

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.**  
**California State University, San Bernardino**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carson Fajardo at 10:32 a.m.

Present: Carson Fajardo, Julia Ruiz, Diego Rendon, Autumn Hudson, Oluwaseyi Adeoye, Sri Alapati, James Chalk, Denise Laughlin, Jessie McVicker, Dr. Daria Graham (Zoom) (late) and Dr. Michael Rister.

Absent: Kim Hunsaker and Dr. Paz Oliverez.

Guests: Herbert Gonzalez, Marina Stone, Damaris Preciado, Ramtin Ranjpour, Elizabeth Puga, Angela Gillespie, Tracy Luu, Bhavish Balsara, Dr. Rafik Mohamed, Dr. Bradford Owen and Dr. Carrie Barder.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of September 1<sup>st</sup> were approved.

**REPORTS:**

*President:* President Fajardo met with the University Police Department's Chief, John Guttierrez, Athletic Director, Shareef Amer, and Associate Director for Residential Education, Holly Allar last week. He had a 1:1 meeting with Dr. Oliverez. He attended the University Enterprise Corporation (UEC) Board meeting. There will be three new dining options offered at Santos Manuel Student Union (SMSU) South. This past weekend, he attended the California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary Zoom meeting. Once the CSU Multi-Year Tuition Proposal is passed on Wednesday, tuition will increase by six percent in 2024. He deferred to the following: Mr. Gonzalez who gave a detailed report on behalf of legislative affairs and Ms. Stone who gave a detailed report on behalf of programs.

*Vice President of Palm Desert Campus:* Mr. Rendon stated that the Rancho Mirage Student Center held a Roller Disco event on September 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Recreation Wellness Center started its weekly yoga program on September 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Basic Needs and Student Support department hosted its first monthly Palm Desert Campus (PDC) mobile market on September 12<sup>th</sup>. ASI hosted a Loteria Party on September 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Hispanic heritage month. The PDC Pack Welcome event was held on September 14<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the PDC Advisory Committee held its first meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

*College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Representative:* Mr. Chalk stated that the Student Success Center is holding bi-weekly workshops. He will be meeting with Dean Christina Hassija every third Thursday of the month.

*College of Business & Public Administration:* Ms. Alapati met with all the club presidents on September 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss student engagement. She met with Jessica Chavez, the Internship Coordinator.

*College of Arts & Letters:* Ms. McVicker spoke with the Liberal Studies and Liberal Arts students in the CAL 2970 classes on both campuses. She is currently arranging an appointment with the Dean and is continuing to brainstorm ideas on how to better promote Theatre Arts performances to students.

*Student-at-Large:* Ms. Adeoye stated that the Vacancy Committee is in the process of selecting additional students to the Board.

*Executive Director:* Dr. Rister stated that Robert Nava, Vice President for Advancement & Executive Director for CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation, has invited the Board to attend the 2023 Presidential Distinguished Lecture Series on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The Flags Initiative Ceremony will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Wall Street Journal will be offered as a free service for students by The Division of Student Affairs and ASI.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

M/S McVicker/Adeoye: To place BD 63-23 through BD 64-23 on a consent calendar. Passed (8/0/0).

The agenda was adopted as amended.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Angela Gillespie, Director of Strategic Communication and Brand Management introduced herself and her colleague Tracy Luu, UX designer for Digital Transformation. She stated that the new design for the homepage should be implemented by the end of the month. One of the goals was to make it more enticing for students. On the homepage, there will be a new section titled “Coyote Stories” that will highlight the stories from students and faculty on why they chose to attend this University. Tracy Luu stated that while creating the new homepage her goal was to make it more user friendly. Ms. Gillespie stated that when speaking to campus tour guides, she learned that prospective students wanted to see more information about current students and their experiences on campus.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**BD 56-23 M/S Chalk/McVicker: Permission to transfer \$17,000 from Unallocated Reserves to A.S. Corporate Operating – Supplies and Services (660003 RN001 A4200) to the 2023-2025 Human Resources Agreement between Associated Students Incorporated and the Santos Manuel Student Union.**

Dr. Rister stated that each year this agreement is made. This year's agreement is being extended for two years and the dollar amount is more due to an increase in the number of services being offered.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Adeoye, Alapati, Chalk, Fajardo, Laughlin, McVicker, Rendon and Rister.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: None.

Passed (8/0/0).

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **BD 62-23 M/S McVicker/Alapati: Discussion on ASI supporting the implementation of Follet Exclusive ACCESS program.**

Ms. Adeoye spoke in favor of Mr. Chalk.

Dr. Rister deferred to Dr. Rafik Mohamed, Dr. Bradford Owen and Dr. Carrie Barder.

Dr. Rafik Mohamed stated that this program is meant to help students save money on books. Students do better when they could own the materials needed for their classes and when professors are sensitive to the economic realities that students face.

Dr. Carrie Barder stated that as the coordinator of the Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) program, he strives to remove all financial barriers that could prohibit students' success. He stated that at least twenty percent of students choose not to buy at least one textbook due to the cost. This leads to two out of five students who receive a lower-than-expected grade. Currently, there is an Inclusive Access program in place that offers digital course materials to all students enrolled in a single course if their professor enrolls in the program. In this program, students have free access to their materials from the beginning of the semester until census day. After census day students are charged a reduced rate as part of the tuition and fees. The Equitable Access program is an extension of the currently available program. The difference between the two programs is that with the Equitable Access program, every student on both campuses will pay a flat fee per credit hour taken for all their course materials. This is roughly a cost of \$21.50 per credit hour or \$322.50 per semester for a full-time student. Anything beyond fifteen credit hours is free. The University estimates that currently students pay \$573 for course materials each semester. Students who determine that they can find their text books for cheaper elsewhere could opt out of the program. Currently, the Inclusive Access program has an eight percent opt-out rate. It's anticipated that twenty percent of students will opt out of the Exclusive Access program. The goal is to try out this program as a pilot in the Spring of this academic year.

Dr. Bradford Owen stated that last academic year there was a survey sent out to 100 students to ask their thoughts on this matter. A ratio of two to one students approved of testing the program.

M/S Rister/Adeoye: To extend the BoD meeting for 15 minutes. Passed.

Ms. Adeoye questioned how this program will help students who don't need books for all their classes but would still want to stay in the program. Dr. Carrie Barder stated that Follet isn't flexible for those cases since they need a guarantee that students will use the program.

Dr. Graham arrived at the meeting.

Dr. Graham stated that the timeline of when students would need to opt out of the program should coincide with financial aid. She is worried about the students forgetting to opt-out and then receiving a charge to their account. To help with this concern, Dr. Carrie Barder recommended that there is a presentation on the program for every student.

Discussion closed.

M/S Adeoye/Alapati: To open the following consent calendar:

**BD 63-23 Appointment of Dalaiah Graham as the Housing representative to the ASI Board of Directors.**

**BD 64-23 Appointment of Bhavish Balsara as the International representative to the ASI Board of Directors.**

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

In Favor: Adeoye, Chalk, Fajardo, Laughlin, McVicker, Rendon and Rister.

Opposed: None.

Abstentions: Alapati and Graham.

Passed (7/0/2).

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. Alapati stated that Tea with The Dean will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Rendon stated that the Houston Family Foundation has awarded a \$160,000 grant to the Nursing Street Medicine program at PDC.

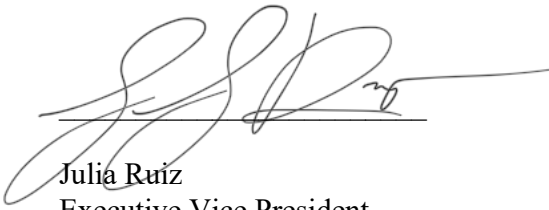
Ms. McVicker stated that she will be attending the Pow Wow this evening.

Mr. Chalk stated that a few of the faculty from the Political Science department are participating in the International Studies Association West Region conference. The Office of Student Research is sponsoring students who would like to attend the conference.

Mr. Fajardo stated that he plans on scheduling 1:1 meetings with Ms. Graham and Mr. Balsara soon.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.



Julia Ruiz  
Executive Vice President