



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS
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Minutes
Finance Commission
Friday, March 13, 2026, 9:30 – 11:00 AM
Loker University Student Conference Room 113

- I. Called to order at 9:43 a.m. by Kyrsten Tyler, Chairperson.
- II. Roll Call
Voting members present: Edgar Mejia-Alezano and Chasity Cowan
Voting member absent: Aaditya Kapadia, Elliot Gonzales
Advisor present: Morelia Castaneda-Patino and Michellena Lakey
Advisor absent: Rasheedah Shakoor
Visitor: Janneane Rosales and Candace Manansala
- III. Approval of Agenda – Action Item
*M/Mejia-Alezano and S/Cowan to approve the agenda with the amended location being the ASI Conference Room. **VOTE: UNANIMOUS**
- IV. Approval of Minutes (February 13 & 27, 2026) – Action Item
*M/Mejia-Alezano, S/Cowan to approve the minutes for February 13, 2026.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS
*M/Cowan, S/Mejia-Alezano to table the minutes for February 27, 2026.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS
- V. Reports – None
- VI. Open Forum – Agenda Items Only
Time for members of the audience to address the Board on specific agenda items only. None
- VII. Time Certain – 9:45 a.m., ASI Child Development Center (CDC) Budget Proposal
The Commission will hear from Candace Manansala (CDC Program Director) regarding the submitted CDC budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
CDC began with the income distribution section of its budget and explained that the private contribution amount depends on whether it receives IRA funding. Lakey asked what else is needed for private pay, and they are working on the minimum number of days required to ensure they receive private pay. Castaneda-Patino explained that the challenge is finding private-pay parents who can be available for

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3 days; therefore, Candace is considering lowering the requirement to 2 days. CDC plans to add an Education Coordinator as a new professional staff role. They explained that this new role is based on a needs assessment to meet CDE regulations and support the separation of duties. Castaneda-Patino emphasized that they hope this position will be funded by the CCAMPIS grant, but will still allocate a budget conservatively. She also noted an increase for professional staff to cover a 3% salary raise, an adjustment accounted for annually. Lakey identified that their assistant director has been underpaid and that they are budgeting for fair and equitable pay increases. The commission explained that audit costs will now be included in the CDC budget rather than the ASI budget. Supplies were reduced from last year, as were miscellaneous expenses such as searching for new teachers and live scans for interns. The service budget remains unchanged, but pest service has been reduced after Manansala canceled its Western Services contract and switched to the campus's pest services if needed. They increased their maintenance budget since facilities began charging for services.

Lakey asked if there was a way to decrease the development budget. Manansala explained that the purpose of that budget was to meet compliance. Professional Development (PD) is to meet the requirements for the universal preschool credentials program, and for teachers who don't have those credentials. PD curricula are expensive. Manansala explains that PD is to encourage their teachers to get and maintain their credentials. Lakey asked whether \$14,000 for the PD budget is the minimum. Manansala stated it is, but they must cut and be strategic with travel. Castaneda-Patino asked what options are available in Southern California if travel is reduced so teachers can still attend local conferences. Manansala said most of their current PD is in-house via webinars to save money, but that there is a difference between virtual and in-person conferences. Mejia-Alezano thinks \$14,000 is high, since it is twice as much as in previous years. The commission wants to know what has been done with the IRA budget and what their long-term plans are. Castaneda-Patino clarified that the IRA budget has been used for 2 fellowship awards and for developmental workshops. Lakey asked if they included what they used the IRA funds for in their proposal. It was explained that they ask whether they include what they used the IRA funds for because it benefits them by allowing them to receive more funding. They will receive \$10,000 in IRA funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, allocating \$7,000 to fellowships and \$3,000 to interns. The ASI contribution was reduced to \$42,658 after the items were allocated and the education coordinator position was removed.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Administrative Budget– Discussion Item

The Commission will review the ASI Administrative Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Utilities, maintenance, and services will remain as is. The insurance

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budget is based on the quote received; some have increased, and some have decreased. The committee agreed and voted not to continue the post-employment benefits for future employees. Mejia-Alezano asked to add the cost of a member attending CHESS to the budget. Tyler reminded the committee that they have four participants attending CHESS, as the previous finance committee voted to reduce the number. Castaneda-Patino noted that adding one more person won't solve the issue of reducing their budget and emphasized Lakey's point: reassess who gets to go and who makes those decisions. Emphasized that this is a conversation for the transitional meeting. Mejia-Alezano expressed concern about the proposal and its bias. Lakey clarified that it is not necessarily biased when there are clear guidelines for decision-making. He expressed concern about fairness. Castaneda-Patino reminded the committee that Shakoor mentioned using ASI's mission and values as a guiding principle in decision-making, and that reducing the ASI budget is necessary and a difficult choice. Tyler suggests that Mejia-Alezano meet with Ortega to determine how many members will attend CHESS next year. Lakey emphasized the importance of teaching this to the incoming board in the transition meeting with fundraising and successfully passing the baton. The committee agreed to allocate \$1,500 across all line items for professional development, including the holiday party, the administrative staff retreat, and professional staff development. They can delegate the budget to whichever line item is needed. Castaneda-Patino shared that the Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator and Events Coordinator will maintain their budgets at the same level as the previous year. Lakey suggested including testing materials, scantrons, and blue books in the budget since we are running low. The KDHR Equipment line has been pending since Cruz is looking at any equipment that may need to be replaced. Mejia-Alezano suggested that both the Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator and the Events Coordinator come to the next meeting on March 27th. Lakey explained that, for administrative services, the campus uses a formula that charges departments based on square footage and the number of employees, requiring them to calculate each department's footprint. On top of that, they must pay additional fees for campus police to be at their events. The committee asked what is done with the remaining balance in the Organization's Commission, and Castaneda-Patino responded that anything remaining is returned to the ASI budget.

IX. New Business – None

X. Open Forum – Discussion Item

Time for members of the audience to address the Commission.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

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