



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
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Minutes
Finance Commission
Friday, September 12, 2025, 11:00 AM
Loker Student Union (LSU) 113

- I. Called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Kyrsten Tyler, Chairperson
- II. Roll Call
Voting Members Present: Kyrsten Tyler, Chasity Cowan, Edgar Mejia-Alezano, Aaditya Kapadia, and Elliot Gonzales
Advisors Present: Rasheedah Shakoor, Morelia Castaneda-Patino, and Michellena Lakey.
Advisor Absent: Ryan Heredia and Adrian Witt
Visitors: Arwin Ordonez, Janeane Rosales, and Elvis Hernandez
- III. Approval of Agenda – Action Item
*M/Mejia-Alezano, S/Kapadia to approve the agenda of September 12, 2025.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS
- IV. Approval of Minutes (May 9, 2025) – Action Item
*M/Gonzales, S/Kapadia to approve the minutes of May 9, 2025.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS
- V. Reports
Associate Executive Director – Lakey noted that there was an increase in equity for nutrition over at the CDC, there will be a wage increase for eligible student staff, and there was a wage increase for current student staff to reflect the minimum wage.
ASI President Mejia-Alezano updated the Commission on a proposal that he, Mendoza, and Santos wrote, stating that 2 out of 3 of their proposals were approved. First, the dining meals, and secondly, complimentary meal cards of \$300 per Board of Directors Member.
Accounting Specialist – Patino informed the Commission that she has been working on an audit, and we are coming to the end of the audit. Patino has also been actively working with Dakota Cortez from the Culture Identity Centers to streamline the process for the centers to spend their funds to purchase directly, and Castaneda-Patino would just approve their purchase. Cortez would be the main point of contact for the Culture Identity Center to make their purchases in this planned, streamlined process.

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VI. Open Forum – Agenda Items Only

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

VII. Unfinished Business – None

VIII. New Business

A. Guiding Principles – Discussion/Action Item

The Commission will review the Guiding Principles for the Finance Commission. The Commission reiterated that respect for everyone's different opinions and disagreements should be practiced in the meetings, as we have a common goal but different visions on how to achieve that goal. Shakoor mentioned that the previous Commission was working on a Guiding Principles Outline for the Finance Commission to reference the vernacular, and a specific set of procedures for the budget approval during the meeting- she advised that this would be helpful to complete for the Commission to reference. The Commission stated that some questions may not be asked in the meeting to prevent commotion, such as a Board of Directors asking questions on the budget of an organization.

*M/Gonzales, S/Mejia-Alezano to table the Guiding Principles.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

B. Viewpoint Neutrality Policy – Discussion Item

The Commission will review the Viewpoint Neutrality Policy.

Clubs and organizations must meet the Eligibility Criteria to meet the funding requirement. Eligibility Criteria are met when the Club's and Organization's request for funding will contribute to the ASI mission and student life. The funding requirement must have a detailed plan of how the funds would be allocated, and clubs/organizations can't request funds for more than one of the same activities.

Shakoor stated that we don't want Clubs and Organizations to double-dip the funds from the Organization Commission of \$10,000 and the Student Activities Commission of \$6,000, since certain things aren't eligible. The Commission will strive to focus on large-scale funding requests from clubs and organizations. Castaneda-Patino reminded the Commission that what clubs and organizations are requesting funds for is not determinable by what they agree with; it is whether they meet the guidelines for the eligibility criteria. The Commission mentioned that if an organization didn't get their funding request approved, they have the

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right to get a second opinion from the Finance Committee, and a response must be given to them within 5 business days.

C. Financial Policies and Procedures Manual – Discussion Item

The Commission will review the Financial Policies and Procedures.

The Commission will work on the Financial Budget Approval for April 2026 for next year's budget.

IX. Open Forum – Discussion Item

Time for members of the audience to address the Commission. Castaneda-Patino urged the Commission to review all the documents, just in case of any changes or questions they may have, and to get in contact with her. Mejia-Alezano expressed that he looks forward to working with the Commission on the budget to take care of the future Board of Directors. Ordonez, as the Student Activities Commissioner, has a goal of making the knowledge for funding more accessible and ensuring good communication to prevent any miscommunication. Gonzales has expressed feedback that he received from the CIC that they would like funding for snacks to support their students. He asked if there is a way for ASI to reduce the budget used on one-day events to prioritize student needs, and if there can be funding for Teddy Toro as a morale booster. He also noted that ASI is expected to host fundraisers and is unsure what that can look like. Mejia-Alezano and Castaneda-Patino answered that the CIC does receive funding from ASI, but that it is up to the centers to decide how they want to allocate their funds. Cowan asked if the budget for events is limited only to the events or if it can be allocated elsewhere. Lakey responded that the budget for events is ultimately our money, and we get a say in how to allocate it according to our values since ASI already provides scholarships, fun events for students, and the CDC budget. She noted that this is why the Commission creates an operational plan on how to use the ASI budget and stated that there are effects when things are cut, as students may feel underrepresented in their needs and wants.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

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