



**SANTOS MANUEL STUDENT UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GENERAL MEETING**

March 4, 2026 – 2:00pm

Student Union North, Student Chambers

Zoom: <https://csusb.zoom.us/j/85875529320>

MINUTES

Members Present: Anjali, Vilayat Del Rossi, Sophia Garcia, Jose Hernandez, Sukhpreet Kaur, Edgar Lopez, Jessica Lu, Jocelyn Paz, Robinpreet Waraich

Members Absent: Diego Rendon, Kimberly Rosas, Dr. Matthew Smith

Staff: Monica Baeza, Jasmine Bustillos, Jared Fisk, Matthew Jenkins, Elizabeth Junker, Sean Kinnally, Sonia Martinez, Lorena Marquez, Joel Morales, Maria Elena Najera-Neri, Mark Oswood, Jennifer Puccinelli

Guest: No guests

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:09 pm.

Roll Call: A verbal roll call for members was conducted. Quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes: M/S Waraich/Garcia motion to approve SMSU Board of Directors meeting minutes from February 4th, 2026.
Motion passed.

Reports:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Dr. Lorena Marquez reported strong attendance at recent DEI programs, including “Popusas and Papeles” and “Lead with WRC,” both of which saw high student engagement. She noted March programming for Women’s Herstory Month, with upcoming heritage months in April, and shared

that larger spaces are being considered due to demand, along with continued efforts to improve culturally relevant programming, with additional updates expected as fall planning develops.

Recreation and Wellness

Sean Kinnally reported successful RecWell programming, including eight adventure trips, Rec Day/NIRSA Day events, and increased student engagement through “Donuts with the Rec Director.” Facility improvements are underway with painting upgrades and upcoming installation of new cardio equipment. Intramurals and leagues are active, with strong participation in tournaments and volleyball, and additional programs, including bowling for staff, planned.

SMSU BoD Chair and Vice Chair

Vice Chair Paz reported upcoming visits from other student unions to share ideas, highlight SMSU’s growth, and showcase facility and program improvements, with the goal of making these exchanges an annual practice. She emphasized ongoing efforts to better communicate SMSU’s impact to students by highlighting how fees support programming, amenities, and facility enhancements, while continuing to develop the union as a welcoming “living room of campus” with more study and collaborative spaces.

SMSU Executive Director

Interim Executive Director Del Rossi highlighted ongoing progress across SMSU, including significant advancements in strategic planning, particularly the development of the organization’s values, vision, and mission (“North Star”), which have been vetted by staff and are moving through committee review. He noted continued efforts to improve budget transparency and presentation, implement a structured reserve strategy, and strengthen internal controls and compliance with state policies. He highlighted ongoing work from committees, marketing, and technology teams, and noted upcoming priorities such as selecting a new audit firm, and advancing strategic plans into measurable, student-focused outcomes.

Student Services

Student Services highlighted successful programming and engagement across campuses, including a Financial February workshop series that improved students’ confidence in managing finances. Program Board and ASI hosted Cosmic Coyote with approximately 650 attendees and positive feedback. At Palm Desert Campus, the “Lemonade Lessons” event featured Dr. Edna Martinez, who shared insights on resilience and growth with fifty students. Additionally, staff and board members participated in Coyote Cares Day, volunteering in community service projects both locally and in the Coachella Valley.

Open Forum: No public comments.

Adoption of Agenda: M/S Lopez/Anjali motion to adopt agenda.
Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

SMSU 48/26 SMSU Special Loan Policy Proposal (Action, Policies and Procedures Committee, Anjali)

M/S Anjali/Del Rossi motion to open SMSU 48/26 SMSU Special Loan Policy Proposal.

Anjali presented the Special Fund Loan Policy, developed by the Policies and Procedures Committee to establish clear governance, compliance requirements, and procedures for any future instances where SMSU acts as a lender. She noted that no such standalone policy currently exists, and this proposal creates a formal framework aligned with CSU guidelines and best practices. Vilayat Del Rossi added that the policy was a key recommendation from the recent internal loan review and is being brought forward promptly to ensure appropriate controls are in place before any potential loan renegotiation with campus partners. He explained that the policy requires loans to go through the co-governance process, including review by the Finance & Contracts Committee and submission of a comprehensive approval package to the board. Discussion clarified that the policy applies only when SMSU is lending funds, not borrowing, and emphasized the importance of aligning any future loans with SMSU's mission. With no further discussion, the board proceeded to a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: 7 - In-Favor 0 - Opposed 1 - Abstention

Motion passed.

SMSU 49/26 Request to Upgrade Banquet and Vendor Tables in Event Center (Action, Finance and Contracts Committee, Garcia)

M/S Garcia/Waraich motion to open SMSU 49/26 Request to Upgrade Banquet and Vendor Tables in Event Center

The board reviewed a proposal to replace aging banquet tables and carts in the SMSU South Event Center, many of which are 15–20 years old and in poor condition, with issues including structural damage and insufficient inventory. The proposal includes purchasing additional rectangular and round tables along with new carts to improve efficiency, reduce reliance on rentals, and support event operations. Two options were presented: a higher-quality commercial-grade option and a lower-cost alternative, with staff recommending the commercial-grade tables due to durability, longer lifespan, and better long-term value. Discussion addressed costs, inventory needs, training for proper handling, and disposal of unusable tables. The majority of board members were in support of investing in the commercial-grade tables to ensure lifespan and durability. With no further discussion, the board proceeded to a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: 7 - In-Favor 0 - Opposed 1 - Abstention

Motion passed.

Announcements

- Women’s International Day Dinner will be held on March 10th from 5:30–7:00 p.m. in Conference Center North. All are invited, with food options provided.
- SMSU will begin the hiring process for 26-27AY student staff to fill upcoming vacancies.
- Palm Desert Campus will host Evergreen on March 26th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Transportation is available for board members interested in volunteering or attending the event.
- There are volunteer opportunities available at Coyote Fest, signature annual event taking place April 30th. Two shifts are available from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. – midnight.
- A major esports event, CoyoteCon, is happening this Saturday, March 7th. Board members are encouraged to attend and support.
- Upcoming Programs & Events: Includes Paws and Decompress, Lead with WRC, Growing as Yotes, Lucky Casino Night (March 17th), Mucha Lucha (March 18th), Las Monarcas (March 24th), Trans Day of Visibility (March 25th), and Springfest retreat (March 25th).
- Donuts with the Rec Director happening next Thursday from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. at the Rec Center. Students can enjoy breakfast and provide feedback on the facilities and provide suggestions.
- The RecWell Operations team will be posting a Graduate Assistant position with the goal of having the new team member begin by July 1st.
- Vice Chair Paz will speak at the Selena movie screening Q&A panel and participate as a vendor at CoyoteCon and will also be at the Garcia Arts Center event on Sunday.
- Students in the graphic design program are encouraged to apply for SMSU graphic designer roles; applicants are asked to submit their top three works.
- On Friday, March 13th we will be hosting an all-day Board of Directors’ convening “Stronger Together: Cultivating Community Across Campuses”, with guests joining us from Cal State LA and Cal State Dominguez Hills. Our very own Edgar Lopez will be the luncheon’s keynote speaker.
- SMSU has hired a new audiovisual specialist, who started this week.

M/S Garcia/Waraich motion to adjourn meeting at 3:02pm.

Respectfully reviewed & submitted by

Anjali, Secretary

Date