas met with LaPolt to talk about the senate, and he attended a senate retreat.

Child Development Center Director – Manansala mentioned that the Child Development Center hosted professional development sessions on speech delays, language development, and children's mental health. In January, an individual attended the CSU Directors Conference and visited CSU Stanislaus and Fresno to explore funding opportunities. They are currently finalizing the CCAMPIS annual report due March 21, 2025, while planning for the next funding cycle starting in October 2026. Their team is developing an MOU with Universal Community Health Center to prepare families for the transition out of the center, highlighting the importance of dental and medical care. The individual is also building relationships across campus for professional development resources and has discussed local funding opportunities with Marcelo. Additionally, they

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have a meeting scheduled with the YMCA director in Long Beach to explore after-school care options or potential rental partnerships.

VII. Open Forum – Agenda Items Only

Time for members of the audience to address the Board on specific agenda items only.

Davis discusses the CSU XYZ formula and notes that many campuses are facing losses, with some colleges merging. This raises concerns about the impact on stakeholders. Wallace emphasizes the reliance on enrollment numbers, highlighting that funding cuts primarily affect student services. Discussions suggest the potential loss of entire departments and colleges, which could harm the overall system. In the first phase, spending was minimal, while the second phase saw substantial losses due to declining enrollment. With 80-85% of the budget tied to salaries and expenditures, quick cuts of 8-

10 million heavily impact these areas. Meanwhile, some colleagues from other campuses expected to experience cuts are breaking even instead due to benching benefits.

Visitor Hernandez has significant concerns about her experience at CSUDH in 2023, specifically regarding financial aid and faculty support. After being assured by an academic counselor that her struggles wouldn't impact her status, she was unexpectedly disqualified and faced unenrollment due to failing a couple of classes. She fought for three months to secure her re-enrollment but had to remain part-time. In spring 2025, she learned that her financial aid would be revoked, as it was now based on overall academic standing rather than semester credits. Feeling discouraged, Ruby noted that many of her friends faced similar issues and gave up, highlighting the poor communication contributing to low enrollment numbers. This situation reflects the challenges first-generation students encounter at CSUDH, with inadequate support from financial aid representatives and academic counselors complicating their educational journeys.

Visitor Edmund recently spoke to someone at Welch Hall about establishing a safe parking program for students. He was directed to Toro Scholars and then to university police, who informed him that he couldn't park overnight without risk of a ticket or towing. He wants student government collaboration with ASI on this issue. Philip Lapolt mentioned the Student Health Center. After dropping out in 2015, Edmund re-enrolled, is set to graduate this semester, and is dealing with housing insecurity, having faced a frustrating runaround at Welch Hall, student housing, and TGS. He noted that other campuses have systems for student parking, and many students share similar concerns.

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Visitor Keenan shared that he became unemployed just before starting school and took out a loan to cover expenses. He is currently under work-study but received an email from the financial aid office that expressed neglect regarding the situation, implying that the issue wasn't their fault. He is concerned about the repercussions for those responsible and whether university funds will help cover work-study costs. As a senior in the biochemistry department at CSUDH, financial aid is critical for his status and success. Previously a C/B student, he became a straight-A student thanks to financial support after struggling to balance multiple jobs and campuses. The email's language suggested gross negligence, and he fears that such setbacks will discourage students. Smith mentioned that campus leaders learned about the issue simultaneously and an investigation will occur to prevent future occurrences. For clarification, students are advised to contact the student affairs office or the Dean of Students.

VIII. Unfinished Business -

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

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

*M/Mejia-Alezano, S/Alvarez to appoint Shann Davis Jr. as the ASI University Housing Liaison **VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

*M/Mejia-Alezano, S/Alvarez to appoint Jalen Jones as the ASI Cultural Identity Center Liaison **VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

IX. New Business – None

X. Open Forum – Discussion Item

Time for members of the audience to address the Board.

LaPolt discusses evaluating faculty based on student feedback through PTE. If there are concerns, students can email or speak with the faculty chair, and if uncomfortable, they can approach the associate dean. Key points include evaluating faculty support, completing PTE, and having a hierarchy to address issues.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

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