

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Feb 4, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER at 12:04PM

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. ROLL CALL

Present: London Deguzman, Kartik Tripathi, Charan Reddy Doolam, Kamalathmika Chalasani, Rolando Munos, Yashica Avhad, Matthias Dempsey, Dane Lopez, Amisha Farhana Shaik, Casey Pangilinan, Niharika Naidu, Nikhil Nettem, Kushal Reddipally, Martin Castillo, James Carroll, Erick Loredo, My-Lan Huynh, Steve Spencer, Kabir Dhillon.

Absent: Jul Custodio, Jenny O, Desiree Cuevas



IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda

Motion to postpone action Item B indefinitely by **K. Tripathi**, Seconded by **K. Reddipally**.
Motion Carried.

K. Tripathi informed everyone that P. Patchwa has resigned and the board will not be discussing on her removal process anymore.

Motion to approve Board of Directors Meeting Agenda of February 4th, 2026 by **K. Tripathi**, Seconded by **M. Dempsey**. **Motion Carried**.

V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of January 21, 2026

Motion to approve Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2026 by **D. Lopez**, Seconded by **y. Avhad**. **Motion Carried**.

VI. 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

VII. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

No unfinished items

VIII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Introducing Confidential Advocate

The ASI Board of Directors will be introduced to Lorraine Holmes.

L. Holmes introduced herself as **Lorraine Holmes**, the new confidential advocate. She stated that she was joined by her colleague, Catherine, from the Counseling Center. Holmes explained that they would be giving a brief presentation covering counseling services, health services available at the health center, and her role as confidential advocate. She encouraged attendees to help spread awareness and serve as ambassadors so others would know about the services available to students. She emphasized that these services are included in tuition and that the vast majority are free of charge whenever students access them.

5:24



C. Kirkpatrick introduced herself as **Catherine Kirkpatrick**, a licensed clinical social worker, and shared that she has been working at East Bay for seven years. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak with student leaders, noting that they have connections with many students the staff may not otherwise reach. She encouraged attendees to help spread awareness of the services and invited questions during or after the presentation.

C. Kirkpatrick explained that approximately 99% of the services offered at the clinic are covered by student tuition, with only a few specialty programs requiring additional cost. She emphasized that counseling services, meetings with the confidential advocate, and most medical services are free to students and encouraged them to take full advantage of these resources. She highlighted that the clinic's goal is to support students through graduation. She described the availability of telehealth and in-person appointments to accommodate students' varied schedules, including telephone, Zoom, and on-campus visits. **C. Kirkpatrick** then reviewed health services provided at the clinic, noting that most are covered under the health fee, with chiropractic services requiring a \$20 co-pay per session. Additional services include gender-affirming care, immunizations and flu shots, laboratory services, medical abortion treatment, tobacco and alcohol cessation programs, pharmacy services, PrEP for HIV prevention, psychiatric services, STI testing, x-rays, and general primary care-type services.

C. Kirkpatrick presented information about the counseling team, explaining that all counselors and the case manager are professionally trained and include licensed clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, and clinicians with master's and doctoral degrees. She outlined the counseling services offered, including individual counseling, couples counseling for student partners, and various group counseling options each semester. She also noted that students can view counselor biographies and introductory videos on the website to reduce anxiety about starting therapy.

She explained the physical location of the main health center at the Hayward campus and described additional embedded counseling services in the residence halls, the SEES program, and partnerships with affinity centers and student support programs. **C. Kirkpatrick** emphasized the clinic's efforts to be accessible and present within the student community.

C. Kirkpatrick discussed common reasons students seek counseling, including stress, anxiety, depression, relationship challenges, grief, transitions, academic stress, and personal growth. She reassured students that counseling is confidential and encouraged student leaders to seek support themselves if needed. She then reviewed the spring counseling groups, detailing their focus areas such as anxiety management, coping skills, art therapy,



healthy relationships, identity-based support, and interpersonal growth. She concluded by introducing the campus psychiatrist, **Dr. Argawal**, who provides psychiatric services and medication consultations both online and in person for students experiencing more severe mental health challenges.

14: 21

L. Holmes thanked the attendees for the opportunity to speak and explained that she serves as the confidential advocate on campus. She noted that while she is new to the role, she is returning to the university after previously working in a contract position in 2020, and expressed her enthusiasm about now being a full-time employee.

L. Holmes described her role as providing support to survivors and individuals impacted by interpersonal violence, including relationship violence, stalking, and sexual assault. She emphasized that her services are tailored to each individual's needs, with no limits on frequency of meetings, and are available in person, via Zoom, or by phone.

She highlighted that her services are completely confidential and explained that, like counselors, she is not required to report incidents of violence to the university or to Title IX. **L. Holmes** stated that conversations with her remain private and that she does not pressure individuals to take any specific actions. Instead, her role is to support individuals in whatever path they choose.

L. Holmes addressed common barriers to seeking advocacy services, encouraging students to reach out even if they are unsure whether their experience fits a specific definition or label. She explained that her support extends to individuals directly impacted as well as those seeking guidance on how to help a friend. She also clarified that meeting with her does not require disclosure of personal experiences, as support can begin wherever the individual feels most comfortable.

She concluded by sharing her contact information, noting that she can be reached by email at advocate@csueastbay.edu or by phone at 510-885-3700, and that appointments can also be scheduled through the health center. **L. Holmes** added that she is available to collaborate on workshops or programming related to sexual assault or domestic violence and thanked everyone again for their time.

17:47

C. Kirkpatrick acknowledged that the Board had a full agenda and emphasized the importance of promoting available support for students experiencing housing, food, or financial insecurity. She highlighted resources such as the campus food pantry and



emergency housing in the residence halls, noting that four dorm rooms are reserved for students facing housing crises who may need temporary placement. She shared an example of a student who was experiencing homelessness and was successfully placed in emergency housing before securing permanent housing in Hayward.

C. Kirkpatrick explained that students in need of these supports can contact the CARE team by emailing care@csueastbay.edu and noted that Angelique, the new case manager, serves as a key point of contact for these resources. She also discussed assistance available to students for applying for CalFresh and accessing emergency assistance grants to help with housing or school-related expenses.

She then reviewed information about the health portal, explaining that students can use it to make appointments, register for groups, message providers, review medical history, and access telehealth appointments. **C. Kirkpatrick** added that for students who feel too busy for counseling, the clinic offers online wellness resources, including self-help videos, articles, and links to free support materials created by counselors.

She concluded by sharing ways students can connect with the clinic, including the website, health portal, phone number, and social media platforms such as Instagram and YouTube. **C. Kirkpatrick** thanked the attendees for their time and leadership in promoting campus services and reaffirmed the clinic's commitment to supporting students and being accessible whenever they need help.

L. Deguzman invited the board to give a round of applause and thanked the presenters for joining the meeting. He expressed hope that the presentation was insightful for board members and others in attendance.

20:17

B. ACTION ITEM: Senator at Large position

The ASI Board of Directors will take action on the removal of Pooja Patchwa from the Senator at Large position.

Motion to postpone action Item B indefinitely by **K. Tripathi**, Seconded by **K. Reddipally**. **Motion Carried**.

K. Tripathi informed everyone that P. Patchwa has resigned and the board will not be discussing on her removal process anymore.



C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Intramural Games.

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on the Intramural Games Spring 2026 Initiatives.

M. Dempsey provided an overview of four key dates for collaboration with the RAW Center and the Peer Advocates for Well-Being related to upcoming intramural games. **M. Dempsey** explained that these dates align with four popular tournaments selected by the intramural program where assistance was requested, primarily through tabling.

M. Dempsey noted that for indoor events, including dodgeball and basketball tournaments, tabling would take place either in the gym or in the lobby. Tabling in the gym would allow engagement with participants actively involved in physical activities, while tabling in the lobby would reach a broader group of individuals entering or leaving the gym during peak after-school and after-work hours. **M. Dempsey** stated that the goal of these interactions is to share CalFresh and nutrition education information.

M. Dempsey also mentioned efforts to develop a customized giveaway specifically for the intramural games and invited board members to provide recommendations on how to personalize the items. He asked board members to sign up for available time slots if they were able to assist at specific events, noting that three events are scheduled for April and one is scheduled for the following Tuesday.

N. Nettem explained that the estimated cost is approximately \$80 per event, bringing the total requested budget to around \$280–\$300. He stated that this amount is being formally requested and suggested further discussion on allocating funds from the healthy snacks budget to support these events.

23:18

L. Deguzman expressed appreciation for the collaboration event, noting that it appeared to be productive and that there had not been many events with PAW during the year. He advised the Board to ensure they use the established event template, acknowledging that while working in a shared document may be easier, the information can be easily copied into the required template. **L. Deguzman** concluded by stating that the plan looked solid overall.

K. Tripathi added that announcements should be made in group chats and suggested coordinating with Rolando to assign participants. He emphasized the importance of having



Board of Directors members present at the events, noting that their presence would positively reflect on the organization.

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Financial Aid Office Visit

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on Financial Aid Office updates/initiatives from Marie Elena Gonzalez and Alta Fortenberry.

M. Gonzalez introduced herself as **Marielena Gonzalez**, the Associate Director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. She noted that she and her team have been working closely with **M. Dempsey** and recently had the opportunity to meet with him in person. She explained that these meetings have focused on listening to concerns and gathering suggestions for improvements related to both departments, particularly financial aid.

A. Fortuneberry introduced herself as Alta Fortuneberry, the Director of Student Financial Services and Cashier. She explained that there was no formal agenda for the discussion and that the meeting time was limited to fifteen minutes. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was to learn how the departments could better serve students by addressing questions, recommendations, or concerns.

She emphasized the importance of meeting with students in person to understand their experiences and to identify ways to streamline processes and improve services. **A. Fortuneberry** added that she and her colleagues had previously met with **M. Dempsey** to clarify how the two departments operate and the distinctions between them. She concluded by inviting questions or offering to further explain the differences between the departments if helpful.

Y. Avhad thanked the presenters for their services and stated that their efforts make processes easier for students. She then raised a concern regarding delays in the posting of scholarships, noting that similar issues had occurred in the previous semester. **Y. Avhad** asked whether there is a way for students to receive notifications or advance notice about when financial aid or scholarships will be posted to their accounts, explaining that the lack of clear timelines creates uncertainty for students. She also mentioned delays related to ASI scholarships and suggested that having estimated posting dates or notifications would help students plan more effectively.

A. Fortuneberry responded by explaining that the timing and process depend on the type of scholarship involved, clarifying whether it is an ASI scholarship, an external scholarship, or federal or state aid. She noted that understanding the specific source helps determine the appropriate process and timeline.

Y. Avhad clarified that her concern related to two items: the Global Excellence Scholarship, which is applied toward tuition and had not yet appeared on her account, and her ASI



paycheck. She explained that the scholarship had previously been managed through CAE and that it was unclear who to contact regarding its status. **Y. Avhad** added that the concern about timing mainly stemmed from the previous semester and that she was seeking clearer notice of when funds would be posted.

A. Fortuneberry acknowledged the concern and explained that one of the main challenges has been the structure of monthly payments. She outlined the process, noting that notifications are received from ASI, followed by internal processing, posting by Student Financial Services, and then issuing refunds. She emphasized that the timing of disbursements depends on when notifications are received. **A. Fortuneberry** added that this issue has been discussed with James, who has encouraged consideration of moving scholarships to a semester-based payment structure, as lump-sum payments are easier to manage and less prone to delays than multiple monthly payments.

She explained that semester-based payments would reduce the number of transactions and help streamline processing, particularly when appointment changes affect award amounts. **A. Fortuneberry** described how updates must be made using spreadsheets provided by ASI and entered into the PeopleSoft system through My CSUEB. While the goal is to process payments within a few business days, she acknowledged that delays can sometimes occur. She noted that improved communication is an area the department can continue to work on and stated that semester-based payments would allow students to rely on a single award amount per term rather than waiting on monthly postings.

Regarding the Global Excellence Scholarship, **A. Fortuneberry** advised **Y. Avhad** to email the Financial Aid office and contact Fennane directly. She explained that the office is currently managing a relatively small backlog of recent emails and that staff would review whether the necessary scholarship notification and forms had been received from the awarding department. She concluded by stating that once the department notification is confirmed, the scholarship team can proceed with posting the award to the student's account.

A. Fortuneberry continued by explaining the board distinction between Financial Aid and Student Financial Services, emphasizing the separation of duties between the two offices. She stated that the Financial Aid office does not disburse funds directly, instead, it authorizes Student Financial Services to release payments. Financial Aid processes FAFSA submissions and student request forms, which authorize payments, and once their review is complete, the information is forwarded to Student Financial Services for disbursement.

A. Fortuneberry explained that the typical timeline between the two offices is about one to two weeks, though it can take longer if there are errors or discrepancies. She noted that Student Financial Services must work with the accounting department to verify account information before releasing funds. If incorrect information is submitted such as errors in



chart fields or funding sources the request must be returned to the originating department for correction before it can move forward again.

She added that while the originating department's corrections are usually completed quickly, additional time is required for Student Financial Services and accounting to reverify the information before payment is issued. **A. Fortuneberry** noted that much of this back-end processing, which can sometimes take two to four weeks depending on the situation, is not visible to students. She explained that Financial Aid can only post funds to a student's account once accurate information is confirmed, and differences between authorization and payment processing can contribute to perceived delays.

A. Fortuneberry concluded by reassuring students that they are welcome to email or call either office at any time. She stated that staff can track exactly where a payment is in the process and provide students with updates as needed. **A. Fortuneberry** further explained that delays can occur when the necessary forms have not actually been received, even if a department intended to submit them. She advised students to first follow up with the office or department awarding the funds, then with Financial Aid, and finally with Student Financial Services or the Cashier's Office, which serves as the final step in the process.

She emphasized that while the behind-the-scenes processes can be complex, the intent is to provide transparency about how payments are handled. **A. Fortuneberry** noted that, unlike an idealized scenario where refunds could be issued instantly, multiple layers of review and processing are required. She reiterated that moving to a single payment per semester could help reduce processing delays and make the system more efficient.

A. Fortuneberry also cautioned students to regularly review their accounts, explaining that some scholarships or payments may be issued directly to students rather than applied to outstanding fees. She noted that if a student receives a check while still owing a balance, it may be because the funds bypassed fees due to how the scholarship was set up or because of an outstanding balance from a previous term. She clarified that financial aid funds cannot legally be applied retroactively to prior-term balances, meaning students are responsible for resolving those charges separately.

She added that certain funds, such as basic needs assistance, are typically issued directly to students unless designated for housing. Similarly, ASI funds are structured as refundable, meaning they are issued directly to students even if an account balance exists, based on how the funds were approved and configured. **A. Fortuneberry** concluded by reiterating that timing is critical: when documentation and notifications are received early, funds can be disbursed sooner, but delays in submission will result in later payments.

S. Spencer asked a question regarding the level of communication provided to students who have an outstanding balance. He inquired about how and when students are notified if they



owe money, specifically asking whether students receive email notifications or alerts when a financial hold is placed on their account.

A. Fortuneberry responded that students typically do receive communication regarding balances. She explained that on a weekly basis she personally reviews accounts and ensures that any student who has received a refund is sent an email notification. The message informs students that they will receive, or have already received, a refund either through direct deposit or by check. She noted that the email clearly states in bold that if a student has an outstanding balance, it is their responsibility to review the account and submit payment.

A. Fortuneberry added that students should expect to receive this email within one to two weeks of a refund being issued and that it is sent to the student's Horizon email account. She acknowledged that students may not always read emails in full, which is why the message is intentionally brief, formatted with bullet points, and highlights the responsibility to check and pay any remaining balance.

S. Spencer followed up by asking whether students are notified when a financial hold is placed on their account, specifically referring to registration holds.

A. Fortuneberry responded that notifications are sometimes sent, but not in all cases. She explained that financial holds can overlap with academic holds, and in those situations, the Registrar's Office may direct students to review the existing holds already on their accounts.

A. Fortuneberry added that during the past year, the department did send out a notification informing students that a hold had been placed on their account and instructing them to log in and review the details.

A. Fortuneberry responded by first asking for student input on preferred communication methods, specifically whether emails or text messages were more effective. After hearing emails were preferred, she explained that the department has been experimenting with different communication strategies and is working to consolidate emails due to the high-volume students already receive from across campus.

She noted that the office has been collaborating with the One Stop at Perry's Nest, which has the ability to send text messages on their behalf, since Student Financial Services does not currently have its own texting system. **A. Fortuneberry** emphasized that the department is open to feedback from student leaders on what communication methods work best for the student body.

She then provided an example of recent targeted communication regarding the Middle-Class Scholarship, explaining that an informational email was sent to clarify that this particular scholarship does not disburse at the same time as other financial aid and is released after census. She explained that this proactive outreach was intended to manage expectations, as the Middle-Class Scholarship often involves adjustments and delayed disbursement. **A.**



Fortuneberry asked whether attendees had seen the message and invited feedback on its effectiveness.

She concluded by sharing upcoming communication plans, stating that within the next two weeks, students who have submitted a FAFSA or CADAA application for the next academic year will receive confirmation that their application was received. She added that the office plans to begin issuing award letters for the next year by mid-March and emphasized the goal of maintaining consistent, targeted communication throughout the semester so students are not left without updates for extended periods.

A. Fortuneberry thanked the Board for the invitation and specifically expressed appreciation to **M. Dempsey** for his assistance and responses during the discussion. She stated that she and her team would be happy to return for future meetings if additional questions arise and encouraged attendees to reach out to her via email with any further inquiries.

40:23

E. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: The Legacy Continues: Black History Month

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on the event The Legacy Continues.

Y. Avhad introduced an upcoming event being hosted in honor of Black History Month, explaining that the goal is to connect historical context with present-day issues and to create an open space for students to engage in dialogue, reflection, and advocacy at the student level. She shared that the event is being organized in collaboration with Dishonored and Lavon and Terry from the Civil Rights Office.

Y. Avhad explained that the event will be a tabling event rather than a room-based program, noting that tabling tends to attract more student engagement. Planned activities include “Did You Know” flip cards featuring lesser-known facts about Black history, including Black activists, innovators, and Black alumni from Cal State East Bay. Additionally, she described a tri-fold poster panel that will highlight historical events on one side, current realities in the middle, and a student-focused reflection section on the other, encouraging participation and dialogue.

If resources allow, **Y. Avhad** also expressed interest in highlighting local Black-owned businesses to further support community engagement. She noted that the event flyer still needs minor updates, including the addition of partner logos. To support student engagement, she requested \$20 to purchase small giveaway items such as wristbands,



buttons, and stickers. **Y. Avhad** concluded by inviting suggestions and feedback from the Board and thanked everyone for their time.

43:01

F. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Love in Every Community

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed on the event Love in Every Community.

Y. Avhad provided additional details about another event titled “Love in Every Community,” describing it as a casual pop-up scheduled for the following day from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on the WU Walkway. She explained that the event aligns with February being both Valentine’s season and Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships Month, and is intended to help students recognize the signs of healthy, unhealthy, and concerning relationships particularly important as college may be the first time many students experience romantic relationships.

Y. Avhad outlined an interactive “red flag, green flag, yellow flag” activity inspired by a previous Domestic Violence Awareness Month event. The event is being organized in partnership with Peer Advocates for Wellness (PAWS), who will host a condom card pop-up. She also coordinated with Shawna from the Student Health and Counseling Center to provide informational resources, including couples therapy and related support services. In addition, materials from the Civil Rights Office will be available to educate students on reporting options related to abuse or domestic violence.

Y. Avhad concluded by inviting attendees to stop by the event if available and clarified that no budget request is being made for this pop-up.

44:59

G. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: INSPIRE PROGRAM: Plans for Spring 2026

The ASI Board of Directors will be informed about the Inspire Program plans.

C. Pangilinan proposed bringing back ASI classroom-style presentations in Spring 2026, noting that although traditional G courses are no longer offered, ASI plans to target the INSPIRE program, a relatively new initiative on campus. She explained that INSPIRE consists of cohorts of incoming first-year students who take courses together, making it an ideal audience for outreach and engagement.

C. Pangilinan shared a proposed timeline of April 6–10 for the presentations, allowing approximately two months for preparation. The early notice was intended to give presenters sufficient time to reserve availability for the proposed time slots. Each presentation would



last approximately five minutes and would focus on helping students understand ASI's role, emphasizing that ASI is student-funded and exists to advocate for student priorities.

The rationale for selecting the INSPIRE program was to ensure that incoming students who may be unfamiliar with campus resources are introduced early to ASI and understand that it is a support system they can access when needed. **C. Pangilinan** noted that coordination with INSPIRE is underway; while a formal response is still pending, verbal confirmation has been received from one of the program's team leads.

C. Pangilinan added that the plan is to have at least two ASI representatives present at each session to provide mutual support and ease the pressure of presenting individually. A previous ASI presentation, shared by E. Loredo, will serve as a reference template, with updated information as needed. The selected dates also align strategically with the return from the CHESS conference and occur after spring break, allowing members time to rest before beginning outreach efforts. She concluded by inviting feedback and suggestions from the Board.

47:46

L. Deguzman asked for clarification on the proposed timeline, specifically whether outreach to the INSPIRE program had already taken place.

C. Pangilinan confirmed that initial contact had been made. **L. Deguzman** then noted that the next steps would involve distributing the presentation schedule and organizing sign-up sheets for participants moving forward. He expressed strong support for the initiative, sharing positive past experience with ASI presentations in GE courses. They noted that those presentations were highly informative for first-year students and emphasized that this type of outreach can make a meaningful impact.

48:29

H. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Cup w/ Casey Program Tabling Recap

The ASI Board of Directors will be given a recap.

C. Pangilinan presented a recap of the Cup of Casey event, describing it as a highly successful tabling initiative with strong student engagement. She reported that more than 60 students stopped by during the hour-and-a-half event, which was notably higher than typical tabling turnout. This increased engagement was attributed to effective marketing strategies and accessible, interactive activities at the table.



C. Pangilinan explained that a new marketing approach was implemented, including a five-day social media countdown and the use of Instagram reels. This strategy helped generate greater traction, as students were able to see and connect with ASI board members directly rather than only engaging with static flyers. She emphasized that showing board members' personalities and presence made the event feel more approachable.

In terms of engagement activities, **C. Pangilinan** described a card-based conversation activity inspired by "We're Not Really Strangers." The activity was structured in three levels: Level One focused on connection and general get-to-know-you questions; Level Two addressed academic experiences and areas where students may need additional support; and Level Three centered on student engagement and the types of campus events students would like to see. Students were invited to participate by simply having a conversation and sharing feedback, with complimentary drinks serving as the main incentive.

C. Pangilinan also highlighted how student feedback was documented, noting that responses were recorded alongside the cards students selected. In cases where students preferred not to be photographed, alternative documentation methods were used. She encouraged board members to review the collected feedback and consider adapting similar ideas for future initiatives.

50:48

Additional tabling insights were shared, particularly the importance of an eye-catching setup in attracting students. **C. Pangilinan** noted that visible incentives, such as free drinks, significantly increased foot traffic. Pangilinan concluded by thanking fellow board members who assisted during busy periods, acknowledging that while the event was intended to be low-stakes, it became crowded at times. Looking ahead, She expressed appreciation for the team's support and indicated that continued collaboration will be needed for future events.

K. Tripathi commended the success of the event, describing it as an amazing initiative and thanking the presenter for sharing the recap. He encouraged all board members to highlight and celebrate their successful events in a similar manner. Moving forward, **K. Tripathi** recommended that board members prepare brief presentations showcasing events with strong turnout, positive outcomes, and engaging visuals. He emphasized that sharing these successes with the board helps foster encouragement, recognition, and a sense of collective achievement among members.

51:56



IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. CSSA January Plenary @ Sonoma State

L. Deguzman shared a report from a recent plenary session attended with K. Chalasani at Sonoma State, outlining several major policies and systemwide issues discussed. **L. Deguzman** first addressed AS-3763, an Academic Senate resolution opposing a recent Department of Justice decision that restricts federal funding for minority-serving institutions. The resolution calls for the restoration of this funding in order to continue advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in higher education. He noted the direct impact of this decision on CSU campuses, including the recent loss of Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) funding that previously supported students and student programs.

L. Deguzman discussed AB-1552, a proposed Assembly Bill that would require California public universities to emphasize civic engagement and the preservation of democracy within general education history and government courses. He explained that the CSU Academic Senate is likely to take an opposed position, as there are ongoing concerns that the bill may infringe on academic freedom. He clarified that academic freedom is intended to protect student-centered learning and curriculum integrity, rather than unrestricted faculty discretion.

L. Deguzman then highlighted a proposed Department of Homeland Security rule affecting F-1 and H-1 visa holders, which was identified as a particularly significant concern. The proposed rule would eliminate duration-of-status protections and instead impose fixed time limits for degree completion. Proposed changes include a four-year limit with a shortened post-graduation grace period, along with new requirements for extensions involving additional fees, biometrics, and interviews. He emphasized that these changes would increase barriers for international students and suggested that the CSU may pursue legal action in response.

55:54

L. Deguzman also addressed a recent Board of Trustees decision to increase executive compensation, including salary and housing stipend increases for CSU presidents and chancellors. The Board justified the decision by stating that the CSU aims to remain an “employer of choice” and competitive within the higher education market, citing comparisons to other large public and private universities. He noted that while the estimated cost of the increases is three to four million dollars, the CSU is also facing significant expenses related to prolonged presidential vacancies,



including the costs of search committees and external consultants. Filling these vacancies was identified as a priority for the Board.

K. Chalasani provided updates from participation in the systemwide affairs committee. She reported on a major discussion regarding a resolution introduced by Fresno State that advocates for reforms to non-resident tuition fees. The resolution addresses concerns over steep and unpredictable tuition increases affecting international, undocumented, and out-of-state students. She explained that non-resident tuition has increased to \$444 per unit this year, representing a \$48 increase over two years, and noted that because F-1 visa students must enroll in a minimum of 12 units, these increases significantly impact affordability and access. The resolution calls on the CSU system and CSSA to advocate for more gradual, moderate, and predictable tuition increases and to consider capping future increases. **K. Chalasani** emphasized the relevance of this issue for the campus due to its large international student population.

She also shared updates from the legislative affairs committee, including a presentation from the CSU Chancellor's Office on the state budget and an advocacy walkthrough on how students can engage with their assigned legislators during the semester. **K. Chalasani** noted that CSSA is planning a spring civic engagement event and state advocacy days and that the committee will work to involve students from the campus in these efforts.

K. Chalasani concluded by referencing a recent Academic Senate resolution discussed earlier that condemns the federal decision to end funding for minority-serving institutions, including HSIs and BSIs. Chalasani stated that the resolution reaffirms CSU's commitment to equity and that systemwide advocacy developments and potential CSSA support will continue to be monitored.

1:00:08

L. Deguzman concluded by returning to the proposed Department of Homeland Security rule affecting F-1 and H-1 visa holders. He shared that they had spoken with J. Carroll about the possibility of drafting a formal statement opposing the rule and invited board members to participate in the development of that statement. He noted that while the issue will likely be addressed at a broader CSU level, there is still value in taking a clear stance.

L. Deguzman also encouraged board members to remain engaged in advocacy efforts for the remainder of the semester, particularly through opportunities to contribute to policy writing, statements, or resolutions. They emphasized the importance of using the time left in their roles as Board of Directors to participate actively in systemwide and student-focused advocacy initiatives.



X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

K. Tripathi raised two administrative matters for the board. First, he asked members who were assigned to a university by committee last semester but are unable to attend this semester due to conflicts to notify them by Monday. **K. Tripathi** acknowledged **C. Pangilinan** for already communicating a conflict and clarified that academic conflicts are acceptable, whereas other commitments such as club meetings or work obligations should not take precedence over ASI responsibilities, emphasizing that ASI should be the top priority after academics.

K. Tripathi then addressed participation in tabling activities, noting low engagement on the tabling sign-up sheet. He instructed all board members to sign up for at least two to three tabling shifts and stated that attendance can also be balanced through participation in other ASI events when necessary. **K. Tripathi** added that tabling participation will now be reviewed on a weekly basis and cautioned that continued lack of sign-ups or improvement would be treated as a personnel matter.

1:02:10

R. Munos added a clarification regarding tabling logistics, asking board members to include the specific time slots they plan to attend when signing up for tabling shifts. He explained that this information helps with coordinating coverage, identifying gaps, and determining when additional support may be needed to ensure consistent tabling presence.

J. Carroll shared reminders about several upcoming ASI-sponsored and co-sponsored events over the next week. He noted that ASI will be providing support and presence for the Super Bowl watch party this weekend, which will include a game viewing, free food, and promotional efforts, and encouraged board members to attend and invite others.

Looking ahead to the following week, **J. Carroll** highlighted a busy schedule of programming, including a partnership and tabling collaboration with PAWS for Paws, as well as overlapping board-led activities that will coincide with the “Create a Creature” event taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday. He also announced East Bay After Dark on Friday the 13th, featuring a silent disco with three DJs and wireless headphones.

J. Carroll emphasized that while the next couple of weeks will involve heavy programming, there are many opportunities to support ASI initiatives and student engagement. Carroll concluded by thanking board members for their collaboration efforts and continued teamwork.

1:03:39

C. Pangilinan added a final point of emphasis regarding upcoming events, specifically Create a Creature and Case for Belonging. She reminded the board that earlier in the semester, a request was made for members to step away from standard tabling locations and instead table in the UU to help direct more students toward these events. She noted concern that the tabling sign-up sheet for this effort was currently blank.

C. Pangilinan encouraged board members to sign up to table between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., emphasizing that even a 30-minute commitment would significantly help increase attendance and visibility. She stressed that because these events require substantial resources, increased tabling support is important to ensure strong student turnout.

1:04:12

K. Tripathi shared an additional update, informing the board that **P. Patchwa** and **N. Dasale** have resigned from their positions. As a result, applications for the Senator-at-large position have been opened as of that day. He noted that **R. Munos** will be posting the application flyer on social media and encouraged board members to share the opportunity with interested peers. **K. Tripathi** added that the priority application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, allowing time for recommendations to be completed the following week and for the position to be filled promptly.

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 01:09 PM



Minutes reviewed and approved by:

President/CEO:

London Deguzman

Minutes approved on:

02/18/26

Date

