Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of June 26th, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER at 10:32 AM

II. ROLL CALL
Present: Nolan Calara, Erick Loredo, Deepthi Bhimanapati, Germione Villegas, Jana Ramos, Nidhi Sharma, Joe Trujillo, Sai Lokesh Gayam, Sophia Dela Cruz, Venkata Anirudh, Yashica Avhad, Matt Magaling, Ashley Depappa, Steve Spencer, Jul Custodio, Terry Buttchen

Absent: Charan Reddy Doolam, London Deguzman, Kartik Tripathi, James Carroll, My-Lan Huynh, Jenny O, Martin Castillo

III. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda of June 26th, 2024, by D. Bhimanapati, seconded by E. Loredo, motion CARRIED.

IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of June 12th, 2024
Motion to approve the minutes of June 12th, 2024, by N. Sharma, seconded G. Villegas, 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.
No public comment.
3:30

VI. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

A. ACTION ITEM - Resolution Supporting Women’s Water Polo at CSUEB
The ASI Board of Directors will take action on the resolution supporting women’s water polo at CSUEB.
Motion to approve the Resolution Supporting Women’s Water Polo at CSUEB by E. Loredo, seconded by V. Anirudh, motion CARRIED.
N. Calara explains that several changes were made from the previous version. Specifically, they removed the general "resolve" clause on full transparency and replaced it with a more specific focus. The new clause emphasizes the need for transparency in decision-making
regarding women's water polo. This includes considering the input of coaches, student-athletes, and advisors when making decisions about removing athletic programs. Other than this change, the resolution remains the same as before.

**S. Spencer** from athletics, acknowledge the difficult situation and mentions missing the initial meeting but communicating with N. Calara via email. He expresses pride in the efforts to support students and their assigned responsibilities. From an athletics standpoint, his focus has been on helping students with their next steps, resulting in significant support. He notes that while the situation has been tough for everyone involved, many students have found new opportunities. Out of 19 students, six graduated, at least five have transferred to new teams, and three more are in the process of transferring but haven't found new teams yet. The seniors, particularly those entering their final year, faced the most challenging decisions, with three electing to stay at East Bay to complete their degrees and potentially play another year elsewhere. **S. Spencer** emphasize that all agreements and scholarships for those staying will be honored. These students will still be recognized as athletes during the graduation ceremony. However, there are still a few unaccounted for, with two students not responding to outreach and one withdrawing from classes without clear plans. He mentions working closely with Allison on specific cases and ensuring housing and health insurance refunds for affected students, including international students. **S. Spencer** clarified that his focus has been supporting students during this traumatic time, maintaining open lines of communication with most of them. He also mentions three recruits, one of whom enrolled at East Bay due to uncertainty about other options, while two did not enroll. Despite the controversial and tough nature of the decision, the department has worked hard to support the students throughout the process.

**J. Trujillo** acknowledges the difficult situation, noting that it largely revolves around campus financial allocations. He expresses concern that dissolving the women's water polo program might end up being more costly in the long run. **J. Trujillo** points out that the campus pool, which is primarily used by water polo and athletics, might become an underutilized resource, leading to increased costs. He highlights that a significant number of resources are already allocated to water polo and questions the repercussions of its removal, especially considering the limited number of sports on campus and the infrequent availability of the pool for student use.

**S. Spencer** clarifies that the pool is rented out to various groups, as pools are in high demand in the East Bay. He mentions that the pool is used by master swimming groups and other outside organizations. **S. Spencer** suggests that the removal of the women's water polo
program might create opportunities for more kinesiology activity classes and other student activities, freeing up pool time and space. He emphasizes that the decision to cut the program was budgetary, noting that water polo and swim teams are not part of their conference, leading to costly travel for conference games, especially for water polo. S. Spencer highlights that while the pool is used for various purposes, its increased availability could benefit current students with more activities and swim classes.

**Motion** to add 10 minutes to Resolution Supporting Women’s Water Polo at CSUEB by E. Loredo, seconded by D. Bhimanapati, motion CARRIED.

T. Buttchen discusses the financial decision behind cutting the women's water polo program, comparing it to the previous elimination of the football program. He emphasizes the importance of staying vigilant and proactive, as further cuts might be necessary due to the university’s financial condition. T. Buttchen advise creating a clear communication plan to work with available resources and effectively represent students’ interests. He notes that athletics, often seen as extracurricular, might be more vulnerable to cuts. T. Buttchen suggests involving larger organizations like the NCAA to ensure sound decision-making and emphasize the need to be prepare for potential future cuts in other programs, stressing the importance of representing students’ best interests.

M. Magaling inquiries about how late into the year the women's water polo team was informed about the cuts to their program.

S. Spencer responds that the women's water polo team was informed about the cuts during finals week, right at the end of the academic year.

M. Magaling expresses concern about the students who were suddenly left without a program, noting that if they had been warned months earlier, they could have explored other school programs. He asks what steps were being taken to help these students move forward in their careers.

S. Spencer explains that many students faced challenges due to the timing of the decision, as rosters were already set, and application deadlines had passed at other schools. He mentions one student who had to move home and switch to online classes for the fall to apply for programs starting in the spring. S. Spencer notes that each student’s situation varied widely, and the timing of the decision was difficult for everyone involved. Despite these challenges, efforts were focused on supporting each student individually through this transition.

M. Magaling sought clarification on whether the students who were on scholarship would receive any type of financial aid following the program's dissolution.

S. Spencer confirms that all athletic scholarships would be honored for the students if they remain at East Bay.
M. Magaling inquires whether the university was actively assisting students in finding new teams or schools, or if the responsibility primarily fell on the students themselves. S. Spencer explains that while a significant portion of the effort falls on the students themselves, the university has provided support by sharing lists of potential teams and information. He mentions the rarity of women's water polo teams in the U.S., describing it as a declining collegiate sport. Despite this, the university has facilitated by equipping students with resources and guidance.

M. Magaling expresses concern about the university not actively seeking assistance from other organizations to help students who were part of the women's water polo team. He highlights the contrast between the support provided during recruitment and the current situation where students are left to navigate their futures independently after the program's sudden elimination.

S. Spencer acknowledges the validity of the concern, noting that while efforts were being made to manage the situation, he couldn't speak to the actions of the university's president or athletic director. He emphasizes that the timing of the decision was particularly challenging for many students, which is why the ASI has taken a strong stance on supporting the affected individuals, highlighting the impact on the pioneers of the women's water polo team.

M. Magaling expresses that the reason they are advocating through ASI is because as students, they chose the school for specific programs. He highlights that student in water polo joined the team with expectations for their future at the university, and the abrupt removal of the program without warning raises significant concerns and issues. He also mentioned a similar situation that occurred with the football team in the past.

S. Spencer acknowledges the cancellation of sports programs, such as football and track and field, has occurred in the past at East Bay and is a nationwide occurrence. He points out that athletics require funding and programs are often cut due to budgetary reasons across universities in the United States every year.

M. Magaling emphasizes that athletics departments need to be reminded that decisions like program cuts should not be made during finals week but should be addressed much earlier in the academic year.

J. Trujillo expresses concern about the broader implications of the situation, mentioning the historical decision regarding the football team and suggesting it reflects a cycle of the campus prioritizing financial gain. He emphasizes the need for the student government to strategize on how to address and prevent such situations from recurring, especially with deteriorating facilities like the broken-down tennis courts. J. Trujillo pose a question on
what actions the student government can take to prevent these financial decisions from impacting athletics and facilities negatively in the future.

N. Calara explains that the resolution focuses on improving communication from the university regarding program cuts, attributing these decisions to declining enrollment and funding constraints. He acknowledges the limitations in preventing program cuts but emphasize the importance of clear communication to students. N. Calara highlights the resolution's goal of ensuring students have sufficient time and information to consider their options and prepare for such changes, rather than facing them abruptly during high-stress academic periods like finals week. He expresses hope that by actively engaging with university governance and advocating for better communication practices, students can feel more informed and empowered to navigate such challenges effectively.

Y. Avhad highlights that one reason for funding cuts is declining enrollment, and cutting sports teams like water polo could exacerbate this issue. She expresses concern that athletes redirected to other teams might face similar cuts, potentially deterring future enrollment. Y. Avhad suggests that cutting the water polo team could lead to further reductions in funding for the university.

Motion to approve the Resolution Supporting Women’s Water Polo at CSUEB by 12 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, motion CARRIED.

27:06

B. ACTION ITEM - Policy Agenda

The ASI Board of Directors will take action on the ASI policy agenda for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion to postpone the Policy Agenda to the next Board of Directors Meeting, by E. Loredo, seconded by J. Trujillo, motion CARRIED.

28:03

VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

No new business items.

28:06

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Panetta Institute

E. Loredo shares his recent experience attending the Panetta Institute at CSU Monterey Bay, a program focused on public policy. He participated along with 23 ASI
representatives from other CSU campuses, engaging in seminars, classes, and discussions with guest speakers. The program covered topics such as public policy, leadership, team collaboration, and effective representation as elected officers or campus representatives.

**J. Custodio** thank **E. Loredo** for summarizing his experience at the Panetta Institute, noting the value of participating alongside peers. She mentions the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference on October 4th, inviting **E. Loredo** to consider leading an activity or sharing insights and takeaways from their institute experience during the event.

**E. Loredo** expresses enthusiasm about the opportunity to participate in the Fall Leadership Conference and indicated interest in discussing it further later.

**J. Custodio** mentions that at last year's Fall Leadership Conference, there were over 200 students in attendance, and she anticipates a similar turnout of 150 to 200 students this year. She expresses interest in having participants like **E. Loredo** share his experiences and insights to benefit others during the event.

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**B. Juneteenth Symposium**

**G. Villegas** Director of Wellness and Recreation, share that her and President **N. Calara** attended the annual CSU Juneteenth Symposium hosted by Sacramento State University on June 13th and 14th. The symposium attracted over 700 participants across the two-day event. She goes into detail with her experience at the Juneteenth Symposium.

**N. Calara** adds to **G. Villegas'** presentation, expressing that the Juneteenth Symposium was one of the most inspiring conferences he had attended, more so than the GI 2025 conference in October. He highlights the focus on the low graduation rates of Black students compared to other underrepresented minorities, leading to the formation of the Black Student Success Initiative based on real action rather than performative measures. **N. Calara** clarifies that 13 recommendations were made, inspired by the 13th Amendment on emancipation. He shares a key takeaway from Fresno State University President Saul Jimenez Sandoval, who emphasized that the initiative's success for Black students could be replicated for other underrepresented communities. **N. Calara** expresses his goal to support Black students at CSU East Bay and extend this support to other underrepresented groups. He mentions plans to elevate these efforts to the administrative level, aiming for better funding and initiatives like those at Sacramento State, such as building a Black Honors College and striving to become a Black Serving Institution, akin to a Hispanic Serving Institution.
IX. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

N. Calara congratulates everyone on their achievements, highlighting the significance of having their first resolution, which address an issue important to the women's water polo team. He expresses pride in seeing leadership growth from participation in the Panetta Institute and the Juneteenth Symposium and encourage other Board Members to attend similar conferences. N. Calara mentions the upcoming CSUnity conference in two months, inviting those interest to respond to his email and participate, emphasizing the opportunity to witness and contribute to leadership development within the CSU community.

A. Depappa congratulates the board on their first resolution, calling it a significant achievement and encouraging them to maintain their advocacy throughout the year. She praises the board for their questions, emphasizing the importance of understanding and being confident in their votes. A. Depappa notes that the resolution highlights the desire to provide stability in student-focused programs and urged the board to use feedback to improve communication between administration and students. She also reminds the board about the CSUnity deadline on Friday, stressing the need to submit their interest promptly to ensure timely organization.

J. Trujillo asks what the next steps would be now that the resolution has been passed.

N. Calara explains that after passing the resolution, the next step is to communicate it to relevant departments and parties, such as President Sandeen and Derek Aitken, via email. He emphasizes the importance of fostering dialogue, particularly involving the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and other athletic advisors and groups in future decisions about program cuts. The primary aim is to ensure transparency and communication when decisions impacting students' academic success are made. N. Calara expresses hope that this resolution will serve as a blueprint for future resolutions throughout the school year, encouraging continue advocacy and involvement from the Board Members.

51:18

X. ADJOURNMENT at 11:23 AM

Minutes reviewed by:
President/Chair of the Board
Nolan Calara

Minutes approved on 07/10/2024
Date:
"Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of June 26th, 2024." History

Document created by Sneh Sharma (sneh.sharma@csueastbay.edu)

Document emailed to Nolan Calara (asipresident@csueastbay.edu) for signature
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