Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Meeting **Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, October 28th, 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 @ 10:10 am

B. Roll Call

Natalie Torres	Vice President for External Affairs	Present
Emily Webb	Public Service Commissioner	Present
Andrew Chang	Diversity & Inclusion Commissioner	Excused absence
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	Present
River Foskey	Program Coordinator	Excused absence
Omar Gonzalez	Executive Director of External Affairs and University Relations	Present

C. Approval of Agenda

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

D. Certification of Minutes

Offered By:	Ekiria		Seconded by:		Maria	
Motion to certify the minutes for September 30th, 2026 & October 14th, 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.

III. Information Items

A. CSSA Plenary 10/2026

Natalie: overview of CSSA plenary
Emily: Asks if there was any conversation about grad students
Natalie: They did not and they will hopefully be talking about a course of action for grad students financial situation next plenary
Ekiria: asking if there is any bills being written by CSSA currently
Natalie: they are not working on bills currently, but they are supporting some bills
Ekiria: wonders how CSSA decides what to support

B. Executive Director Presentation

Natalie: Introduces Omar's presentation
Omar: gives a presentation about his position and what his office does for the university
Dena: says our students need to be better prepared for CHESS because it makes a huge difference, issues that need to be addressed is financial aid and housing, students should not be living out of their car, and we need to start figuring out what issues we will be bringing up at CHESS to make sure we have all the information

C. CSSA Voter Education

Natalie: Voter education guide that was presented at CSSA which included information for ballot bowl, election information, etc.
Barnaby: asks if Natalie knows Mary Washington well
Natalie: not well but does know her
Barnaby: suggests that Omar get into contact with her

IV. Discussion Items

A. Advocacy Agenda Preparation

Natalie: wants to start developing the advocacy agenda preparation
Barnaby: great idea to start now for the summer group to start prepping for the next academic year and to lay the groundwork. Keep in mind priorities may change
Natalie: asks about our year end impact report
Barnaby: explains that it helps with goals for the future board

B. LAAC Structure Guide

Natalie: overview of CSSA civic engagement plan guide and that CSSA is starting to collect federal one pager to bring to CHESS
Barnaby: our board did one last year that was well received
Natalie: overview of different types of priorities and reference example for the one pager. Overview of CHESS planning and that there will be a training we will be doing. Start collecting student testimonies, as suggested by Omar. Overview of who to contact for help for government relations.
Ekiria: asking if allocation for R1 and non R1 universities wouldn't go over well, also explains what an R1 is and CSULA is an R2
Barnaby: explains that Cal State LA doesn't have the facilities for an R1 so this would be a good opportunity to ask for funding so we can continue our research and making it better. Concerned because the federal government has cut research funding in general
Natalie: document is suggestions we can look at to bring to CHESS
Omar: explains emerging research institutions and that we should advocate for funding for that (CSULA is an ERI) and asking for funding for that may not go over well with R1's but explains it's not taking away from them and we want more funding so we can continue research and provide more PhD and doctorate programs. Says the document is a great start for CHESS
Natalie: document is open ended and just a small debrief that CSSA wrote. Continues overview of document
Natalie: federal one pager google form and submissions before next CSSA plenary
Ekiria: asking is they combine the campuses one pagers instead of using all 22 campuses
Natalie: correct and the broader the better
Maria, Barnaby, and Ekiria: asking if we each submit or just one submission
Natalie: just one federal one pager for and is going to ask for suggestions so she can start it
Maria: suggests making sure people know there will only be the singular one pager
Natalie: most of the deadlines are in November so more information will be provided after the next plenary

V. Action Items

VI. Reports

A. Members

Natalie: election is next Tuesday so encourage students to do the voter plan submission for ballot bowl participation

Ekiria: advocacy point could be expansion of mental health programs because CAPS is already full and they have to send students elsewhere which could be unfair since not all students have insurance or the ability to go somewhere else

B. Advisors

Barnaby: we could invite the CAPS director to share data on this issue and expands on Ekiria's point about limited availability

VII. Adjournment

Offered By:	Ekiria		Seconded by:		Maria	
Motion to adjourn the meeting @ 11:15 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 28, 2026, at Alhambra Room – USU Room 305 and were approved by consensus by the ASI Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Committee Meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2026.

Prepared by:

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Emily Webb – Vice Chair

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Sophia Gamino – Executive Vice President