

Election Committee Meeting Minutes, February 11th, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER at **10:22PM**
- II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT - 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: Ace Maharjan, Elia Varela, Destiny Estacel, Walter Perez, Srividya Peri, Saksham Jain, Erick Loreda, James Carroll, Destiny Jones
Absent: Heather Gardley
- IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda



Motion to approve the agenda of Elections Committee meeting of **February 11th, 2026**, by **D. Estacel**, seconded by **S. Peri**, Motion CARRIED.

V. **ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of April 9, 2025**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Elections Committee meeting **Minutes of April 9, 2025**, by **W. Perez**, seconded by **S. Jain**, 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 - Election Timeline

The ASI Election Committee will be informed on the election timeline.

J. Carroll began by greeting everyone and providing an update regarding the ASI Student Government Elections. He pointed out that the elections webpage includes the full election timeline, and highlighted a few key upcoming dates.

He stated that the deadline for candidate filing is Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Following the deadline, ASI advisors will begin the process of verifying candidate eligibility, which will take place during the remainder of the week. Candidates who are confirmed to be eligible will receive invitations to attend one of the mandatory candidate information sessions, scheduled for Monday, February 23 and Tuesday, February 24.

J. Carroll emphasized that attending at least one info session is required in order for a candidate to remain in the election process. He mentioned that accommodations may be made in emergency situations, but typically, candidates are expected to attend.



He added that candidates deemed ineligible will receive an email with an explanation, which could include reasons such as judicial standing, GPA, financial holds, or applying for a position they don't qualify for. The advisors will handle eligibility verification, and once the final list of eligible candidates is confirmed, it will be shared with the elections committee for the next steps. **J. Carroll** also mentioned that a Candidate Success Workshop is scheduled for **Friday, February 27**, which will include tips on campaigning and insights from outgoing or past board members. In addition, ASI will offer to take profile pictures for candidates who don't already have one or would like a new one, to help ensure consistency and quality. He outlined that campaigning will begin **in** early March and continue for a few weeks until elections take place just before spring break. He clarified that the rest of the election timeline would be addressed later and that this overview was focused on the current phase, from candidate filing through eligibility and into the start of campaigning. **J. Carroll** asked if there were any questions.

W. Perez asked for clarification on the **candidate eligibility deadline**. **J. Carroll** repeated that the deadline to apply is Wednesday, February 18 at 11:59 p.m., and explained that **Thursday and Friday (February 19–20)** would be used by advisors to review eligibility. By **Friday, February 20**, emails would be sent to all candidates confirming whether they are eligible and providing details for the info sessions. He added that elections committee members would be CC'd on all relevant correspondence.

8:58

B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Elections and Marketing/Events

The ASI Election Committee will be informed on the election marketing plan.

D. Jones presented an informational item regarding elections and marketing events. She began by outlining the current focus of the election marketing plan, which is to encourage students to run for ASI positions and get involved in student government. She explained that the campaign theme is "Someone Like You," which uses imagery such as a pointing finger to symbolically encourage students to see themselves in ASI leadership roles. The message is that students don't need to be political science majors or extroverts they simply need to be passionate about making change on campus. **D. Jones** emphasized that the campaign messaging highlights leadership, representation, resume-building, making an



impact, and having one's voice heard. She then showcased some of the marketing materials that had been ordered, including "I Voted" stickers to be distributed at events and elections as a token of participation. Additionally, she displayed lawn signs with messaging about the importance of voting and a QR code directing students to the election's website. Ten of these signs would be placed around campus.

D. Jones added that more marketing materials would be created by her and the marketing team, and efforts would be focused on platforms where students are most engaged primarily Instagram, with occasional posts on LinkedIn, along with posters, flyers, ASI digital signs, roadway signs, and email campaigns. She concluded by asking if there were any questions. Hearing none, the meeting moved on to the next informational item.

W. Perez stated that he had nothing to report for the ethics overview and plan.

J. Carroll followed up to provide additional context for the ethics portion of the elections process. He explained that once the candidate application deadline is reached, he would be working with Heather and Walter to update the PowerPoint slides used in last year's mandatory candidate sessions. These updated slides will outline the dos and don'ts of campaigning, including examples, and will be distributed to all eligible candidates. While some of the ethical guidelines are already present in the elections code, the presentation provides more detailed explanations and scenarios.

J. Carroll added that campaign-related ethics enforcement becomes especially important once the campaign period officially begins, and this is when potential violations, grievances, or allegations might arise.

D. Jones then added one final note that ties into both marketing and ethics. She shared that a "Market Yourself" presentation will be part of the Candidate Success Training. This session will teach students how to market themselves effectively, while also understanding the ethical parameters around what is and isn't allowed during campaigning.

11:40

C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Ethics Overview & Plan

The ASI Election Committee will be informed on the ethics overview plan.



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13:30

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Candidate Verification Process

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J. Carroll continued by explaining additional details about the candidate verification process. He reiterated that candidates must meet the minimum criteria to run for office. For executive positions, prior ASI experience is required, while for director and senator positions, prior ASI experience is not required. He stated that candidates must also be in good standing with the university, which includes financial standing, judicial standing related to student conduct, and academic standing in terms of grades. **J. Carroll** clarified that the minimum GPA requirement for any candidate is 2.2. This requirement applies to the candidate's previous completed semester, their overall cumulative GPA, and must also be maintained in any subsequent semester. If elected, board members must continue to maintain that minimum GPA each semester as well as their cumulative GPA.



He noted that the ASI website outlines that approximately six or seven years ago, the board voted to raise the minimum GPA from 2.0, with a 0.05 increase each year through 2028. He explained that while the Chancellor’s Office requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 for student government and other major office holders, each campus has the authority to set a higher standard. ASI chose to implement a gradual increase to encourage stronger academic performance. **Carroll** acknowledged that there have been mixed feelings about the policy, but stated that the board’s intention was to ensure that students maintain a clear focus on academic success while serving in leadership roles. He emphasized that student leaders must find a balance between extracurricular involvement and academic responsibilities. He added that graduate students are held to a higher standard, as the university requires them to maintain a 3.0 GPA, with limited exceptions depending on specific master’s programs. He concluded by mentioning that there are additional eligibility criteria outlined in the elections code. For example, students who were removed from the board in a previous year or cycle may not be eligible to run again. Overall, the primary requirements are that candidates must be enrolled, in good standing, and meet the minimum GPA and position-specific criteria.

16.55

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

No Special Reports

X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

No Round Table Remarks

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 10:39PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

Chair of Elections Committee:

Ace Maharjan

Minutes approved on:

02/25/26

Date

