



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.**  
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Minutes  
Finance Commission  
Friday, February 13, 2026, 9:30 – 11:00 AM Loker  
University Student Union Room 113

- I. Called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Kyrsten Tyler, Chairperson
  
- II. Roll Call  
**Voting Member Present:** Kyrsten Tyler, Edgar Mejia-Alezano, Chasity Cowan, and Elliot Gonzales  
**Voting Members Absent:** Aaditya Kapadia  
**Advisor Present:** Rasheedah Shakoor, Michellena Lakey, and Morelia Castaneda-Patino.  
**Advisor Absent:** Ryan Heredia and Adrian Witt  
**Visitors:** Janneane Rosales, Chauncy Williams, and Shamshad Elimu.
  
- III. Approval of Agenda – Action Item  
\*M/Gonzales, S/Cowan to approve the agenda for February 13, 2026.  
**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**
  
- IV. Approval of Minutes (January 30, 2026) – Action Item  
\*M/Cowan, S/Mejia-Alezano to approve the minutes for January 30, 2026.  
**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**
  
- V. Reports  
**ASI President** – Mejia-Alezano shares that the president confirmed \$10,000 for Spring Fling. ASI will have to show the expenses that the funds will be allocated for. Gonzales and he met with VP Wallace to discuss scholarship awards. He further noted that Fall 2026 enrollment numbers are 11,626 FTE, which is significantly lower than Fall 2025 enrollment. This could impact ASI’s budget, as our budget is generated through student fees per head count.  
**Executive Director** – Shakoor noted that ASI’s bank account is in the negative, not sure of the reason. Shakoor further noted that the campus sent a message that the TAP controller is no longer with TAP. Shakoor shares that we received confirmation that there will be a CCAMPIS Grant process this year.  
**Accounting Specialist** – Castaneda-Patino passed around the Budget Notebooks for the Commission members to review and make needed changes every week before the meeting.

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VI. Open Forum – Agenda Items Only

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

Lakey shares that ASI's target headcount is 11,723 for the Fall 2026 semester, which will ensure ASI can stay afloat and put some money back into the reserves. Shakoor reminds the commission that the ASI budget is based on enrollment projections conservatively. The biggest budget expense is the athletic scholarships, which account for 20% of ASI's budget. There are ongoing discussions and an athletics committee to figure out what will happen to athletics and how to assist them while reallocating those expenses to the student body. International Student Representatives met with Dr. Saih, and they discussed more outreach to international students.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Administrative Budget – Discussion Item

The Commission will review the ASI Administrative Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

It was noted that the Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator and the Event Coordinator are reviewing their budget after attending the Student Affairs meeting. The travel budget will remain the same, except for the reduced registration budget, as Castaneda-Patino notes that the registration fee is close to \$100 instead of the \$150 entered previously. Castaneda-Patino and Mejia-Alezano agree to keep the hotel budget conservative and to account for any unexpected expenses and/or increased fees. Lakey notes that hotel rooms would only be booked for conferences that are far from CSUDH to save on hotel expenses. For the transportation portion of the travel budget, Castaneda-Patino states that whatever is more cost-efficient will be chosen, which could involve renting three cars or hiring a shuttle. Shakoor explained to Gonzales what the AS/SU meeting is and how it's for staff who work with the student government. This year's ASSU meeting was canceled, but there is still information shared across campuses for improvements. Lakey did not hear about the AS/SU meeting; either it was canceled or took place virtually. Castaneda-Patino explains that the Specialized Conference is a development opportunity for professional staff, and this budget was reduced to zero due to budget restrictions. Lakey states this would be a great opportunity for ASI's professional staff, especially since the Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator has expressed interest in learning about the best marketing practices. An increase in this budget is under consideration; everything else for the conference budget remains the same. Lakey proposed reducing the budgets for the August and January retreats since the full food budget has not been

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used; this would reduce the food budget by \$1,000. Gonzales suggests reducing this cut to \$250. Gonzales states he would like the activity budget to be cut, believing it is unnecessary. Lakey states that at most, only \$800 is spent on activities, and Tyler added that it is best to keep activities in the budget since they're great for bonding among ASI student staff and the Board of Directors. Gonzales proposes having the activity on campus to cut costs. Tyler recommends keeping the activity off campus and maintaining the full \$1,200 budget, remaining conservative and providing some flexibility for future commissions. Castaneda-Patino clarifies that when the Event Coordinator and ASI Grad Assistant plan activities, they ensure the budget allows flexibility in planning the retreats. Shakoor reiterated that ASI is reducing some budget areas to create more programming opportunities for students. Cowan expressed concern about the marketing budget, noting there are fewer marketing efforts compared to the previous year. Lakey noted that the marketing budget has not been cut and that the new Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator is still learning about her budget. The food budgets for the August Retreat are reduced to \$1,000, and for the January Retreat, to \$500; everything else remains unchanged. Lakey proposes increasing the Staff Development budget to a total of \$1,725, citing that professional and student staff have had no recent development. The breakdown includes \$900 for student staff development, \$875 for potluck-style food (holiday party), and \$350 for admin staff development. Gonzales suggests reducing the holiday party fund to \$500. The increase in this budget is under review. The programming support budget covers student staff wages. ASI, as an auxiliary, has the flexibility to offer competitive pay based on the LA minimum wage plus an additional 40 cents. Shakoor mentions that they have stopped substituting part of their student staff wages with federal work-study due to difficulties but sees this as an opportunity to save costs and boost reserves. The budget for student wages will be set at \$152,160, increasing hourly pay from \$18.21 to \$18.87 for all student staff. Lakey advises that future hiring language encourages students with federal work-study to apply. Lakey proposes adding 1 professional staff position, an Office Coordinator. The position would be 30 hours per week, and this is in a pending discussion about what makes sense for the productivity of ASI after Shakoor retires. Overtime allowance is for all employees, an average based on each hourly employee, \$2,561.06, because there are some busy periods like audit season or during big ASI events. Benefits are based on the salary we have to pay. Workers' compensation has gone down since ASI strives to be safe and preventative, to the extent that ASI has gotten some rebates. VEBA administrative fee since we have 4 people who have retired from the ASI. Last year, the board chose to discontinue lifetime insurance.

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The Commission expressed pushback on the Admin Service budget, particularly the Police line item. They seek to cut these expenses. The commission expressed how a conversation with Heredia may be beneficial to understanding the University MOU Allocation. TAP is charging ASI \$25,000, but this might increase to \$80,000. Auditors' budget might increase, and the rest stays the same.

VIII. New Business

A. Review of Referendum Entities Budget Proposals – Discussion Item

The Commission will review and discuss budget proposals from ASI Referendum Entities.

They will come to the next Finance Commission meeting.

IX. Open Forum – Discussion Item

Time for members of the audience to address the Commission.

Lakey asked if we had heard back from the referendum entities. Castaneda-Patino said a few did agree to join for the next meeting, and she will join via Zoom.

Mejia-Alezano suggested ASI be more intentional with the CICs since ASI provides funding for them. He elaborated on being intentional with the CICs' programming and what they are doing for the students. He received clarification from Herbert that ASI will get \$3000-\$5000 in funds for the Spring Fling.

Castaneda-Patino agrees that ASI should be more intentional with how the funds are allocated for CICs to spend. Gonzales asked about the budget for parking for the ASI president, and if there is a possibility to cut this budget by giving the ASI president a normal parking pass. Castaneda-Patino expressed that this budget is for a designated spot for convenience. Shakoor chimes in and says

ASI should advocate for a reduction in the parking fee. The commission will pin this and continue looking at the budget at the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.