



Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Day/Date: Thursday, May 9, 2024
 Time: 2:00- 4:15 PM
 Location: Board Room N/S- USU Room 303/303A
 Attendees: Board Members, General Public
 Type of Meeting: General

I. Organizational Items:

- **Land Acknowledgment:** With Great respect, Cal State LA acknowledges the Tongva people as the traditional caretaker of Tovaangar (TOE-van-gar) – the Tongva world, including the Los Angeles Basin, South Channel Islands, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, and portions of Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. Cal State LA is located within these lands. As an institution located on unceded Tongva land, we pay our respects to the ancestors, elders, and our relatives/relations, past, present, and Emerging. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university’s relationship to Native peoples. By offering this land Acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Cal State LA more accountable to the needs of American Indian Peoples.
- **Call to order by: Chair Yahir Flores, ASI President @ 2:03 pm**
- **Roll Call**

Yahir Flores	President	Present
Arwa Hammad	Vice President for Administration	Present
Andrew Klein	Vice President for Finance	Unexcused Tardy @2:06PM
Jenny Lucas	Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement	Present
Santhosh Kumar	Vice President for Academic Governance	Present
Cindy Nguyen	Chief of Staff	Present
Caitlin Calica	College of Health and Human Services Rep.	Excused Absence
Jared Blanco	College of Business & Economics Rep.	Present
Amit Bharath	College of Arts and Letters Rep.	Unexcused Absence
Nitesh Thorat	College of Engineering, Comp. Science & Technology Rep.	Unexcused Absence
VACANT	College of Natural & Social Sciences Rep.	N/A
VACANT	College of Education Rep.	N/A
Yadira Tellechea	College of Ethnic Studies Rep.	Present
VACANT	Civic Engagement Officer	N/A
Shivani Kotian	Diversity and Inclusion Officer	Present
Blanca Martinez-Navarro	AVP- Dean of Students	Excused Tardy @ 2:12 pm
Barnaby Peake	ASI Executive Director	Present
Dena Florez	Associate Executive Director	Present
Gus Salazar	Director of Graphics and Marketing	Present
Amanda Maldonado	Administrative Coordinator	Present
Ashley Foskey	Program Coordinator	Excused Tardy
Guests of the Gallery		

➤ Adoption of the Agenda

Offered By:	Arwa Hammad	Seconded by:	Shivani Kotian
Motion to Approve Agenda for Thursday, May 9, 2024			
Consensus reached			
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0
		Abstained	0
Motion: Passed			

➤ **Approval of the Minutes**

Offered By:	Arwa Hammad	Seconded by:	Jenny Lucas			
Motion to approve the Minutes for Thursday, April 25, 2024 Consensus Reached						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

II. Public Forum

- We will now move on to Public Comment. This time is allotted for the public to bring up comments or concerns of interest to the board. Please be advised that due to a set agenda, the board will not address the items brought up at this time but will note them down for the Executive Committee’s review and action. If members of the public would like to be followed up with directly, please provide your contact information through the QR code on the door or through the form provided on the ASI website meeting agenda. We will now call on members of the public in order of registration before moving on to the general public.

III. Informational Items

➤ **A conversation with President Eanes – Time specific 2:15-2:45**

- The university has seen significant student registration for the commencement at the LA Convention Center, with 89% of the class registered, totaling over 5,000 students. Despite some preferring an on-campus ceremony, the administration will assess the suitability of the new venue. The focus now shifts to campus tuition and shared governance.
- The university president acknowledges a successful year and emphasizes the importance of student roles in governance. She plans to review representation and engagement in committees and ensure regular budget presentations and updates from vice presidents. She aims to improve collaboration and consultation with the administration.
- The president has met with numerous individuals and groups and plans to continue these interactions to understand campus concerns better. She addresses the recent student encampment protests, supporting freedom of speech and offering security, though students declined. She respects the campus culture and concerns about university police.
- Safety concerns remain a priority, with ongoing communication and monitoring of the protest. There have been no incidents of violence, though there was significant graffiti vandalism, which was promptly cleaned up. The administration remains committed to maintaining safety and addressing student concerns.
- The president highlights the need for careful communication and support for student leaders, ensuring their voices are heard. She reassures that any implications of anti-Semitism or other serious accusations are handled with sensitivity and emphasizes the importance of maintaining a safe, inclusive environment for all students.

Andrew Klein: The university has recently made a significant investment in the SCORE program, which aims to transition courses from expensive textbooks to open-source materials. A one-time investment of \$90,000 was made to support this initiative, as it had been underfunded. This funding helps compensate professors for the time and effort required to switch to open-source materials, which can save students a substantial amount of money.

So far, the program has saved students approximately \$65,000, with each semester seeing compounded savings as more classes transition away from traditional textbooks. The initiative aligns with broader efforts at various institutions to promote affordable textbooks and reduce the financial burden on students. The success of the SCORE program is highlighted by its significant return on investment, and continued support for this initiative is encouraged to further benefit students.

Student: Thank you, Andrew. I learned about the SCORE program through your social media, where you highlighted the money saved by students. However, I couldn't find much additional information online. Could you provide a detailed analysis or report on the program's impact?

Andrew Klein: Explains that the SCORE program, which partners with the library to replace textbooks with open-source materials, has been significantly more effective than the previous textbook reimbursement program. The previous program reimbursed students up to \$50 for textbooks, while the SCORE program provides savings at a seven-to-one ratio. This initiative not only saves students a considerable amount of money but also differentiates the university from

others. Despite rising tuition costs, this program helps mitigate expenses for students, particularly in courses where textbooks can cost up to \$300 each. The university should consider continuing and promoting this valuable program.

Jenny Lucas: For my classes, I've noticed various safety concerns on campus. Public safety can be inconsistent, and I believe it would be very beneficial to have an emergency call button (ECG) to ensure students' safety at all times. We did have a few safety reviews and analyzed several areas on campus. Some issues identified included non-functioning lights and some inoperative emergency call stations. Additionally, considering the transit center, it would be prudent to install an emergency call button there, given the potential risks and the presence of many people, including non-university individuals.

Andrew Klein: Yesterday, I witnessed a vagrant attempting to steal a woman's phone near the transit center, which was quite distressing. I strongly agree with Jenny that improved lighting on campus is essential, and I support the idea of increased security or police presence at the transit center.

➤ **State of Affairs Report – President Flores**

- **Programs and Events:**
 - Notable Programs: Eddie's Roses, Election Watch Party, National Voter Registration Drive, Tip Tuesday, Project Green Challenge, and more.
 - Themes: Intentionality, inclusivity, and creating safe spaces for students. Programs were tailored to current trends and interests.
 - Feedback: Students appreciated events like "Spilled Tea" for creating direct interaction between students and administration.
- **Communication and Participation:**
 - Challenges: Inconsistent communication and lack of engagement in meetings. Only a few individuals frequently participated.
 - Improvements Needed: Clear communication expectations, better engagement in meetings, and more effective use of email.
- **Support and Training:**
 - Areas for Support: Communication, bi-weekly reports, engagement hours, program proposals, parliamentary procedures, and knowledge of university resources.
 - Proposed Solutions: Enhanced training during summer, clear documentation of roles and expectations, and more robust onboarding processes.
- **Future Plans:**
 - Enhancements: Focus on improving member retention, communication, and participation.
 - Long-term Goals: To be defined by the strategic plan developed during summer and fall.
- The report concludes with an emphasis on continued progress and the importance of fostering relationships across the university, improving training, and enhancing overall ASI operations.

➤ **ASI Awards**

- Gus Salazar: Firstly, I want to thank everyone who participated in the recent Screamin' Eagles initiative. We've gathered valuable feedback and ideas from your team during testing, which we're incorporating into our plans. We appreciate your contributions and look forward to continuing this collaboration into the fall, with more volunteers joining us for summer activities. We're also developing leadership training and integrating these efforts into orientation to further promote our goals.
- Yahir Flores: As a token of appreciation, we'll be presenting some fun awards to recognize individuals who exemplify the characteristics we value. These awards are meant to acknowledge dedication and hard work, and I want to assure everyone that more opportunities for recognition will follow. Thank you all once again for your ongoing support and contributions.

IV. Action Items

- [2024-2025 Annual Budget approval](#) – as recommended by the Finance Committee

Andrew Klein:

- ◆ The Finance Board is reviewing the annual budget, aiming to approve next year's budget with adjustments based on financial recommendations. Expected revenue is budgeted to decrease due to declining enrollment and long-standing fee rates unaffected by inflation. However, a potential reconciliation check from the comptroller in summer could alter these projections.
- ◆ On the revenue side, bringing banking services in-house has increased revenue by \$85,000, though some clubs have disbanded, allowing redistribution of funds only within club accounts.
- ◆ Personnel expenses reflect adjustments due to minimum wage increases, resulting in reduced student assistant salaries during breaks and changes in staff salary steps to maintain cost of living adjustments.
- ◆ Other increases include rising medical and insurance costs, while cost-saving measures include reduced staff travel and decreased equipment lease expenses after recent replacements.
- ◆ Declining enrollment affects fee collection services revenue, while increased costs for utilities, minimum wage-related services, and insurance premiums impact operational expenses.
- ◆ Programming cuts include eliminating ASI scholarships and awards, redirecting funds from discontinued programs like the Junior Resource Center and Veterans Resource Center due to financial constraints.
- ◆ Overall, despite revenue declines being less severe than anticipated, the budget maintains stability with reduced expenses, enabling retention of reserves and fiscal responsibility.

Yahir Flores: Expresses his reflection on the past weeks which include being quite drained from consistently sharing his thoughts, perspectives, and concerns about the budget. He already articulated his priorities and expressed his disagreements clearly. Now, I simply ask the board: "Is there a motion on the budget?"

Offered By:	Andrew Klein		Seconded by:	Arwa Hammad		
Motion to approve the 2024-25 Budget Consensus Reached						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

- [ASI Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire in the Gaza Strip](#) – The board will consider taking action passing this resolution

Yahir Flores: The board revisited the resolution for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, initially discussed weeks ago. A revised version, including a new clause on bid results (page 11, clause nine), was presented for consideration. The resolution, collaboratively developed with input from various stakeholders including Students for Justice in Palestine and legal advisors, aims to address human rights issues affecting Palestinian people in higher education institutions across the United States. It emphasizes the importance of ending silencing of student voices and advocating against injustices such as genocide. Further discussion was encouraged on how to proceed with the resolution.

Andrew Klein: Expresses support for students knowing how funds are allocated, particularly for scholarships. Andrew highlighted concerns about the complexity of investments through various vehicles and the need for clarity. He acknowledges challenges in divesting from companies related to Israel, citing broad implications including government bonds. He emphasized the importance of a dashboard or similar tool for students to monitor the foundation's performance, as it directly impacts scholarship availability.

Yadira Tellechea: Addresses concerns about the resolution's language regarding defamation, emphasizing that it's about mobilizing support rather than demanding immediate approval. They clarified that the resolution calls for initiating negotiations and starting the process of divestment from Israel, rather than demanding immediate compliance. They highlighted the importance of clarity in the demands outlined, stressing that they are urging action to address ongoing issues rather than dictating immediate acceptance.

Barnaby Peake: Expresses concern about the current resolution and emphasized the need for careful consideration due to the complexity and potential financial implications of supporting divestment demands. He highlighted the lack of

detailed information about Cal State investments and potential ramifications of divestment, questioning whether ASI should endorse demands without further clarity. He suggests tabling the resolution to gather more information and engage in ongoing discussions to fully understand the implications and negotiate responsibly.

Dena Florez: Expresses support for the intentions behind the resolution supporting Palestinian rights but emphasized the need for more clarity on its potential impacts, including financial implications and the broader effects on student programs like study abroad. They called for further examination and thoughtful consideration before making decisions that could significantly impact various aspects of ASI's operations and funding priorities. The speaker highlighted the importance of understanding all implications and ensuring decisions are well-balanced and informed.

Offered By:	Andrew Klein	Seconded by:	Arwa Hammad			
Motion to Table ASI Resolution Calling a Ceasefire in the Gaza Strip						
Consensus Reached						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

V. Discussion Items

➤ **ASI Impact Report**

Yahir Flores: Reflects on their term as President of ASI, highlighting the progress made in addressing student concerns and advocating for their needs. They expresses gratitude to the board members for their contributions, perspectives, and lived experiences, which enriched discussions throughout the year. Yahir acknowledges the challenges faced and the efforts made by everyone involved in ASI. They thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as President and for supporting them through the ups and downs of the role. He extends well wishes to graduating members and encourages them to carry forward the lessons learned, and values upheld during their time in ASI. He invited everyone to an upcoming event and expressed hope to see familiar faces in the future.

➤ **Student Concerns & ASI Feedback Survey**

➤ **ASI Feedback Survey**

VI. Adjournment

Offered By:	Cindy Nguyen	Seconded by:	Yadira Tellechea			
Motion to adjourn the meeting 4:15 PM.						
Consensus to adjourn the meeting - Consensus reached.						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

CERTIFICATION

Official Minutes taken for the ASI Board of Directors Meeting of the Associated Students, Inc., Cal State Los Angeles held on May 9, 2024, in Board Room N/S- USU Room 303/303A, University Student Union Building and were approved by consensus by the ASI Board of Director on Monday, June 17, 2024.

Prepared by:

Mariah Garcia- Recording Secretary

Cindy Nguyen- Chief of Staff