Santos Manuel Student Union
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California State University, San Bernardino
Santos Manuel Student Union Board of Directors
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2026 | 2:00pm
Student Chambers (SUN-3305)
Zoom: https://csusb.zoom.us/j/85875529320

Minutes

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

Members Absent: Sophia Garcia, Diego Rendon, Kimberly Rosas

Staff Present: Monica Baeza, Sasha Baltazar, Kesha Bates, Nathaniel Bodell, Jasmine Bustillos, Jasmine Curtis, Jared Fisk, Alicia Gutierrez-Romaine, Matthew Jenkins, Elizabeth Junker, Sean Kinnally, Lorena Marquez, Joel Morales, Maria Elena Najera-Neri, Jennifer Puccinelli, Anthony Roberson, Dr. Montgomery Van Wart, Katie Wallen.

Guests Present: Sebastian Bautista, Yazhini Elanchezhian, Unnati Sisodiya, Mehakdeep Singh, Jalonis Taylor

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:23p.m.

Roll Call: A verbal roll call of attendees was conducted. Quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes: M/S Anjali/Kaur ; motion to amend meeting minutes to correct Robinpreet's last name from "Kaur" to "Waraich" on item A 2/25.

M/S Paz/Kaur; motion to approve the SMSU Board of Directors Annual meeting minutes as amended from May 7, 2025. *Motion passed.*

Open Forum: Dr. Montgomery Van Wart addressed the Board regarding the 2024 DHRE loan, stating his concerns about the loan process, the Board's prior review, and the handling of related reports. He urged the Board to prioritize fiscal responsibility, increase transparency, minimize serial communications outside of public meetings, and remain open to public feedback and critique in its governance practices. Chair Hernandez thanked the guest speaker for their comments.

Adoption of Agenda: M/S Kaur/Paz; motion to adopt May 6, 2026 agenda as presented. *Motion passed*.

NEW BUSINESS

A 1/26 SMSU Board of Directors Annual Summary Report, 2025-26 Annual Meeting (Informational, Del Rossi)

M/S Paz/Waraich; motion to open A 1/26 SMSU Board of Directors Annual Summary Report, 2025-26 Annual Meeting.

Vilayat Del Rossi presented a summary of the Board's accomplishments during the 2025–26 year, noting that the report serves as a high-level overview for both the current and incoming Board and is separate from the organization's annual report. Highlights included significant governance and policy modernization efforts, with 19 policies approved and the completion of bylaw revisions; improvements to financial stewardship through a more transparent budget process and formal reserve allocation strategy; and organizational progress resulting from the NASPA external review, including the development of the organization's mission, vision, and core values. The report was intended to document the Board's major achievements, support succession planning, and provide future Board members with a foundation for continuing organizational progress.

A 2/26 Discussion of Forms: Conflict of Interest/Commitment and Board of Director Responsibilities and Expectations (Discussion, Del Rossi)

M/S Paz/Anjali; motion to open item A 2/26 Discussion of Forms: Conflict of Interest/Commitment and Board of Director Responsibilities and Expectations.

Vilayat Del Rossi provided an overview of the Board's conflict of interest and conflict of commitment guidelines, emphasizing directors' fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interests of SMSU and to disclose or abstain from discussions and votes when a potential conflict exists. He also reviewed the distinct roles of the Board and management, explaining that the Board establishes organizational policy and strategic direction while management is responsible for implementing those policies through daily operations. Mr. Del Rossi highlighted expectations for Board members, including active participation, approximately 10 hours of monthly service, engagement with students, adherence to governing documents, and maintaining eligibility for the leadership scholarship. He noted that these materials will serve as foundational training resources for both returning and incoming Board members during the summer orientation. Chair Hernandez noted that the commitment letter that board members will be signing still reads stipend. The verbiage will be updated prior to disseminating for signature. Vice Chair Paz echoed what Vilayat shared and encouraged the new board members to use this as a guiding document when uncertain about their roles and responsibilities.

A 3/26 **Interview and Selection of 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Student Representatives (Action, Del Rossi)**

M/S Paz/Anjali; motion to open item A 3/26 Interview and Selection of 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Student Representatives.

The Board began the interview process for applicants seeking Student Representative At-Large positions for the 2026–27 Board of Directors. To ensure a fair and equitable process, candidates were interviewed individually while the remaining applicants waited outside the meeting room or in the virtual waiting room.

Each candidate was asked the same three interview questions:

- Why are you interested in serving on the SMSU Board of Directors?
- What strengths, skills, or experiences would you bring to the SMSU Board? Please share an example of a time demonstrating those qualities.
- Is there anything else you would like to share with the Board that supports your candidacy?

The Board was reminded to ask only the approved interview questions and to use the candidates' written application materials as additional references during deliberations. Members were advised that the Board was not required to fill every vacant position and could reopen recruitment if qualified candidates were not identified. Staff clarified that four Student Representative positions were available, including one designated representative from the Palm Desert Campus in accordance with the Board's bylaws. If the Palm Desert position remained unfilled, recruitment would continue until a qualified candidate was appointed.

The first two candidates interviewed were Sebastian Bautista and Yazhini Elanchezhian.

Chair Hernandez called for a 5-minute recess; meeting to resume at 3:20 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 3:20 p.m.

The board continued to interview the remaining applicants Mehakdeep Singh, Jalonis Taylor, and Unnati Sisodiya.

A discussion ensued among the board regarding the candidates interviewing for the SMSU Board of Directors. Once the discussion concluded they moved forward with a vote.

Candidate 1: Sebastian Bautista

Roll Call Vote: 7 - In-Favor 0- Opposed 0 – Abstentions

Please note: We had one PDC candidate. The board voted as a standard roll call vote.

Please note: For the remaining candidates we used a ranking system with 1 representing your top choice and 4 representing your last choice. The candidates with the lowest aggregate scores will move forward.

Candidate 2: Yazhini Elanchezhian Total Score: 1.90

Candidate 3: Mahakdeep Singh Total Score: 2.63

Candidate 3: Jalonis Taylor Total Score: 0.81

Candidate 4: Unnati Sisodiya Total Score: 1.90

M/S Paz/Waraich; motion to amend item A 3/26 to read: Permission to elect Yazhini Elanchezhian, Unnati Sisodiya, and Jalonis Taylor, as SMSU Student Representatives as well as Sebastian Bautista, as the Palm Desert Student Representative.
Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote: 7 - In-Favor 0 - Opposed 0 - Abstentions
Motion passed.

Recess from 4:11 p.m. to 4:14 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 4:14 p.m.

Following the election of new board members, the Board reached a unanimous consensus for Jose Hernandez continue serving as the Chair Pro Tem and preside over the remainder of the meeting..

A 4/26 Overview of Corporate Officers Role and Responsibilities (Informational, Del Ross)

M/S Waraich/Anjali; motion to open A 4/26 Overview of Corporate Officers Role and Responsibilities.

To start, Mr. Del Rossi expressed his sincere appreciation for Jose and Jocelyn's years of service to the SMSU Board of Directors. He looks forward to celebrating with them at the end of the year board appreciation dinner.

M/S Anjali/Kaur; motion to extend meeting to 4:45pm.
Motion passed unanimously.

Vilayat Del Rossi provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Board's four corporate officer positions, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Controller, prior to officer nominations and elections. He explained that the Chair oversees Board meetings, appointments, and serves as the Board's official spokesperson; the Vice Chair assumes the Chair's duties when necessary and assists with additional responsibilities; the Secretary reviews and authenticates Board meeting minutes; and the Controller chairs the Finance and Contracts Committee and presents financial recommendations to the Board. Del Rossi also outlined the distinction between the Board's governance role and management's operational responsibilities, emphasized expectations for student-majority committee membership, and noted that elected officers will serve on the Executive Board during the summer to conduct routine organizational business within the authority delegated by the Board.

During discussion, outgoing Board leaders Jose Hernandez and Jocelyn Paz encouraged incoming members to consider leadership positions regardless of prior experience, emphasizing that comprehensive training and staff support are provided. They highlighted the importance of teamwork, time commitment, and serving in the best interests of students. Board members also clarified that all seven Student Representatives were eligible to run for any officer position, and that candidates would have an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves after being nominated or self-nominated before the Board voted on each position.

A 5/26 Permission to elect 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Chair (Action, Del Rossi)

M/S Waraich/Kaur; motion to open A 5/26 Permission to elect 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Chair.

The Board opened nominations for the position of 2026–2027 SMSU Board of Directors Chair. Nominations were received for Robinpreet Waraich, Sukhpreet Kaur, and Anjali. All nominations were accepted.

Vote: 4 - Anjali 2 – Sukhpreet 0 – Robinpreet 3 - Absentions

M/S Waraich/Anjali; motion to amend A 5/26 Permission to elect Anjali as Board Chair for the 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors.

Roll Call Vote: 8 - In-Favor 0- Opposed 1 – Abstentions
Motion passed.

A 6/26 Permission to elect 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Vice Chair (Action, Del Rossi)

M/S Kaur/Waraich; motion to open A 6/26 Permission to elect 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Vice Chair.

The Board opened nominations for the position of 2026–2027 SMSU Board of Directors Vice Chair. Nominations was received for Sukhpreet Kaur. Ms. Kaur accepted the nomination. With no other nominations received the board moved forward with amending item.

M/S Anjali/Waraich; motion to amend A 6/26 Permission to elect Sukhpreet Kaur as 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Vice-Chair.

Roll Call Vote: 8 - In-Favor 0- Opposed 1 – Abstentions
Motion passed.

M/S Waraich/Kaur; motion to extend meeting to 5:15pm.
Motion passed.

A 7/26 Permission to elect 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Controller (Action, Del Rossi)

M/S Anjali/Kaur; motion to open A 7/26 Permission to elect 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Controller.

The Board opened nominations for the position of 2026–2027 SMSU Board of Directors Controller. Nominations were received Sebastian Bautista, Yazhini Elanchezhian, and Jalonis Taylor. All nominations were accepted.

Vote: 1 - Sebastian 2 – Yazhini 2 – Jalonis 4 - Absentions

Runoff Vote: 4 – Yazhini 3 – Jalonis 2 – Absentions

M/S Waraich/Kaur; motion to amend A 7/26 Permission to elect Yazhini Elanchezhian as 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Controller.
Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - In-Favor 0- Opposed 0 – Abstentions
Motion passed.

A 8/26 Permission to elect 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Secretary (Action, Del Rossi)

M/S Waraich/Anjali**;** motion to open A 8/26 Permission to elect 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Secretary.

The Board opened nominations for the position of 2026–2027 SMSU Board of Directors Secretary. Nominations were received for Jalonis Taylor, Unnati Sisodiya and Sebastian Bautista. All nominations were accepted.

Vote: 3 - Unnati 3 – Jalonis 0 – Sebastian 3 - Absentions
Runoff Vote: 3 – Unnati 4 – Jalonis

M/S Taylor/ Sisodiya**;** motion to amend A 8/26 Permission to elect Jalonis Taylor as 2026-2027 SMSU Board of Directors Secretary.

Roll Call Vote: 8 - In-Favor 0- Opposed 1 – Abstentions
Motion passed.

A 9/26 SMSU Board Resolution: Limited Summer Delegation of Authority to the Executive Committee effective May 7, 2026 – August 31, 2026 (Action, Del Rossi)

M/S Anjali/Sisodiya**;** motion to open A 8/26 SMSU Board Resolution: Limited Summer Delegation of Authority to the Executive Committee effective May 7, 2026 – August 31, 2026.

Mr. Del Rossi presented a new resolution establishing limited summer authority for the Executive Committee, consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Controller, with the Executive Director serving in an advisory, non-voting capacity. The resolution was developed in conjunction with recent bylaw revisions and organizational review recommendations to clarify what actions the Executive Committee may take during the summer, including routine operational matters that cannot reasonably wait until the next regular or special Board meeting, while excluding actions such as adopting, amending, suspending, or repealing Board policy. It was emphasized that all actions must remain within applicable law, Board policy, approved budget authority, and open meeting requirements, and that significant or time-sensitive matters outside the delegated scope would require a full Board meeting. The resolution was described as a framework to provide clear guardrails for summer decision-making and help protect the organization while maintaining continuity of operations.

Roll Call Vote: 9 - In-Favor 0- Opposed 0 – Abstentions
Motion passed.

A 10/26 Review and Approve the SMSU Board of Directors 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule (Action, Del Rossi)

M/S Anjali/Kaur; motion to open A 10/26 Review and Approve the SMSU Board of Directors 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule.

The Board discussed the proposed 2026–2027 Board of Directors meeting schedule and considered member availability, including potential conflicts with classes and other university commitments. After reviewing several options, the Board determined that Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. worked best for the majority of student members and also accommodated the University President's designee. It was noted that the schedule could be adjusted during the year if member availability changed. The Board approved the proposed 2026–2027 meeting schedule with the selected Friday meeting time of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with the exception of the Thursday, October 8th 2:00 p.m. meeting at PDC. The Spring semester meeting at PDC will be determined at a later date.

All in Favor Vote:
Motion passed.

M/S Waraich/Kaur; motion to table A 11/26 – A 19/26.
Motion passed.

Announcements

- Elizabeth Junker is working on scheduling a Board Transition and Appreciation Dinner in May of 2026. More details forthcoming.
- Mr. Del Rossi welcomed Dr. Nathaniel Bodell and Dr. Alicia Gutierrez-Romaine who were appointed as faculty representatives to the SMSU Board of Directors for the 26-27 academic year.
- Board and staff members expressed appreciation to Jose Hernandez and Jocelyn Paz for their service and contributions to the SMSU Board of Directors. Hernandez reflected on his time with the Board and shared that he would remain connected to the campus while pursuing his doctorate. Members also acknowledged the relationships, support, encouragement, and leadership both students provided throughout their service, and thanked Sebastian Bautista for his participation.

Adjournment: M/S Waraich/Anjali; motion to adjourned meeting at 5:39p.m.

Certified/Authenticated by:

Jalonis Taylor
Jalonis Taylor (Sep 17, 2026 14:12:08 PDT)

09/17/2026

Jalonis Taylor
Secretary, SMSU Board of Directors

Date