Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Meeting **Minutes**

DRAFT

Date: Wednesday, October 14th, 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 @ 10:15 am

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Agenda

Offered By:	Maria		Seconded by:		Ekiria	
Motion to approve the agenda for October 14th, 2026 Consensus reached Yes						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

D. Certification of Minutes (postponed to next meeting)

Offered By:	Ekiria		Seconded by:		Maria	
Motion to table the minutes for September 30th, 2026 Consensus reached Yes						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

II. Public Comment

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.

Omar from the office of External Affairs for the University: introduction to him and what his office does

Dena: This committee has a lobby corps for local, state, and federal. Wants our students to be prepared, she is a school board member. Suggests we start training for CHESS.

III. Information Items

A. CSSA Plenary 10/2026

Natalie: discusses agenda for the upcoming plenary meeting her and Ashley will be attending at Chico state
Ekiria: mentions the link for the last meeting was wrong and she was unable to join
Natalie: Asks if there's a specific committee that Ekiria is interested in
Ekiria: wants to take a look at all of them
Natalie: suggests making a public comment if there are any concerns

B. ASI Town Hall Review

Natalie: Discusses her zone from the town hall and the main issues that were brough to their attention such as DEI, resources, certain academic settings can be discouraging for students, and some proposals that they gave. Asks if anyone has anything to say about the town hall
Emily: Discusses Zone 5 main two concerns were a lack of financial aid for grad students even though grad students pay the most tuition. Specifically mentions the MBA program has to pay an extra $300 per unit for a 9-unit class since they don't write a thesis. The second concern was there's no advisors for grad students, the advisors typically are department chairs or program directors
Dena: Mentions the MBA program to further state her public comment and why it's important to bounce ideas and get input from students. Raises a question about why grad students pay more
Natalie: recognizes Andrew at 10:42 am
Emily: mentions she has never paid more than $4,000 until becoming a grad student, and she is taking less units than in undergrad. Explains the difference between MBA and MSBA and how the MSBA does not have to pay the extra fee
Ekiria: responds to the extra fee for MBA and suggests having a conversation to explain why the COA for grad students is more expensive than undergrad. Talks about the zone she was in and the main issues were a lot of students are confused on how to develop a path forward for themselves. They go to advise appointments but don't know what to ask and the meetings feel rushed. They need help being exposed to outside for their career. They talked about AI use and what's appropriate for classes and professors not always knowing how to educate students on AI use. Limited number of classes and classes being at the same time
Andrew: adds onto the limited number of classes even if the class is necessary for graduation. Some classes are being prioritized over others and it's not accurate for number of students attending the classes.
Maria: Transportation and parking fees are expensive

C. College Voter Education Series

Natalie: ASI tabling for voter awareness and participation in ballot bowl
Ekiria: encourages sending a message to ASI about submitting a voter plan
Dena: Agrees and asks if we can provide a template or a guideline for how to
Emily: suggest we ask Gus and Daniela about posting on social media
Natalie: responds that there is ongoing plan already

D. ABCT/BCTN/Coalition

Natalie: explains what ABCT (Advancing better college teaching) and BTCN (Better teaching college network) are and she has completed her orientation to sit on the committees for CSULA for a two-year term and would be working with administrators to see how the teaching practices at CSULA reflect the needs of our students

IV. Discussion Items

A. Student Conduct

Natalie: Wanted to discuss the student conduct handbook and connect it with town hall. Wanted to have the dean of students come and present on it
Ekiria: Asks how the process works when filing a report and if there's appeal potential
Natalie: there can be an appeal but explains the process is a one-on-one with the correct administrator, but the process can vary by case
Ekiria: asking if student affairs handles it and if there are students involved
Dena: students sit on the appeal board, and the report would go through with your advisor and then an appeals board

Emily: explains how to file a report using the website: look up appeals handbook for CSULA, go to care services then nonacademic grievance and it will direct you to the report and explain how to fill it out
Natalie: explains that detailed reports are better
Ekiria: explains that CSI and dean of students can help file a report and fill it out

B. CSULA Action Plan

Natalie: the civic empowerment action plan was submitted by the administrators. The document contains a report about the campus community, what our goals are, and measurements, and potential future plans
Omar: explains that it outlines our current efforts and looking ahead to justify and funds CSULA get and reimbursements we may receive
Natalie: this report would help plan next year's civic engagement and advocacy plan
Dena: suggests starting the advocacy plan at the end of the semester and build the advocacy calendar and the chair should appoint someone to start working on it and take lead for the project.
Natalie: explains it would be part of our transition report

C. Eagle Off-Campus: Civic Trip

Natalie: Wants to finalize plans for a potential civic field trip like LA city hall
Dena: the idea was to go to a city hall meeting but suggests if we want to be productive, we can get, read, or even be a part of an agenda. Suggests going to our districts council meeting and try on get in the agenda
Ekiria: asks what the timing for this trip would be
Natalie: hoping for early spring
Ekiria: suggests maybe getting to meet the mayor
Natalie: asks if there are any other suggestions for the trip
Omar: organized an event at city hall which was branded at CSULA day at city hall and there was an introduction to the city hall members and a resolution. Suggests this could be a yearly event where we could lobby at the local level and relationship building opportunities and goes into. Ore detail about what the event was. Mentions next year is the 80th CSULA anniversary, which could be a great lobbying opportunity.
Dena: Asks when the event would be
Omar: Nothing set but potentially April or May
Dena: this would be a great opportunity for ASI, political science students, and other students and suggests asking river for helping plan the event

D. Social Media Campaign

Natalie: Social media campaign to get more voter registration

E. Civic Calendar Review

Natalie: We are participating in the ballot bowl until election day and we are participating with CSUDH for the civic challenge until the end of the school year

V. Action Items

A. ASI-LAAC Survey

Natalie: leg affairs survey has been revised since last meeting after taking our suggestions and is asking for approval to use for the survey

Offered By:	Emily		Seconded by:		Maria	
Motion to approve action item A: ASI-LAAC Survey Consensus reached Yes						
All in Favor	All	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: Passed

VI. Reports

A. Members

Natalie: reminder about CSSA plenary and will bring back a report for next meeting

B. Advisors

Omar: will be presenting next meeting about his position and department

VII. Adjournment

Offered By:	Ekiria		Seconded by:		Maria	
Motion to adjourn the meeting @ 11:13 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 October 14, 2026, at Alhambra Room – USU Room 305 and were approved by consensus by the ASI Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Committee Meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Prepared by:

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Emily Webb – Vice Chair

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Sophia Gamino – Executive Vice President