

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
California State University, San Bernardino

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order by the President, Diego Rendon at 12:04 p.m.

Present: Diego Rendon, Kimberly Rosas, Ayanna McAlister (late), Alondra Lopez, Beatriz Castellanos, Jennifer Cornejo, Samantha Coronado, Joseph Gonzales, Judah Rubin, Heather Sharp, Md Yeasin, Amira Shalabi, Ashley Smith, Dr. Haakon Brown, Dr. Michael Rister and Dr. Paz Oliverez (late).

Absent: Melanie Radan, Dr. Matthew Smith and Kim Hunsaker.

Guests: Carly Walton.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of November 21st were approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

M/S Lopez/Rubin: To place BD 02-26 and BD 03-26 on a consent calendar. Passed unanimously.

The agenda was adopted as amended.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

President: President Rendon stated that the Elections Chair will be appointed at the next meeting. He reminded the Board to complete the survey that was distributed to update information on the website and there will be no meetings scheduled for the first week of each month. The Palm Desert Campus (PDC) Board meeting will be held on February 13th which is the same day as the PDC Hockey Night. Lunch with the Presidents will be postponed due to a scheduling conflict with President Morales. The Board is discouraged from holding events after March 19th to avoid any scheduling conflicts with the ASI Elections events.

Executive Vice President: Ms. Rosas met with Ginger Thomas to discuss a fund for a recently deceased alumni and Crystal Galvan-Magana to discuss increasing alumni involvement. The new Performing Arts Center will be opened in March; the Board should discuss plans to use and promote the theatre.

Vice President of Palm Desert Campus: Ms. Lopez met with the College of the Desert External Affairs Director to discuss a kickball tournament between both campuses. March in March, an advocacy day for community colleges will be held in Sacramento on March 12th; she will share more information soon. The PDC Coyote Cares Day will soon be held. The Cave will open on Thursday.

Ms. McAlister joined the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director: Dr. Rister stated that the mileage reimbursement rate increased from 70 cents to 72.5 cents per mile, effective January 1st. The enrollment numbers are as expected with an approximate seven percent decrease from the fall to spring semester due to December graduations. The campus is currently in the process of hiring a new Basic Needs Director with an anticipated start date in late February or March which allows for continued collaboration with that office. He attended the Voluntary Employees Benefits Association (VEBA) Board meeting at the Auxiliary Organizations Association (AOA) Conference. There are active discussions regarding potential support measures for the campus in response to recent ICE-related incidents; further details can be expected at a future Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

BD 01-26 M/S Rister/Lopez: Approval of the ASI 2024-2025 audit and financial statements.

Dr. Rister introduced Carly Walton from CLA who presented the audit and financial statements. There were no findings.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In favor: Rendon, Rosas, McAlister, Lopez, Castellanos, Cornejo, Coronado, Gonzales, Rubin, Sharp, Yeasin, Brown and Rister.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: None.

Passed (13/0/0).

M/S Coronado/Rubin: To open the following consent calendar:

BD 02-26 Appointment of Natalia Marquez as a student-at-large representative to the ASI Lobby Corps.

BD 03-26 Appointment of Delila Hernandez as a student-at-large representative to the ASI Lobby Corps.

Passed unanimously.

President Rendon passed the gavel to Ms. Rosas.

BD 04-26 M/S Rendon/Cornejo: Discussion on mid-year review of the 2025-2026 ASI STAND Goals.

President Rendon gave a brief overview of the current progress of the STAND goals. There was an ASI presence at the International Student Orientation. Sundaes with Student Government will soon be held. He is planning to implement a PDC student-at-large position next year. The STAND goals will be sent out to all students via email. They have started the process of updating the Club Allocation Budget (CAB) Funding policy to fully reimburse clubs.

Ms. Coronado suggested the Board improve their communication for community events, such as the Toy Drive. She reminded the Board of the upcoming Coyote Cares Day.

Ms. Smith stated that there will be a STAND goals tracker in the ASI newsletter. She asked the Board to inform her when they accomplish work that supports the goals so it can be included.

Ms. Cornejo suggested opening a PDC Graduates representative position.

Dr. Oliverez joined the meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Rister suggested conducting an evaluation of the current Board positions and committees before creating new positions. Ms. Lopez agreed and explained that there are leadership opportunities available, however, students do not always participate. She encouraged the Board to contact her with questions and suggestions in regard to reaching out to PDC students.

Ms. Lopez gave a brief overview of her current progress with the STAND goals. They have been tabling in regard to Your Howl Matters and Howl Squad during resource events. Once the PDC Advisory Committee is established, she plans to have Ms. Shalabi speak to the committee. Many students have been visiting the office to ask questions. She plans to invite the SMSU Board to PDC. She has continued partnering with the College of the Desert. She made connections with high school representatives during Direct Admin Day. The toy drive has not received many donations so they will continue promoting it on social media. She met with Dr. Avi Rodriguez to discuss holding an alumni event.

Ms. Rosas suggested giving small incentives to the Board for promoting different drives, similar to the CSUSB College Corps. She encouraged the Board to participate in the Coyote Walk announcements since students were more likely to ask questions.

Ms. Cornejo suggested adding flyers to the Coyote Garden that state the produce is donated to the Obershaw Den since many students are unaware. Ms. Rosas deferred to Mr. Gonzalez who stated that the garden can be hard to find since it is hidden, however, they are in the process of establishing volunteer days and hosting another Trash Talk and Walk event. Vinyl paw prints that lead to the garden could be added to the ground as well as banners on the fence. Also, they could make an updated video to show how to get to the garden from one of the SMSU buildings.

The Board discussed creating an excel sheet to coordinate their events and availability.

Ms. Castellanos suggested creating a Legislative Affairs Instagram account. Ms. Coronado noted that building a following could be difficult. Ms. Smith stated that it should be clear if the account would be specifically for the Board or a different ASI team. Additionally, a second account could hinder the goal of reaching 10,000 followers. Ms. Lopez suggested using the “Highlights” feature in lieu of creating more accounts as well as tagging the ASI profile as much as possible when promoting events.

Discussion closed.

Ms. Rosas passed the gavel back to President Rendon.

REPORTS:

Graduate: Ms. Cornejo attended an IT Governance Committee on January 13th. She met with Dean Arias as well as tabled at the International Student Resource Fair on January 14th.

International: Mr. Yeasin stated that there has been a decrease in the number of international student enrollment; he suggested collaborating with the Center for Global Innovation to increase the digital outreach, similar to other institutions.

Director of External Affairs: Ms. Smith met with Robert Sewell, Associated Student Body Advisor at Victory Valley College. She is in the process of reinstating the Civic Engagement committee and possibly the Leadership Development committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Gonzalez reminded the Board to complete the survey created by Special Projects. Lounging with Legislative Affairs will be held on January 27th on the Health Center lawn from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ms. Cornejo reminded the Board that Cosmic Coyote will be held on February 5th.

Ms. Smith stated that she and President Rendon will be attending the California State Student Association Plenary meeting this weekend; the Board should let her know if they have any concerns for her to address.

Ms. Rosas invited the Board to participate in the San Bernardino Clean Up event being held on January 17th.

Dr. Oliverrez stated that there will be events to offer student support related to the current immigration enforcement.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.



Samantha Coronado
Executive Vice President, Pro Tem