



# Board of Directors Meeting

## Minutes

Day/Date: Thursday, September 19, 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 @ 2:05 pm**
- **Roll Call**

Yahir Flores	President	Present
Caitlin Jane Calica	Vice President for Community Engagement	Unexcused Absence
VACANT	Vice President for Finance	N/A
Arwa Mohamed Hammad	Vice President for External Affairs	Present
Santhosh Kumar	Vice President for University Affairs	Unexcused Absence
Cindy Nguyen	Chief of Staff	Present
Valerie Canizales	College of Health and Human Services Rep.	Present
VACANT	College of Business & Economics Rep.	N/A
Victoria Gragasín Montoya	College of Arts and Letters Rep.	Present
Preet Jadhav	College of Engineering, Comp. Science & Technology Rep.	Present
Ananya Sharma	College of Natural & Social Sciences Rep.	Present
VACANT	College of Education Rep.	N/A
VACANT	College of Ethnic Studies Rep.	N/A
Natasha Booka Raghu	Civic Engagement Officer	Excused Absence
Briana Goytizolo	Diversity and Inclusion Officer	Present
Blanca Martínez-Navarro	AVP- Dean of Students	Excused Tardy
Barnaby Peake	ASI Executive Director	Present
Dena Florez	Associate Executive Director	Excused Absence
Gus Salazar	Director of Graphics and Marketing	Excused Absence
Amanda Maldonado	Administrative Coordinator	Present
Ashley Foskey	Program Coordinator	Excused Absence
Guests of the Gallery		

➤ **Adoption of the Agenda**

Offered By:	Arwa Hammad	Seconded by:	Ananya Sharma			
Motion to approve the Agenda for Thursday September 19, 2024. Consensus reached						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

➤ **Approval of the Minutes**

Offered By:	Briana Goytizolo	Seconded by:	Victoria Montoya			
Motion to approve the Minutes for Thursday, Thursday September 5, 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**

➤ **Spirit week – ASI & Athletics**

- Yahir flores gives an update on spirit week and the collaboration with Athletics
- Barnaby goes over the agenda for the week.
- Valeries asks if any promotions were sent out to the colleges.
- Amanda shares that an email was sent out university wide regarding the events.

➤ **Financial Aid & Scholarship Office Presentation**

- Linda Lopez, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships gave a presentation about the office, new FAFSA changes, and recent struggles.
- Students are encouraged to check their GET account routinely as it can be dynamic by semester and as grants and scholarships come in. Financial aid is disbursed 10 days before the semester, refunds typically happen within the first week of the semester. Recent campus initiatives include Development of FAFSA Simplification Task Force, Community Engagement through Counselor Conference Campaigns with local high schools, Multiple Campus Partnerships and Communication Efforts. 94% of CSULA Students received financial aid in the 2022-2023 Academic Year
- Ananya asked if there are any vacant student positions
- Linda clarified there are a few positions listed on Handshake
- Victoria asked about the estimated financial aid award letters
- Linda clarified that during the admissions cycle, the FA office still needs to provide an estimated award letter for students who are in the admissions process or incoming to give them an idea of what they can get. The true financial aid award typically comes once students are admitted and submit all the needed documents.
- Valerie asked about Federal Work Study and how coordinators proceed with it
- Linda clarified that the previous coordinator and most communications with the university is manual, which can prevent the maximization of Federal Work Study opportunities. However, they are aiming to change that as well as updating their website to prevent delays.

➤ **Welcome from Presidents Chief of Staff**

- Victor Rojas the President’s Chief of Staff shares updates on what they are working on in the campus. There is a 12.4% fiscal budget deficit this year (24-25) and the state is projecting that there will be an 8% budget deficit for next year (25-26), which may trickle down to campuses aid. There is also a financial transparency website that is open for public access.
- Ananya mentioned that with budget cuts, many courses have been removed. She asked if the financial transparency website would be a good redirect.
- Victor suggested that they be referred to Provost since for this term it was agreed for courses to not be cut.
- Ananya asked if there are any plans to reduce the deficit.
- Victor clarified that enrollment is a large factor that is hard to control and many other factors like FTEs, grants, auxiliary funds, and college budgets all affect how we are being funded.

- Victoria asked about the dropping of the research lab course.
- Victor referred the Board to Provost, Dr. Amy Bippus can speak about the academic affairs as he does not want to misspeak.
- Blanca encouraged everyone to reflect on the ways we can make the campus a desirable place for students to go to.
- Victor brought up the calstatela.edu website that reflects aspects of Cal State LA that are meant to bring students in

#### IV. Action Items

##### ➤ Appointment of Vice President for Finance

- Yahir shares why he is recommending Alonso Villanueva for VPF.

Offered By:	Valerie Canizales	Seconded by:	Briana Goytizolo			
Motion to appointment Alonso Villanueva as Vice President for Finance Consensus reached.						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

##### ➤ Removal of ASI Executive Officer

- Yahir goes over the history of Santhosh's removal (i.e. timeline of issued warning letters, missing meetings, and performance warnings in accordance with policy).
- Victoria asked if absences/tardies were the only performance fall aspect of his removal.
- Yahir clarified that it was a main factor, but there were additional concerns regarding his duties and responsibilities in the role.
- Blanca acknowledged the difficulty in the nature of such conversations and shared her respect for the accountability measures taken by the individuals involved. She also recognized the multiple opportunities where Santhosh failed to engage in conversation.
- Yahir clarified that it was not an easy conversation and how the expectations for everyone's role was clearly communicated
- Ananya asked if warning letters were sent out
- Yahir and Cindy clarified yes
- Briana asked if Santhosh was aware of his removal
- Yahir clarified Santhosh has not reached out for clarification
- Valerie commented on her frustration over vacancies.
- Briana asked if this was his first year in ASI
- Yahir clarified it was his third year in ASI, and this was his second year in the Vice President role.

Offered By:	Cindy Nguyen	Seconded by:	Valerie Canizales			
Motion to remove Santhosh Kumar from his ASI Executive Officer Position as Vice President for University Affairs. Secret Ballot was casted Consensus reached.						
All in Favor	5	Opposed	1	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

#### V. Discussion Items

##### ➤ 2024-2025 Budget Revisions

- Barnaby went over the Budget revisions.
  - In July a fee reconciliation took place and there was an additional \$57K, that has been added in the revenue section.
  - Other revenue section, took \$300 out of misc. income and added it to consignment sales
  - Personnel Expenses, as we continue to take on our own payroll there will be some additional charges we need to a count for.
  - Student Government, the first GIA came out of last year's budget therefore, we reduce the line item to show the accurate number for this year.
  - Budget Summary, any additional money or savings we have it is going to the reserves so we can bring down the number.

Offered By:	Briana Goytizolo	Seconded by:	Cindy Nguyen			
Motion to table any action or discussion items left. Consensus reached.						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

**VI. Adjournment**

Offered By:	Cindy Nguyen	Seconded by:	Victoria Montoya			
Motion to adjourn the meeting 4:13 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 September 19, 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 Thursday, October 3, 2024.

Prepared by:

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Kaina Orozco - Recording Secretary

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Cindy Nguyen - Chief of Staff