

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of May 15th, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER at **12:11 PM**

- II. [ROLL CALL](#)
Present: Nolan Calara, Kushal Sheshadri, Erick Loredo, Carlos Martinez-Aguilera, Danny Lopez, Guadalupe Felix, Hailey Corum, Anahi Rodriguez, Elijah Quineri, James Carroll, Ashley Depappa, Terry Buttchen

Absent: Sai Charan Attili, London Deguzman, Saira Garcia, Charan Reddy Doolam, Martin Castillo, Steve Spencer, Stephanie Ann Lustina, Sharn Basi, Christina Chin-Newman,

- III. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of the Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda of May 15th, 2024, by **E. Loredo**, seconded by **E. Quineri**, motion **CARRIED**.

- IV. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of the Minutes of May 1st, 2024**
Motion to approve the minutes of May 1st, 2024, by **H. Corum**, seconded **E. Loredo**, motion **CARRIED**.

- V. 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.**
L. Cooper was the Head Women’s Water Polo Coach expresses that her program was unexpectedly terminated last week. The decision came without prior notice, just a week after their season ended and during finals week.
R. Toad and other students occupied the fourth floor of the Student Administration building in solidarity with Palestine, last Wednesday, May 8th. They secured a meeting with President Sandeen and Chief of Staff Derek Aitken to discuss divestment from Israel, which will be addressed further today. Despite the undeniable evidence that investments in Israel support ongoing genocide, it is imperative that, as an educational institution, we act in our best interest by divesting and withholding support from Israel, pending a further financial audit. He appreciates ASI's support and collaboration as they continue to communicate with President Sandeen and the chief of staff. They have agreed to sign any resolution pass here, so ASI support is deeply needed and appreciated.



J. Murray a faculty member at Cal State East Bay, expressed disappointment over the cancellation of the water polo program. He highlights that the decision, made without warning, severely impacts students with scholarships who were building careers through the program. **J. Murray** praise the students involved, noting their excellent GPAs and contributions to the university. He criticizes the administration for not consulting with faculty or considering the financial impacts before making the decision. As part of the university governance, he emphasizes his disappointment with the lack of acknowledgment of the program's significance and the abrupt manner of its termination.

B. Barlow a member of the women's water polo team, shares her disappointment over the program's cancellation. Having just completed her third year, she was looking forward to her senior season. **B. Barlow** mentions that the cancellation was partly due to budget and enrollment shortfalls but argues that cutting athletes hinders enrollment. She highlights the team's success, noting their second-place finish in their conference, and emphasize that the program comprised great students and athletes. **B. Barlow** expressed frustration over the short notice, as it leaves students struggling to transfer at the end of the school year after having made plans to return in the fall.

9:17

VI. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

A. **ACTION ITEM - AAPISU Club Event "International Graduation Celebration" Funding Appeal**

The ASI Board of Directors will be taking action on the AAPISU Club Event "International Graduation Celebration" Funding Appeal.

Motion to take action on the AAPISU Club Event "International Graduation Celebration" Funding Appeal by **A. Rodriguez**, seconded by **E. Lored**, motion **CARRIED**.

E. Quineri mention that the Board Members has been deeply engaged in discussions during the last Board of Directors Meeting. He inquiries about the options available for voting in the upcoming decision-making process.

N. Calara outlines the voting procedure, stating that if there is no further discussion, they will proceed by asking for votes of approval, opposition, and abstention, and then count the votes accordingly.

C. Martinez-Aguilar inquiries whether a refund of \$13,000 was being requested, referencing a statement made by S. Attili.

E. Quineri clarifies while a refund request was made, they can only provide a certain amount based on the intended use of the funds.



J. Carroll explains that last week's discussion involved a club appealing ASI's decision not to provide funding. The decision was based on current policy. The appeal asks the Board to reconsider this decision. The Board now needs to vote on whether to uphold the original decision in line with the policy or to override the policy to fund the club's event.

E. Quineri suggests that, considering the club's close timing with their submission being only a day late they should be granted some funding, though not the full amount requested. He recommends that future club officers collaborate more with ASI and attend ASI events as a condition for changing the decision to approve funding.

N. Calara asks **J. Carroll** whether the budget allows for reimbursing or granting the amount requested in the appeal.

J. Carroll emphasizes the importance of clarity in the decision-making process regarding the appeal. Suspending policy sets a precedent, so the Board needs to discuss and understand the implications thoroughly. **J. Carroll** use **E. Quineri's** example to illustrate the importance of providing clear reasoning; if the decision is based on being one day shy, future clubs would understand the criteria. It's crucial to base decisions on clear reasons, not just the remaining budget. While they may not be eligible for the full \$13,000 requested, there may still be remaining club funding. The focus should be on the rationale behind the decision.

N. Calara expresses support for accepting the club's appeal but advocate for stricter adherence to policy in the future, emphasizing the need for proper communication. He suggests that if a similar situation arises next year, the Board should follow policy, but for the current appeal, he believes it should be accepted.

E. Quineri proposed that considering the cultural context of the event, the club should apply for funding specific to Cultural Graduations.

J. Carroll clarifies that the club isn't eligible for Cultural Graduation funding based on policy. Only four specific groups qualify for this type of funding. The club applied for funding under the Club Policy, not as a Cultural Graduation event. Therefore, they would be eligible for regular Club Funding, not Cultural Graduation Funding. **J. Carroll** emphasizes that these are two separate categories with different eligibility criteria.

E. Quineri suggests that in the future, if the club decides to organize a similar event, they should consider applying for funding specific to such cultural events.

J. Carroll states that the responsibility for redesigning the policy would fall on ASI.

G. Felix suggests that considering the timing and the fact that the club was only a day late, it makes sense to grant them the amount of funding they are eligible for, provided it fits within the budget.



Motion to approve the AAPISU Club Event “International Graduation Celebration” Funding Appeal by **E. Quineri**, seconded by **H. Corum**, motion **CARRIED**.

Motion to approve the AAPISU Club Event “International Graduation Celebration” Funding Appeal by **6 YES, 0 NO, 4 ABSTAIN**, motion **CARRIED**.

27:06

B. **ACTION ITEM - Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza**

The ASI Board of Directors will be taking action on the Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza.

Motion to approve Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaze by **E. Loredo**, seconded by **H. Corum**, motion **CARRIED**.

N. Calara mentions that the document remains the same as it was two weeks ago, but adjustments have been made to ensure the format is correct. Once approved, it will be posted.

H. Corum notes that one of the Resolve states that President Sandeen will sign off on the Muslim studies minor. **H. Corum** inquiries if this is confirmed that she will indeed do so.

N. Calara clarifies that members of the public cannot speak, but based on his knowledge, he believes President Sandeen did promise to sign off on the Muslim studies minor following the protest. He emphasizes the importance of upholding that promise.

H. Corum expresses concern, noting her understanding that all minors are currently on hold, which may affect the possibility of establishing the Muslim studies minor. She inquiries if there has been any further communication regarding this matter.

N. Calara mentions that according to negotiations, President Sandeen said she would approve the Muslim studies minor, but there will be further updates in the fall semester. He added this information as an additional resolve clause to ensure the establishment of the Muslim studies minor.

Motion to approve Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaze by **9 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSTAIN**, motion **CARRIED**.

30:43

VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. **INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Oath of Office 2024 – 2025**

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed about the Oath of Office 2024 - 2025.

D. Bhimanapati takes the Oath of Office as the VP of Internal Affairs.

N. Sharma takes the Oath of Office as the Senator of CBE.

35:35



B. DISCUSSION ITEM - Discontinuance With Women's Water Polo

The ASI Board of Directors will be discussing the Discontinuance with women's water polo.

G. Felix sought more background information on the situation, specifically inquiring about how ASI could support the affected students. She mentions hearing that a student was expecting to have their senior season next year but now can't be due to the cancellation of the sport. **G. Felix** highlights the impact on students with scholarships and emphasized that the situation seems unfair, with the team seemingly blindsided by the decision.

L. Cooper expresses frustration over the cancellation of the Water Polo program, particularly concerning the impact on student-athletes. While scholarships for the upcoming academic year will be honored, this does not address the concerns of athletes who wish to continue playing. She highlights the lack of transparency in the decision-making process, noting the absence of budget discussions and the sudden nature of the decision. The athletics department's spending habits contrast with the budget concerns cited as a reason for the program's cancellation. **L. Cooper** mentions the Academic Senate's petition to reinstate the program and request support in spreading awareness among students. Additionally, she requests information on how the decisions were made and who was involved, emphasizing the need for transparency. She expresses disappointment in the timing of the decision, particularly during finals week, and the lack of opportunity for affected athletes to find alternative arrangements.

Motion to suspend Robert's Rule of Order to allow the Water Polo Team from public comments to join the discussion by **D. Lopez**, seconded **E. Quineri**, motion **CARRIED**.

Motion to suspend Robert's Rule of Order to allow the Water Polo Team from public comments to join the discussion by **UNANIMOUS CONSENT**, motion **CARRIED**.

J. Murray suggests that ASI could assist by distributing a petition for the reinstatement of the Water Polo program, which they have already circulated. He also requests support in questioning the procedure behind the decision-making process. **J. Murray** expresses gratitude for any support ASI could provide in these matters.

A. Depappa asks whether there were any reasons other than enrollment and budget concerns for cutting the water polo program, and if those were the only reasons communicated to both the public and the team.

B. Barlow states that Coach Lisa, the team, and the public were all informed about the Water Polo program's cancellation on the same day, last Wednesday. The reasons given to the team were the same as those in the press release: budget cuts and the difficulty of sponsoring Division 2 water polo. She mentions that there are only 10 Division 2 water polo teams, and their team is not in the same conference as the rest of the athletics, which is the CCAA.



However, they were unclear on how being in a different conference relates to the budget issues.

L. Cooper adds to Bailey's comment, stating that being in a different conference should not be a concern for the administration. **L. Cooper** emphasizes that their conference provides home and the opportunity for the conference winner to compete in NCAA Division I. She mentions discussions with former athletic directors who affirmed the importance of having a conference in determining the program. She argues that having a conference and postseason opportunities makes the athletic program viable.

J. Carroll inquires about the status of discussions with the athletic director and administration regarding the decision to cut the water polo program. He asks if there were any indications of openness to further discussion or if the administration considered the matter closed.

L. Cooper expresses frustration with the lack of support from the athletic director, stating that despite public statements claiming support for the coach, assistant coach, and athletes, no meaningful assistance has been provided. She criticizes the lack of communication, highlighting that the assistant coach has not been officially informed about losing her job, and **L. Cooper** has not received any official communication either. Additionally, **L. Cooper** mentions that faculty members who attempted to discuss the matter with President Sandeen and Derek Aiken at commencement were met with reluctance to engage in conversation.

R. Heredia echo **L. Cooper's** sentiment, stating that the team had to personally reach out to the athletics program to gain access to the transfer portal. There was no email offering assistance or guidance provided by the athletics program. Despite claims of counseling services being available, no further help or support has been offered.

N. Calara asks if anyone had reached out to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, which also advocates for student-athletes.

B. Barlow a former member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SACC), states that they haven't reached out to SACC yet due to uncertainty about what actions can be taken. She expresses concern that SACC's social media, which is run by a member of the athletic department rather than by SACC themselves, might not advocate for their cause because of potential conflict of interest. Despite this, **B. Barlow** acknowledge that reaching out to SACC is something worth considering and discussing further.

L. Cooper shares that within half an hour their team's Instagram account was swiftly deactivated, erasing their presence. Additionally, public comments on the East Bay Pioneers account were disabled, likely to avoid backlash, and the story regarding the Water Polo program was removed from the East Bay Pioneers website.



J. Murray states that, to his understanding, the administration had made the decision to cancel the program in January, but this information was not shared with the team until last week.

G. Felix raises the question of whom to address regarding the issue. She suggests potential avenues such as bringing it up with President Sandeen or discussing it with Steve, who represents student-athletes within the athletic department. **G. Felix** highlights the discrepancy between the decision being made in January and the team being informed in May, emphasizing the need to address this issue. She sought clarification on whom to approach for further discussion.

Emily suggests that water polo should not have been the first program to be cut, noting that athletics has other sources of funding. She questions why the university didn't consider reallocating funds from other areas of athletics, such as non-essential expenses like gear, t-shirts, and swag, instead of cutting an entire team. **Emily** suggests using these points as suggestions when bringing up the conversation, highlighting the need to explore alternative budgeting strategies before resorting to program cuts.

N. Calara as ASI President, pledged to raise the issue with President Sandeen in their next meeting and to reach out to administration for additional information. He suggests drafting a resolution in support of Women's Water Polo and sending it to administration, a process likely to occur over the summer. He recommends spreading awareness through social media, suggesting the possibility of commenting on CSUEB and President Sandeen's Instagram posts to save women's water polo, with ASI offering support.

G. Felix expresses her discontent with the situation, highlighting that cutting off a team seems unfair, especially if the team has been performing well. She notes the abundance of resources allocated to sports teams and emphasize that it doesn't seem like the Water Polo team is underperforming or not contributing to the institution. **G. Felix** suggests that ASI should fight for the team and utilize other resources on campus to help spread awareness and support them in any way possible.

L. Cooper states that their program was the cheapest to run among the 15 teams at the university. She points out that from an NCAA perspective, women's sports are rarely cut without a corresponding cut in men's sports. Cutting 19 athletes from the Women's Water polo team could potentially lead to a Title IX violation and expose the university to a lawsuit, as this action is uncommon.

R. Heredia shares that during the meeting, her teammates asked the Athletic Director if they would still be able to graduate as student-athletes if they chose to stay despite the program being cut. The Athletic Director responded that she didn't know the answer to that question, which raised concerns for **R. Heredia** and her teammates. She expresses frustration, stating that her three years at the university would have felt waste if she stays and couldn't graduate as a student-athlete.



N. Calara pledge to take action by discussing the matter with President Sandeen and reaching out to members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) to gather more information. He also offers to share any news or relevant links with his Board Members.

L. Cooper reports that their petition to save the water polo program had already garnered over 1,200 signatures in just one day. However, she noted that not a single coach at East Bay had signed the petition, as they feared similar cuts could happen to their own programs.

Emily notes that while there may not be enough information to confirm a Title IX violation, it is worth pointing out that some men's teams, which did not perform as well as the women's Water Polo team, were not consider for cuts.

1:02:15

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

No special reports.

1:02:24

IX. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

H. Corum asks if there is a Board of Directors meeting on the 29th.

N. Calara states there's no Board of Directors meeting on the 29th. He expresses pride in the advocacy efforts made over the past year and emphasizes the importance of continuing to support various student groups, including athletes. He looks forward to having more discussions with President Sandeen. **N. Calara** highlights ongoing concerns, such as the lack of approval for the Muslim Studies and Philippine Studies minors, and the cutting of additional courses for the fall semester. Despite the challenges faced by the university, including enrollment and budget issues, he commits to advocating for student success by engaging with President Sandeen, the Board of Trustees, and Chancellor Mildred Garcia to ensure that East Bay maintains the necessary programs and courses.


G. Felix expresses pride in the work accomplished over the year, stating that the Board did a great job. She thanked everyone, acknowledging the efforts and achievements made during their term.

1:05:18

X. ADJOURNMENT at **1:17 PM**



Minutes reviewed by:
Chair of the Board
Nolan Calara


Nolan Calara (Jun 18, 2024 15:21 PDT)

Minutes approved on
6/12/2024
Date:








Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of May 15th, 2024.

Final Audit Report

2024-06-18

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