



Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Location: Alhambra Room – USU Room 305
Type of Meeting: General

Time: 10:00 am – 11:15 am
Attendees: Committee Members, General Public

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.

A. Call to order by: Natalie Torres, Vice President for External Affairs @ 10:12 AM

B. Roll Call

Natalie Torres	Vice President for External Affairs	Present
Emily Webb	Public Service Commissioner	Present
Andrew Chang	Diversity & Inclusion Commissioner	Unexcused Absence
Ashley Bellorin	ASI President	Present
Jazmine Rocha	Vice President for University Affairs	Unexcused Absence
Maria Garcia	College of Natural and Social Sciences Representative	Present
Ekiria Magala	College of Ethnic Studies Representative	Unexcused Absence
Barnaby Peake	ASI Executive Director	Present
River Foskey	Program Coordinator	Excused Absence
Guests of the Gallery		

C. Approval of Agenda

Offered By:	Emily Webb	Seconded by:	Maria Garcia			
Motion to approve the agenda for September 2, 2026						
Consensus reached – Yes						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

- II. Public Comment:** 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 committee. 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 public.

III. Information Items

A. ASI-LAAC Code of Procedures Review

Barnaby: Explains what code of procedures is – this committee is focused on research for legislation at the campus, local, and state levels to find out what students need, if we need to send anything to legislation, and what to advocate for students. This committee focuses on advocacy more than other committees and the Board. Explains who sit on the committee and how we can recruit students for the at large positions. Responsibility for chair and vice chair. We can call special meetings if something happens in legislation that needs to be discussed.

Ashley: Explains why Andrew was unable to make the meeting.

B. California State Student Association

Natalie: encourages members to visit the CSSA website to learn more about what CSSA is. Explains that Ashley and Natalie sit on CSSA committees on behalf of CSULA, they also network, and potentially meet public figures. Offers help through email or discord if a member needs help understanding or further explanation on CSSA.

IV. Discussion Items

A. ASI Advocacy Agenda

Natalie: There are three main goals that are broad, made in July and can be changed or expanded to fit the students' needs for the school year. Goal one is restructuring to improve efficiency of the committee to train and empower students, develop a training program for the members for at large seats, and track legislation policies for state and local government. Goal two is to increase opportunities for students to be more involved in leg or civic activities, which would include field trips, host on campus student advocacy conferences, and filling the at large positions. Finding interested specialties, like resolutions or proposals, and monthly updates through the sauce and Instagram. Goal three is to prepare students through the election cycle, which is important with the election coming up (NVRD and other events.)

Barnaby: Brought up last year as well but noticed a lot of external basing instead of internal, besides building and training our committees. Asks where the focus is for students on campus, like parking and elevators. Doesn't criticize just wants to put more focus on the campus. Bring in the parking director and others to get clarification for students. Mentions that this committee can partner with shared gov for the town hall to gather information on what students need and want to see on campus. Make sure we allocate time for advocating for things like these

Natalie: this specific agenda is more for legislative instead of advocacy and we will discuss more advocacy moving forward

Maria: Can we also advocate for graduate students since graduate students don't get as much financial aid as undergraduate students

Natalie: Committee can definitely look into that after building a foundation with students.

Ashley: great point from maria, has been a point since last year when SUG grants were cut for graduate students. Explains how the tiers work for financial aid, undergraduate, other programs, and then graduate students.

Ashley: At CSSA they explained how financial aid is distributed equally, but they wanted to give financial aid based on what campus needs it most

Maria: Mentions how international and undocumented students can't work on campus due to not having a work permit

Ashley: At CSUnity, a speaker that worked for a place that gives funding for financial aid mentioned how difficult it is for students who re undocumented to get a job on or off campus. A lot of students attending CSUs are undocumented.

Maria: It depends on the scholarship, student, and campus if they can work on campus; asks about if voter guide will be explained to students.

Natalie: Explains that this is just a guide and we can do more or not do every step.

B. CSSA Policy Agenda Form

Natalie: Asks if anyone submitted something for the policy agenda as it closed yesterday

Ashley: Submitted one for basic needs as it goes over broad and systemwide issues. also submitted something for public transportation. Tried to be as broad as possible

Emily: Focused on affordability in housing because it is a systemwide issue and it was mentioned throughout CSUnity from multiple campuses. Mentioned CSULA housing problems for emergency housing. Mentioned SFSU fired RA's and only gave them three days to find new housing.

Barnaby: Went beyond state and submitted for federal and what they have been doing to infringe on funding for universities for research, etc. And as the largest university system it is our responsibility to call out these issues and get other university systems to join. CSSA could potentially reach out to other states and together we can come together and do something about federal funding.

Maria: Did not submit but had a question about the U-Pass being expensive for students.

Emily: Mentions the U-Pass used to be free for students through the U-SU but due to the budget cuts the U-SU could not provide the passes anymore

Maria: Asks if the U-Pass would be a priority if student fees are raised

Emily: Will bring that up the Executive Director Megan Bell

C. CSSA Systemwide Interest

Nattie: Form is open on discord, is a way to engage with CSSA without sitting on the official committees, and they are more specialized, meetings are online, encourages members to join to learn more about CSSA.

D. Civic Calendar Review

Natalie: Debrief on what activities for voting we are having

1. CSU Ballot Bowl

Natalie: Hosted by the California Secretary of State, civic challenge to increase voter registration for CSUs.

2. CIVIC Challenge

Natalie: Essentially the same thing as ballot bowl, to increase civic engagement, hosted by CSSA, get students informed on voting measures, encourages members to volunteer

Emily: Tells Maria the ballot bowl is the voter registration events with explanation of ballot measures.

NVRD/Voter Fest is for registration, ballots and burritos people will be coming to speak about the ballot measures in a nonpartisan point of view, and election watch party in housing.

Nattie: Wanted to add everything is tentative as of right now, wanting to talk to executive members on ASI board and potential collaborations.

V. Action Items

VI. Reports

A. Members

Natalie: CSSA plenary virtual meeting, received a message from the Leg affairs from CSSA about bills that will be discussed next meeting.

B. Advisors

VII. Adjournment

Offered By:	Emily Webb	Seconded by:	Maria Garcia			
Motion to adjourn the meeting @ 10:45 am Consensus reached - Yes						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

CERTIFICATION

Official Minutes taken for the ASI Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Committee Meeting of the Associated Students, Inc., Cal State Los Angeles held on September 2, 2026, at Alhambra Room - USU Room 305 and were approved by consensus by the ASI Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Committee Meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Prepared by:

Emily Webb - Public Service Commissioner

Sophia Gamino - Executive Vice President