

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 12:23PM**
- II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** - We would like to recognize that while we gather at California State University East Bay located in Hayward, CA, we are gathered on the ethno-historic tribal territory of the intermarried Jalquin (hal-keen) / Yrgin (eer-gen) Chochenyo-Ohlone-speaking tribal group, who were the direct ancestors of some of the lineages enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, and who were missionized into Missions San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Jose.

It is important that we not only recognize the history of the land of the Jalquin/Yrgin on which we gather to learn and participate, but also recognize that the First People of this region – the Muwekma Ohlone People, are alive and thriving members of the Hayward and broader Bay Area communities today.

It is of great importance to acknowledge the significance of this Holše Warep (hol-sheh wah-rehp) ~ Beautiful Land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone People of this region. We ask everyone who attends or visits Cal State University East Bay in Hayward, to be respectful of the aboriginal lands of the Muwekma Ohlone People, and consistent with their principles of community and diversity strive to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, on whose land you are their guests.

- III. LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** - We acknowledge the labor of enslaved African peoples and Indigenous communities whose exploitation helped build the economic and institutional foundations of this country. We also recognize the contributions of immigrant and migrant workers, including those from Asian, Latin American, and Pacific communities, whose labor continues to sustain our economy and institutions. As we move into today's work, we commit to making decisions grounded in equity, awareness, and responsibility.

Motion to appoint **Y. Avhad** as a Vice chair of the Board of director meeting on September 2nd 2026 by **J. Tecson**, seconded by **A. Arnold**. **Motion Approved.**

Y. Avhad is appointed as a vice chair of the meeting.



IV. ROLL CALL

Present: Casey Pangilinan, Harshvhardan Mukesh Patel, Yashica Ahvad, John Christian Tecson, Analise Grajeda, Avalina Arnold, Sai Sravan Andhavarapu, Chinonso Elendu, Ian Cohen, Jose Bonilla, Priya Boddu, Nandini Jhaveri, Venkatesh Katta, Shruthi Kondapally, Kamil Ahmed, Martin Castillo, James Carroll, Erick Loreda, My-Lan Huynh, Steve Spencer, Jul Custodio, Dr. Benjamin Smith, Kabir Dhillon, Desiree Cuevas.

Absent: Matthias N. Dempsey

V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda

Motion to table action item until next BOD meeting and Action Item D and Action Item E and Action Item E to end of the meeting by **Y. Avhad**, Seconded by **A. Arnold**. **Motion Approved.**

Motion to approve the agenda of Board of Directors meeting on September 2nd 2026 by **Y. Avhad**, seconded by **S. Andhavarapu**. **Motion Approved.**

VI. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of August 19, 2026

Motion to approve the Minutes of Board of Directors meeting on August 19, 2026 by **I. Cohen**, seconded by **A. Grajeda**. **Motion Approved**

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.

No Public Comments

VIII. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

No Unfinished Items

IX. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: [First-Year Experience Program: Pioneer Launch Recap](#)



The ASI Board of Directors will be informed of the Pioneer Launch program by Valerie Grace Amoin & Jose Padilla.

Jose thanked the Board for inviting him to present an overview of the First-Year Experience Program and a recap of the Pioneer Launch program. He explained that the First-Year Experience Program is a new initiative being implemented this academic year for all first-time freshmen. Approximately 730 first-time freshmen enrolled for the fall semester, and all of these students will participate in the program throughout their first academic year.

He explained that the program integrates students into a series of courses, including communications, mathematics, and science. Students will also have access to embedded Peer Support Leaders who will work with them throughout their first year. The goal is to help students build a strong academic community and provide additional support as they transition into university life.

He also discussed the co-curricular component of the program, which he and VG co-chair. The committee focuses on creating a sense of belonging and community among first-year students. Throughout the fall semester and continuing into the spring semester, freshmen will have opportunities to participate in events every Tuesday and Thursday during UU Hour. These events are designed to help students meet one another, build connections, and become more engaged with the campus community. As an additional incentive, students will have opportunities to receive prizes for participating.

Jose noted that the program was developed in response to the university's first-year retention challenges. Each year, approximately 26% of first-year students are lost before continuing their studies. The First-Year Experience Program is intended to address this issue by strengthening students' sense of belonging, familiarizing them with the university and its community, and connecting them with available campus resources. Ultimately, the program aims to improve both student retention and graduation rates.

Jose then provided an overview of the Pioneer Launch program, which replaced the traditional new student orientation format for incoming freshmen this year. In previous years, freshman orientation was typically held over two days during June and consisted of workshops and opportunities for students to become familiar with the university. This year,



the orientation experience was redesigned as a three-day Pioneer Launch program as part of the broader First-Year Experience initiative.

Nearly 600 students participated across the three-day Pioneer Launch experience. During the program, students learned about various campus resources and had opportunities to connect with their major advisors. Students participating in EOP were also able to meet with their EOP advisors and mentors and learn more about the program and available support.

Jose emphasized that Pioneer Launch also placed a strong focus on community-building and creating a sense of belonging. Students were encouraged to establish friendships and connections with their peers before the start of the academic year. As a result, when classes began the following week, many students had already developed a community and established friendships that could help support them during their transition into university life.

V. Grace elaborated on the Pioneer Launch experience, noting that nearly 600 students participated over the three-day program. During the orientation, students had the opportunity to learn about various campus resources and connect with their major advisors. Students participating in EOP were also able to meet with their EOP advisors and mentors and gain a better understanding of the program and the support available to them.

She emphasized that Pioneer Launch also focused on fostering a sense of belonging and building community among incoming students. By encouraging students to connect and form friendships before the start of the academic year, the program allowed students to begin the semester with an established community and peer connections.

She noted that the large number of students participating in orientation appeared to have a positive impact. Survey results indicated that students felt excited about attending the institution. **V. Grace** also explained that holding the freshman orientation immediately before the start of the semester was particularly beneficial for students who were coming from outside the local area, as it eliminated the need for them to travel to campus twice—once for orientation and again to begin classes.



Looking ahead, **V. Grace** explained that much of the First-Year Experience programming during the current semester will be led by the committee and will focus on campus-wide events that the university hopes to establish as traditions for first-year students. Beginning in the following semester, the program is expected to expand its collaboration with campus partners.

V. Grace invited ASI and other campus partners to consider developing events and programs for first-year students. She explained that proposed activities should align with the program's core objectives, including building academic confidence, preparing students to become engaged members of society, fostering a sense of belonging, and supporting students in their career development.

She encouraged ASI to consider ways to engage first-year students early in their university experience, particularly as ASI continues to grow its presence and involvement on campus. **V. Grace** noted that establishing these connections early could help strengthen the campus community and encourage greater student engagement with ASI and other campus organizations.

C. Pangilinan thanked **Jose** and **V. Grace** for attending the meeting and providing an overview of the First-Year Experience Program. She highlighted the success of the orientation experience and noted that it was valuable for freshmen to visit the ASI office for the first time and interact with ASI staff. She encouraged the First-Year Experience team to continue exploring opportunities for collaboration with ASI, particularly as the organization seeks to increase its involvement and engagement with incoming students. **C. Pangilinan** emphasized that collaboration between departments and organizations could strengthen student initiatives and overall campus engagement.

J. Carroll shared that ASI has been informally tracking student use of services at the front desk to better understand student engagement. He noted that the weekly Pioneer Pride Scholarship program has seen increased participation from first-year students compared with previous years. **J. Carroll** suggested that this increase may indicate that students remembered the information and interactions they received during orientation. He emphasized that creating opportunities for first-year students to become familiar with different campus spaces and services early in their university experience appears to be an



effective model for increasing engagement. **J. Carroll** thanked the First-Year Experience team for their efforts in creating these opportunities for students.

V. Grace welcomed feedback from ASI members and students regarding the First-Year Experience and Pioneer Launch programs. **V. Grace** encouraged members to share feedback based on their own experiences, as well as information they hear directly from first-year students regarding ways they would like to become involved or activities they would like to see on campus. She explained that the First-Year Experience team and committee have limited staffing and capacity, making feedback from campus partners especially valuable. **V. Grace** encouraged members to reach out by email with suggestions so that the team could incorporate feedback where possible and continue improving support for students.

I. Cohen thanked **Jose** and **V. Grace** for their work with the First-Year Experience Program and noted that the program is also incorporating support from the STEM Scholars initiative. He shared those efforts are already underway to promote Math Learning Assistants (LAs), including through personal experience as a Math LA. **I. Cohen** noted that the First-Year Experience initiative had been strongly supported by the provost and expressed appreciation for the program's impact on the campus environment.

I. Cohen also observed that the campus appeared to have a different energy this year, with more students walking around campus, interacting with one another, and engaging in conversation. He suggested that the increased sense of community and activity could be attributed, in part, to the efforts of the First-Year Experience team and expressed appreciation for their work.

Jose responded by noting that the current first-year cohort appears to have distinct characteristics. He explained that these students were the first incoming cohort to have experienced all four years of high school in person following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. **Jose** observed that the students have been highly engaged, eager to participate, and interested in experiencing college life. He suggested that staff and Learning Assistants may notice differences between this cohort and previous incoming classes. **Jose** emphasized that the new generation of students appears particularly interested in having a traditional college experience and actively seeking opportunities to develop a sense of belonging and community on campus.



V. Grace discussed the First-Year Experience Program's efforts to incorporate existing campus traditions into its programming. She noted that ASI's annual Halloween trick-or-treat event would be incorporated into the First-Year Experience calendar as a campus tradition. **V. Grace** explained that the committee is intentionally identifying events and activities from across campus rather than creating separate programming exclusively for the First-Year Experience Program. She emphasized that incorporating initiatives hosted by ASI and other campus partners would help create traditions that students across the university could participate in and recognize. She also noted that these collaborations could increase first-year students' awareness of ASI as a campus resource.

K. Ahmad asked where students could find the First-Year Experience team. **V. Grace** explained that the program does not currently have a dedicated office. She noted that she is located in the SLICC office, while **Jose** is located on the second floor of SF as part of the Student Equity and Success Center.

V. Grace explained that the First-Year Experience Program also maintains an online presence through BaySync. She stated that the team is working to promote BaySync as a centralized, one-stop resource where students can find information about campus events and organizations. She explained that First-Year Experience can be found under the "Departments" section of BaySync by searching for "First-Year Experience." Events hosted by or in collaboration with the program will be listed on its page.

V. Grace encouraged ASI and other campus partners to add First-Year Experience as a collaborator when posting events on BaySync. She explained that doing so would allow first-year students connected to the program to more easily discover and participate in those events. She acknowledged that the First-Year Experience BaySync page is still being developed and asked campus partners for patience as the team continues improving it.

V. Grace also described the program's incentives for encouraging student participation in First-Year Experience events. In addition to providing food at events, the program offers students incentives based on their attendance. After attending five events, students can select a piece of promotional merchandise, such as a water bottle, sling bag, speaker, or power



bank. At the end of the semester, students who attend additional events will earn more tickets toward a drawing for larger prizes sponsored by campus departments.

V. Grace invited ASI to consider contributing a larger prize to the student incentive program and asked members to consider what type of prize would provide meaningful motivation for students to attend multiple events. She acknowledged that the incentives could be viewed as a way of encouraging students to participate, but emphasized that the goal is ultimately to connect students with opportunities that support their academic development, engagement, and sense of belonging.

B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: [IMS & Smart Snacks](#)

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed of the Intramural Sports & Smart Snacks Initiatives by Director Arnold.

A. Arnold presented a proposed collaboration between ASI and the RAW to support intramural sports programming throughout the academic year. The initiative, titled "Smart Snacks," is intended to promote healthier and affordable snack options for students before or after workouts and as everyday alternatives.

A. Arnold explained that Smart Snacks will be incorporated into four intramural tournaments: the 3v3 Basketball Tournament on October 1, the 5v5 Basketball Tournament on October 15, the Doubles Pickleball Tournament on November 4, and the 6v6 Dodgeball Tournament on November 16. The initiative will involve collaboration with Linda Claus, Eric as an advisor, Janice from Student Health and Counseling Services, and V. Katta.

A. Arnold noted that the timeline for the initiative had been adjusted due to changes to the tournament dates. She explained that the proposal was being brought forward early because the next BOD meeting had been canceled and snacks would need to be ordered before the following meeting.

The Smart Snacks table will provide students with educational information about nutrition, access to water bottles, and healthier snack options such as fruit snacks, unsweetened applesauce, and cheese. A. Arnold also proposed a station where students could create their



own trail mix while learning about the nutritional value of the ingredients and how food choices can affect their workouts and overall health.

A. Arnold emphasized that the initiative would address both nutritional and financial wellness by highlighting affordable snack options that are accessible to college students. She explained that the program is intended to provide practical information while encouraging students to make healthier choices within their budgets.

C. Pangilinan noted that they had reviewed the proposed budget and that an email had also been sent regarding the requested allocation. C. Pangilinan clarified that while the budget would not yet be formally approved, the Board could discuss the funding request.

A. Arnold stated that approximately \$250 had been included in the food portion of the budget. She explained that she had contacted C. Pangilinan, E. Lorado, J. Carroll, and M. Dempsey to request additional special funds to support the food component of the initiative. She noted that additional funding may be necessary depending on the number of students served across the four tournaments, as the events are expected to have relatively long durations.

E. Loredo responded to the question regarding additional funding and explained that Cory, as an ASI representative, has additional funds available for special programs. Because Cory is also involved with intramural programming, some of those funds could potentially be allocated toward the Smart Snacks initiative to provide additional support.

He also reviewed A. Arnold's overall budget for transparency and indicated that the proposed allocation was approximately \$224, which was within the available budget. He noted that funding for intramural-related activities had also been included in the previous year's programming and emphasized that the initiative represents another opportunity for collaboration with Athletics.

E. Loredo encouraged Board members to support the initiative by attending and participating in the Smart Snacks tabling sessions during the intramural tournaments.



C. ACTION ITEM – ASI Policy Agenda: 2026-2027

The ASI Board of Directors will take action on the proposed policy agenda for the 2026-2027 academic year.

D. DISCUSSION ITEM - Resolution in Support of Expanding Access, Investment, and Campus Support for the Cal State DC Scholars Program

The ASI Board of Directors will be discussing the resolution proposed by President Dempsey.

Motion to table action item until next BOD meeting and Action Item D and Action Item E and Action Item E to end of the meeting by **Y. Avhad**, Seconded by **A. Grajeda**. **Motion Approved.**

E. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Perry with the Presidents: Pop-Up Cafe

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on the event “Perry with the Presidents: Pop-Up Cafe” by President Dempsey.

Motion to table action item until next BOD meeting and Action Item D and Action Item E and Action Item E to end of the meeting by **Y. Avhad**, Seconded by **A. Grajeda**. **Motion Approved.**

F. ACTION ITEM - ASI Budget: 2026-2027

The ASI Board of Directors will take action on the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 academic year.

J. Carroll provided the Board with an overview of ASI's proposed budget and financial position. He explained that the Board had previously received an initial presentation at the first meeting of the semester, but that presentation did not include some of the detailed financial figures. The updated presentation incorporated the conceptual information previously provided along with additional financial data that had been reviewed by the Personnel Committee.

J. Carroll explained that ASI had identified two areas where costs had been reduced. One of these areas involved cost recovery payments to the university, while the other involved music licensing fees. The university agreed to cover the full cost of the music licensing fees



for the current year, resulting in approximately \$67,000 in savings for ASI. The Board had two options for utilizing these savings: reducing the operating budget by the amount saved or reinvesting the funds into areas that directly benefit students.

J. Carroll explained that, given the recent improvement in ASI's investment portfolio and overall financial position, the organization proposed reinvesting the savings into several priority areas. These included increasing funding for Board programming and hospitality, establishing additional scholarship opportunities, increasing funding for the Hope Fund and basic needs support, providing additional seed funding for new registered student organizations (RSOs), and restoring student travel funding.

J. Carroll emphasized that the proposed reallocation was intended to maximize the direct benefit to students. He noted that while additional funding for food and events can enhance individual programs, scholarship and basic-needs funding can have a more significant and lasting impact on students. He also explained that approximately \$5,000 was being allocated toward student travel funds, which had been eliminated during the previous three years due to budget reductions. These funds would allow students to apply for financial assistance when traveling for university-related conferences, including opportunities to present academic research.

J. Carroll reviewed ASI's financial position and explained that the organization had historically needed to draw more than \$400,000 annually from its reserves to meet its operating budget. This was primarily due to increasing operating expenses, declining enrollment in previous years, and the fact that the student activity fee had remained unchanged for approximately 18 years. However, stronger investment portfolio performance in recent years had helped offset the amount drawn from reserves. Although ASI had projected borrowing more than \$400,000 from reserves, investment gains had ultimately reduced the actual amount withdrawn to approximately \$15,000 to \$18,000 in some years.

J. Carroll cautioned that investment returns could fluctuate and should not be relied upon as guaranteed revenue. He explained that ASI typically does not know the final impact of its investment portfolio until the fiscal year closes on June 30. For the current fiscal year, increased enrollment has resulted in somewhat higher activity fee revenue. Based on current projections and another strong year for the investment portfolio, ASI anticipated drawing



approximately \$443,000 to support operations. J. Carroll noted that if the investment portfolio performed poorly by the end of the fiscal year, ASI could instead need to draw that amount directly from its reserves.

J. Carroll emphasized that using reserves is not a sustainable long-term strategy. However, he explained that ASI's recent investment performance and overall financial position provide some flexibility to make strategic investments in students at this time. He stressed that the organization must remain financially responsible and avoid unnecessary spending while making thoughtful investments that provide meaningful benefits to students.

J. Carroll stated that ASI would conduct a mid-year budget review to evaluate spending, identify areas of underspending or overspending, and determine whether funds should be shifted between budget categories. The review would provide the Board with an opportunity to reassess priorities and potentially reinvest or reallocate funds based on actual spending and emerging student needs.

J. Carroll then reviewed the budget roll-up summary, explaining that ASI's budget is organized across four primary areas: Administration, Board of Directors, Presents, and Communications. He explained that ASI's primary revenue source is the student activity fee, which is then allocated among these areas. Administration generally covers central office expenses, including professional staff salaries and benefits, operating costs, retirement-related expenses, university cost recovery, and equipment. The Board of Directors budget primarily supports Board activities and scholarships, Presents supports programming, and Communications covers marketing, giveaways, and related promotional activities.

J. Carroll noted that the Board of Directors, Presents, and Communications budgets represent areas in which students receive more direct services and experiences. He explained that less than 50% of ASI's overall budget is allocated toward administrative costs, which he characterized as a positive position compared with typical nonprofit and higher education organizations. He emphasized that ASI has consistently worked to control administrative costs while recognizing that certain expenses, such as retirement contributions, health benefits, and minimum wage increases, are outside the organization's direct control.



As an example of efforts to control operating expenses, **J. Carroll** explained that ASI had removed funding for a professional staff conference in Southern California from the current budget due to the significant travel costs involved. He stated that the organization would continue prioritizing local opportunities when possible to prevent unnecessary increases in operating expenses.

I. Cohen asked about ASI's investment portfolio and whether the organization's investments were primarily held in bonds, stocks, or other financial instruments. **J. Carroll** explained that ASI's investments are divided into two primary areas: funds invested through the Chancellor's Office and ASI's individual investment portfolio. He noted that the university's finance division manages these investments on ASI's behalf and that ASI does not directly manage or make investment decisions regarding the portfolios.

J. Carroll explained that he receives monthly investment statements but does not currently have access to the detailed breakdown of the specific investments held within the portfolios. He acknowledged that gaining a better understanding of the investment structure is an area that ASI should continue to explore, particularly for Board members interested in understanding the organization's finances. He committed to providing additional information when available.

I. Cohen clarified whether the California State University system manages ASI's investments on its behalf. **J. Carroll** confirmed that the university manages the investments and explained that this arrangement is common among auxiliary organizations on CSU campuses. He noted that larger auxiliaries may manage their own investments because they have dedicated finance and accounting staff, while ASI relies on the university due to its smaller organizational structure. **J. Carroll** added that ASI works with auditors and other financial professionals to review the organization's investments and financial statements.

C. Pangilinan reiterated the importance of using the increased operating funds in ways that directly benefit students. She encouraged Board members to continue reaching out to students, providing services, and ensuring that students understand that ASI's work and funding are intended to serve them. **C. Pangilinan** acknowledged that ASI has relied on reserves to offset financial shortfalls but emphasized that this approach will not be sustainable indefinitely. She stressed that any future discussion about increasing student



funding should clearly demonstrate how those funds will directly benefit students and that the Board should remain thoughtful and responsible in managing student-supported resources.

J. Carroll explained that there is flexibility within certain budget categories to move funds between related activities. He noted that once the budget is approved, individual Board members may manage funds within their assigned budget areas in coordination with staff. For example, funds within the Board's food and hospitality category may be shifted between activities without requiring a formal Board vote, although significant changes should still be communicated and discussed with the Board.

J. Carroll encouraged Board members to collaborate across departments to maximize available resources. He explained that combining smaller amounts of funding from multiple departments can allow ASI to provide more substantial programming than any one department could fund independently. He also encouraged Board members to work with the Presents team, which has funding designated for specific programs as well as some flexibility to support collaborative initiatives.

J. Carroll emphasized the importance of being strategic and frugal when using ASI funds. He acknowledged that there is often a difference between the ideal scope of a program and what is financially realistic. While food and other incentives can increase student participation, he encouraged Board members to consider how each dollar can have the greatest possible impact. Collaboration with other departments was identified as an important strategy for maximizing resources.

Y. Avhad asked about the proposed \$500 allocation for the Vice President of External Affairs, noting that there had not been a corresponding budget line in the previous fiscal year. **J. Carroll** clarified that the proposed allocation includes \$500 for food and \$1,000 for programming, for a total of \$1,500. He explained that this funding was added because there had not previously been a dedicated budget line for External Affairs during his time with ASI. The new allocation is intended to support advocacy and lobbying-related initiatives. J. Carroll noted that activities in this area had previously been funded through the Board's general special projects budget, but that establishing a dedicated allocation would provide greater clarity and resources for External Affairs programming.



J. Tecson asked about the purpose of the funding allocated to Hope and Basic Needs. **J. Carroll** explained that ASI had historically played an important role in establishing basic-needs resources on campus, including food pantry and emergency support services. Before the university had a dedicated Basic Needs Center, ASI provided significant seed funding to help establish these resources.

J. Carroll explained that ASI has continued to provide funding to the Basic Needs program even after the program was expanded through donor support. The allocated funds are transferred to the Basic Needs team and are restricted to specific basic-needs purposes, including food pantry resources and emergency housing assistance. He emphasized that the funding is intended to provide direct support to students experiencing basic-needs challenges.

N. Jhaveri asked whether Board members need formal approval to collaborate with other campus departments on initiatives involving budgets. **J. Carroll** clarified that Board members may collaborate with other departments without additional Board approval as long as the collaboration does not require additional funding from the Board. He encouraged members to document and communicate these collaborations but emphasized that Board members are able to work with other campus departments on behalf of ASI.

I. Cohen asked about the approximately \$80,000 listed under the "Expenses" category in the budget roll-up and requested clarification regarding what the funds support. **J. Carroll** explained that the "Expenses" designation is based on the department code used by the university. The funds primarily cover CalPERS-related health and retirement expenses, as well as costs associated with managing the retirement portfolio for former ASI employees. He clarified that the approximately \$80,000 allocation is essentially dedicated to managing retirement and health-related obligations for ASI retirees.

Motion to approve proposed ASI budget for the 2026-2027 academic year by **Y. Avhad**, seconded by **I. Cohen**. **Motion Approved.**

Y. Avhad initiates a Roll call vote for approval of proposed budget for the 2026-2027 academic year.



C. Pangilinan votes in favor.
H. Patel votes in favor.
Y. Ahvad votes in favor.
J. Tecson votes in favor.
A. Grajeda votes in favor.
A. Arnold votes in favor.
S. Andhavarapu votes in favor.
C. Elendu votes in favor.
I. Cohen votes in favor.
J. Bonilla votes in favor.
P. Boddu votes in favor.
N. Jhaveri votes in favor.
V. Katta votes in favor.
S. Kondapally votes in favor.
K. Ahmed votes in favor.
M. Castillo votes in favor.
Budget is approved.

X. SPECIAL REPORTS

No Special Reports

XI. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

I. Cohen thanked the Board members and staff who responded during an unexpected situation in the office. He acknowledged that the situation required individuals to quickly step in and work together, and he expressed appreciation to everyone who responded, followed directions, and helped manage the situation as a team. He emphasized the importance of teamwork and supporting one another during unexpected circumstances.

K. Ahmad provided a general reflection on the beginning of the semester and the Board's work. He noted that while increases in funding and available resources are positive, they should not create the expectation that resources will always be readily available. He emphasized that the semester was still in its early stages and that the Board's current work represented only the beginning of its efforts for the academic year.



K. Ahmad also shared information about House Juniper, noting that he had recently learned that the space may be available for conferences and potential funding opportunities. He identified the space as an additional campus resource that could potentially support future ASI initiatives and programming. He also expressed interest in developing programming for international students and students living in campus housing, with the goal of creating opportunities for students to learn more about one another and build community.

C. Pangilinan reminded Board members to prioritize their well-being as they take on the work ahead. She encouraged members to reach out for assistance when needed and emphasized that the Board and staff should continue supporting one another while also making time to take care of themselves.

K. Ahmad added that **M. Huynh** had expressed interest in ASI potentially hosting overnight activities and programs, including opportunities beyond housing-related initiatives. K. Ahmad shared an example from his experience attending CSUnity at California State University, Northridge, where he observed an outdoor movie-night program featuring a large projector on a grass field with students gathering on blankets. He suggested that ASI consider whether a similar outdoor movie-night event could be feasible on campus and encouraged the Board to keep the idea in mind for future programming.

I. Cohen provided two additional updates. First, he shared that an advisor in the College of Health had recently received national recognition for excellence in academic advising. He highlighted the recognition as an accomplishment for Cal State East Bay advisors and encouraged Board members to congratulate KJ Palmer on receiving the national award for global community in academic advising, particularly as a newer advisor.

I. Cohen's second update concerned Winter Intercession. He explained that, due to changes in federal regulations, Winter Intercession would no longer be treated as a separate academic term and would instead be considered part of the Spring semester. He noted that the matter was being discussed through the Academic Senate and that students would still have a Winter Intercession period, but it would be administratively classified as part of the Spring semester under the updated federal requirements.



XII. ADJOURNMENT at 1:25 PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

President, Committee Chair

Matthias Dempsey

Minutes approved on:

September 30, 2026

Date:

Signature: 
[Matthias Dempsey \(Sep 30, 2026 14:14:53 PDT\)](#)

Email: matthias.dempsey@csueastbay.edu

