ASSOCIATED STUDENTS INC
CAL STATE EAST BAY

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, September 30th 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER at 12:08 PM

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.

IV. ROLL CALL

Present – Matthias Dempsey, Casey Pangilinan, Harshvardhan Mukesh Patel, Yashica Avhad, John Christian Tecson, Analise Grajeda, Avalina Arnold, Sai Sravan Andhavarapu, Chinonso Elendu, Ian Cohen, Jose Bonilla, Priya Boddu, Nandini Jhaveri, Venkatesh Katta, Shruthi Kondipally, Martin Castillo, Erick Loredo, My-Lan Huynh, Steve Spencer, Jul Custodio, Dr. Benjamin Smith, Desiree Cuevas

Absent – Kamil Ahmed, James Carroll, Kabir Dhillon

V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting September 30th, 2026 Agenda by **I. Cohen,** seconded by **C. Pangilinan**, **Motion CARRIED.**

VI. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of September 2nd, 2026

Motion to approve the Minutes of September 2nd, 2026 by **C. Pangilinan,** seconded by **N. Jhaveri**, **Motion CARRIED.**

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.

A member of the public thanked the Board and shared that ideas submitted through the feedback forms were their original work, asking that credit be recognized. They referenced disability rights and opportunities with support and accommodations, and expressed hope to one day serve as an honorary president of ASI.

VIII. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

No unfinished items.

IX. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - President Sandeen BOD Visit (taken after Item C)

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on campus updates from University President, Hon. Cathy Sandeen.

President Sandeen thanked the Board for its leadership and for helping tell the university's story on social media. She reported that Cal State East Bay appeared for the first time on the Forbes America's Top Colleges list (West), and that U.S. News & World Report's 2027 rankings placed the university among the top public universities in the West, surging from 145th last year to 14th.

President Sandeen noted that communications would soon go out on social media for the Board to share, and that **M. Dempsey** will join her and other faculty and administrators next month at the CSU Student Success Symposium at the San José campus. She thanked the Board for Spirit Week, including the "one good thing" notes collected from students.

I. **Cohen** asked how the university is preparing for the expected El Niño storms given deferred maintenance. **President Sandeen** explained that underground electrical lines and culverts/drains were designed for limited water volumes, that vulnerable culverts are being prepared, and that an emergency team is planning communications and coordination with PG&E. She noted campus power is commercial-level, student housing is on a residential circuit, and that roof repairs have been ongoing for two years. She added that faculty would be engaged on remote instruction if conditions are unsafe, with the decision guided by local authorities' advisories to stay off the roads.

B. ACTION ITEM: Mentee Program Updates, Applications, & Next Steps

The ASI Board of Directors will receive updates regarding the Mentee Program, including the current status of applications, applicant participation and vote on selection and onboarding process by Executive Vice President Pangilinan.

Motion to appoint Kathrielle Bautista, Nataly Parajon, Jet Dadi, Juana Tomas, Isabella LaBrada, Kyara Patio, Eve Pouncey, Parisa Hamidi, and Shubham Malviya to the ASI Mentorship Program by **C. Pangilinan**, seconded by **Y. Avhad**.

C. Pangilinan reported that 9 applicants were interviewed over the past month. Common goals included having a mentor to guide their leadership growth and help them navigate campus, and improving confidence, communication, networking and leadership skills; many have no prior leadership experience. She stated that the program is not intended only to prepare mentees for a future Board seat but to give them skills if they choose that path. The first half of the program will focus on general leadership goals and workshops, moving to more specific tasks and committees in the second half.

No discussion followed. Board proceeded to roll call vote: all members present voted in favor. **Motion CARRIED**, and all nine applicants were appointed as ASI mentees.

C. ACTION ITEM: Senator of the College of Business Applicants Updates & Next Steps

The ASI Board of Directors will receive updates regarding applicants for the vacant Senator of the College of Business position, including the application and interview process, applicant information, and vote on appointment by Executive Vice President Pangilinan.

Motion to appoint Hanzalah Kaif as Senator of the College of Business by **C. Pangilinan**, seconded by **A. Arnold**.

C. Pangilinan reviewed the two candidates discussed at the Personnel Committee. She noted that Shauna Basil White brings significant public sector and advocacy experience and over 20 years of county work, is a returning student new to campus, and was transparent that she is still learning about ASI. Hanzalah Kaif is a senior economics student with about three years of involvement in the College of Business and Economics (CBE) and existing relationships with CBE students; he spoke less about advocacy in his application and interview. She stated the Personnel Committee's recommendation ultimately came down to connection to the CBE college and campus, since that is the constituency the Senator represents. She also clarified that a scheduling conflict for Basil had been resolved, as her class ends at 11:45 AM.

A member noted that the committee spreadsheet showed availability for Academic Senate committees, and **C. Pangilinan** added that the seat would be the fourth ASI member on the committee. Before the roll call vote, **C. Pangilinan** reminded new members that if the motion failed, another motion could be brought forward.

Board proceeded to roll call vote: 11 in favor (**C. Pangilinan, H. Patel, J. Tecson, A. Arnold, S. Andhavarapu, C. Elendu, P. Boddu, N. Jhaveri, V. Katta, S. Kondipally, M. Castillo**) and 4 not in favor (**Y. Avhad, A. Grajeda, I. Cohen, J. Bonilla**). **Motion CARRIED**, and Hanzalah Kaif was appointed as ASI Senator of the College of Business and Economics.

D. ACTION ITEM: CFAC Student Appointment Recommendations from UHRL/RHA and RAWUU

The ASI Board of Directors will take action on the recommendations for students to serve on the Campus Fee Advisory Committee (CFAC).

Motion to appoint Noah Nguyen, Chloe Price, and Judah Sharma as CFAC student-at-large appointments for the 2026-2027 year by **M. Dempsey**, seconded by **C. Pangilinan**.

Noah Nguyen – RAW/UU Operations Lead and second-year Communications major, newer to the RAW/UU team as of summer 2026. **Chloe Price** – UHRL/RHA Executive Board Vice President of Communications & Development, fourth-year Kinesiology major, and ASI Customer Service Representative. **Judah Sharma** – University Housing & Residence Life student leader (Resident Assistant) and third-year Biological Science major.

I. Cohen asked how the students were selected. **M. Castillo** explained that students are recommended by fee-based programs (housing, the University Union/RAWUU, and ASI, which holds two seats), that CFAC meetings are open to the public, and that more students than faculty and staff must be present for quorum.

Board proceeded to roll call vote: all members present voted in favor. **Motion CARRIED**; Noah Nguyen, Chloe Price, and Judah Sharma were appointed to CFAC.

E. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Academic Senate Overview

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on the Academic Senate Overview for 2026-2027 by Dr. Benjamin Smith.

Dr. Smith explained how policy moves through the Academic Senate: an issue is sent to a committee, which researches and develops a recommendation; the Executive Committee (XCOM) directs it onward to the Senate agenda; the Senate debates, amends and votes; and policies affecting students then go to the President for approval and implementation.

Dr. Smith previewed **CIC2**, the Winter Intersession policy. For financial aid purposes, winter intersession becomes a session within the spring semester, allowing financial aid to be offered for winter courses for the first time. Winter courses will appear in the spring schedule and registration; Open University students may register beginning December 1st; grades are due 72 hours after instruction ends; and students are limited to 3 units of winter intersession, which will not count toward the overall spring unit cap. The policy was signed by the President that day, and implementation details are still being worked out by Financial Aid and the Registrar.

Dr. Smith encouraged ASI to raise student concerns about the rollout and made a request for students to fill empty Academic Senate committee seats, including two subcommittee seats to be filled by ASI.

C. Pangilinan asked whether winter functions as an early-start spring session; **Dr. Smith** confirmed conceptually yes. **A. Grajeda** and **C. Pangilinan** asked how financial aid and per-unit charges would be affected; **Dr. Smith** replied that impacts are individual, state grants apply only to spring, and federal aid is calculated as a fraction of a regular semester under Department of Education rules. He offered to bring student questions to Financial Aid and the Registrar.

F. ACTION ITEM: ASI Policy Agenda 2026-2027

The ASI Board of Directors will take action on the 2026-2027 Policy Agenda.

Motion to approve the ASI Policy Agenda 2026-2027 by **Y. Avhad**, seconded by **H. Patel**.

M. Dempsey summarized feedback collected between September 2nd and September 30th, including student concerns about parking and transportation; campus events, involvement and belonging; visibility of resources, scholarships and financial support; the use of artificial intelligence in courses; scheduling and affordability barriers; study spaces; and campus safety, free expression and student rights. He noted the consolidated agenda was developed over the summer and through the Board retreats.

No discussion followed. Board proceeded to roll call vote: all members present voted in favor. **Motion CARRIED**, and the ASI Policy Agenda 2026-2027 was approved.

G. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Transfer Connections Kickoff Event

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed of the event by Senator Jhaveri and Destiny from SLIC (Transfer Student Programs Lead).

N. Jhaveri explained the event is a collaboration with Destiny, informed by community survey feedback that transfer students want opportunities to meet each other. It will occur at the start of National Transfer Student Week and include check-in, a welcome and overview of the Transfer Student Support Program, an activity, food, and networking time; food costs are being shared by ASI and SLIC.

C. Pangilinan asked how non-transfer students attending would be handled given ASI funds are used; **N. Jhaveri** responded that all students are welcome. Board members suggested color-coding name tags by previous college (e.g., Los Medanos, DVC, Chabot), and **N. Jhaveri** suggested also coding by major.

H. DISCUSSION ITEM: Resolution in Support of Expanding Access, Investment, and Campus Support to the Cal State DC Scholars Program

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

M. Dempsey explained that the resolution grew out of summer meetings with CSSA and members of the Cal State DC Scholars Program, a workforce development and experiential learning opportunity open to students from all 22 CSU campuses. The resolution proposes that ASI maintain communication with the program, co-promote it each Fall, Spring and Summer term, encourage students from all majors to apply, and award one $1,000 scholarship each Fall, Spring and Summer term (up to $3,000 per year) from the ASI budget. The resolution also supports the Career Empowerment Center's exploration of additional funding, including McKenzie Scott funds where applicable.

I. **Cohen** asked whether scholarship recipients could be encouraged to advocate for ASI during Hill Week; **M. Dempsey** replied that this is at the discretion of the program directors but students from a campus are historically engaged with their campus leadership during that week. Members asked

that source websites be added to the resolution footnotes, and **C. Pangilinan** asked whether the scholarship may affect financial aid. It was clarified that the scholarship may be used for any expenses and the ASI portion is included in the budget. **M. Dempsey** will add footnotes and the supporting data before the item returns as an action item.

J. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: RAW Times ASI Smart Snacks During Intramural Sports

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed of the initiative by Director Arnold.

A. **Arnold** announced upcoming 6 PM tournaments at the RAW: 3v3 basketball (October 1st), 5v5 basketball (October 15th), pickleball (November 4th), and 6v6 dodgeball (November 16th). She asked for 2–3 Board members to sign up to table at each tournament, including a tabling partner for the next day, and named partners including Linda Clauss (RAW), Erick Loredo (advisor), Janice B. (Student Health and Counseling Services), Venkatesh Katta (Senator at Large), and PAWS student staff.

K. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: BOD Budget Tracker

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on the BOD Budget Tracker by Vice President of Finance Patel.

H. Patel presented a budget tracker created for transparency between the Board and professional staff. Members enter their name, position, amount, category (food or non-food) and description in the Purchase Entry tab after the purchase is received and final amounts are known; entries appear on each position's tab. A sample purchase request is included for requesting funds from professional staff. The tracker will be on the one-stop shop, and **H. Patel** will email instructions.

C. Pangilinan asked members to transfer any prior spending from the earlier spreadsheet and suggested adding links to the budget roll-up. Board members confirmed the form is to be completed for each purchase, and one member commended the tracker as a way to collaborate on unused funds.

L. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Nightmare on the Nursing Floor

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on the event by Senator Elendu.

C. Elendu described a Halloween-inspired event (October 6th, Red Room, Concord campus) for nursing students at the Concord campus to build community and introduce ASI and the Senator of Concord position. She is requesting about $125 for food (estimated $112.41) and about $70 for non-food items (estimated $57.80) to cover taxes and shipping, and is working with the Concord outreach manager and food pantry staff. **I. Cohen** expressed support.

M. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Donut Hold Back

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on the event by Senator Elendu.

B. **Elendu** described a tabling event (October 20th, 12:00–1:00 PM, Concord Quad) to hear student concerns and ideas, which students can write down for follow-up. She is requesting about $120 for donuts, with coffee and other refreshments provided by campus partners. **C. Pangilinan** asked that photos and a recap be shared and asked which budget category the funds would come from.

X. SPECIAL REPORTS:

A. CSSA Virtual Plenary: 9/19

Y. Avhad reported that she, **M. Dempsey** and **A. Grajeda** attended the September 19th virtual plenary. Discussion topics included challenges for international students, mental health access, and course scheduling conflicts across campuses; Flock surveillance cameras, including safety benefits versus privacy and undocumented-student concerns (East Bay has none); Title V student conduct; campus one-pagers for federal legislative priorities; a lobby training guide; and a one-time $3,000 voter registration fund received by the campus.

A. Grajeda reported that the CSSA Audit Committee issued a clean audit at a cost of $19,000 for audit and tax preparation, and approved the 2025-2026 fiscal year audit. **M. Dempsey** reported Chancellor's Office updates, including 11 basic needs microgrants (East Bay was awarded one for pregnant and parenting students), AOA Excellence Awards scholarship applications, possible system-wide AI town halls, and discussion of the CSSA policy agenda and CalKIDS.

B. ASI Student Needs, Events, and Advocacy Survey

A. Grajeda and the Senators at Large presented results from the survey, which aligns with the Policy Agenda. Presenters reported 206 respondents (about 47% seniors and 39% juniors; about 80% primarily on the Hayward campus and 16.5% online), with about 39% feeling only slightly connected and 13% not connected at all. Main areas of need included housing, transportation, accessibility, online and commuter students, childcare, and international and cultural support. Themes included more connection with ASI, transportation costs, and events suited to different student needs. Next steps include using the data for community-specific initiatives and continued reporting at Board meetings.

XI. ROUND TABLE REMARKS:

S. Andhavarapu asked for support gathering more student feedback through the sustainability survey on campus water fountain quality, and requested that members encourage students to complete it.

E. Loredo reminded members that tabling is mandatory and urged sign-ups for Pause to Pause (October 1st, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM), the volleyball tailgate party with SAC and Athletics (Friday, 3–6 PM), and an optional street fair table in Pleasanton (Saturday, 10 AM–4 PM).

Y. Avhad asked members willing to be on camera to stay in the office for about 10 additional minutes for photos for voter registration content. **C. Pangilinan** thanked members for their work, noting about 200 survey responses and 33 committee applicants as evidence of growing student interest. **J. Tecson** announced the start of an October campaign, scaled down to social media and tabling, and said additional information and social media opportunities would be shared with members tabling in October.

M. Dempsey thanked members, noted that an email on tracking the newly passed policy agenda items would follow, announced a dialogue session with President Sandeen on October 29th, and shared that the Board will meet with student organizations this fall, with details to come by email.

XII. ADJOURNMENT at 1:42 PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:
President/Chief of Staff Name:
Matthias Dempsey

Minutes approved on:
October 14, 2026
Date: