

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes April 9th, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 2:14PM**
- 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: Daniel Kristofferson Lopez, Sri Charan Baka, Srilekha Budithi, Ruthvik Reddy, David Teng, Mukul Dawan
Absent: Erick Loredo
- IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda**
Motion to approve agenda of sustainability affairs committee meeting on April 9, 2026 by **S. Baka**, seconded by **M. Dawan**. **Motion Carried.**
- V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of, March 12th 2026**
Motion to approve minutes of sustainability affairs committee meeting on March 12th, 2026 by **S. Baka**, seconded by **M. Dawan**. **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 - Upcoming Tabling: “Thrift, Swap & Drop” The committee will be informed about the upcoming event.

D. Lopez asked the committee to suggest the most suitable days for tabling, initially proposing Tuesdays and Thursdays while remaining open to other options. He explained that the event would follow the same format as before but would include improvements such as a clothing setup, a more organized table layout, and possibly candy to make it more engaging.

M. Dawan agreed that Tuesdays and Thursdays tend to have higher campus traffic, leading **D. Lopez** to confirm those days. The group then discussed scheduling details and collectively decided to set up at 11:30 a.m., begin at 12:00 p.m., and conclude around 1:30 p.m.

D. Lopez confirmed that the tabling would typically take place in the UU walkway but suggested exploring additional locations. In response, **M. Dawan** shared that tabling inside the CORE, particularly on the third floor outside the large room, had recently attracted significant traffic. The group agreed this would be a strong alternative location. **D. Lopez** also proposed tabling near student housing, such as Lassen Hall, but Dawan expressed concerns about low engagement in that area, suggesting instead the RAW tabling spaces, which the group accepted.

D. Lopez then discussed logistics, noting that they already had several bags of floats and encouraged members to bring more if possible. He also emphasized an effort to make the setup appear more professional moving forward and reflected positively on the success of the previous two-day suite tabling event. **D. Lopez** stated that a finalized schedule would be shared with all members and asked everyone to keep their calendars clear for the remainder of the semester. He also mentioned plans to include all committee members in the schedule and noted that Jennifer had shown interest in the event but was unavailable at the time. He planned to meet with her later and provide further updates to the group online.



B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Upcoming Event: “GenCo X CSUEB Tabling” The committee will be informed about the upcoming event.

D. Lopez proposed that the committee begin tabling every week through the end of the semester, even if all materials were not yet finalized. He explained that although the laundry sheet initiative was still incomplete, it would be beneficial to take initiative and start outreach immediately, incorporating additional products later as they became available. **D. Lopez** encouraged the team to research alternative sustainable laundry items beyond laundry sheets, such as wool-based options or other eco-friendly materials. He suggested assigning this task to specific members and requested that findings be shared by the following Tuesday. Volunteers were asked to step forward, with Lopez emphasizing collaboration and the importance of identifying affordable options, particularly items that could be sourced quickly online for potential purchase.

D. Lopez proposed holding tabling sessions every Wednesday, prompting a discussion about scheduling and student availability. He asked the group to consider peak traffic times near laundry facilities, but **M. Dawan** noted that most students tend to use laundry rooms in the evening, which may not be ideal for tabling. Daytime traffic near these locations was described as limited, though **M. Dawan** suggested that effective promotion could still draw students during the day.

D. Lopez agreed and proposed tabling near residential areas such as El Dorado Hall, which is located close to a laundry room, as well as in front of Lassen Hall. The group discussed timing and ultimately agreed on a flexible schedule: sessions would typically run from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., with the option to start earlier at 12:00 p.m. on days when schedules allowed.

Finally, **D. Lopez** clarified that the initiative would be open to all East Bay students and emphasized the importance of consistent promotion. Plans were made to repeatedly advertise tabling locations on social media. Lopez also suggested creating a promotional video showcasing both the laundry initiative and general tabling efforts to strengthen marketing and outreach.

C. DISCUSSION ITEM - Resolution Draft | AI Usage in Classrooms The committee will be discussing the upcoming resolution.

D. Lopez introduced a draft resolution addressing the use of artificial intelligence in classrooms and initiated a discussion by asking committee members about their experiences with AI in their courses. While some members noted limited or no use of AI in their classes, others mentioned that professors either discouraged its use or only incorporated it minimally.



D. Lopez expressed concern that excessive reliance on AI by students could undermine genuine learning, emphasizing that simply using AI to pass courses does not equate to truly acquiring knowledge or skills. He stressed the responsibility of ASI to ensure that students are adequately prepared for their future careers and are receiving the quality education they are paying for.

To address these concerns, **D. Lopez** outlined several key proposals: promoting intentional and ethical use of generative AI, reducing over-reliance that may hinder learning and skill development, and establishing clear institutional standards with accountability measures. He highlighted the importance of institutional action and suggested initiating discussions with campus leadership, first by meeting with the Dean of Science, Carmen Bustos, before potentially escalating the matter to university leadership.

D. Lopez invited committee members to participate in an upcoming meeting, tentatively planned for the following week, while also being mindful of students' midterm schedules. Additionally, He noted that further committee meetings would be scheduled to continue progress on the resolution.

D. Lopez referenced preliminary research indicating that AI usage may negatively impact memory retention and analytical reasoning, as well as increase risks related to academic integrity, such as plagiarism and reduced authenticity in student work. He also raised concerns about inequity, pointing out that students with access to premium AI tools may have an unfair advantage over others.

Beyond policy measures, **D. Lopez** suggested expanding outreach efforts by incorporating discussions about responsible AI use into classroom visits. This would include promoting alternative academic resources available on campus, such as tutoring centers and student support services, to reduce dependence on AI tools. He concluded by stating that a draft of the resolution, currently in the form of a white paper, would be shared with the committee. The goal is to refine and formally present the resolution by May, with plans to introduce it as a discussion item in the following week's meeting.

D. DISCUSSION ITEM - Resolution Draft | BART Stations Cuts The committee will be discussing the upcoming resolution.

D. Lopez introduced a new resolution idea that had not yet been started and asked for a volunteer to help develop it, preferably someone familiar with commuting via Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). The discussion began with concerns about potential service reductions, with **M. Dawan** explaining that BART services might be reduced in the short term and, if profitability does not improve over the next two years, could face permanent shutdowns in certain areas.



D. Lopez clarified that the goal of the resolution would be to advocate against service cuts, emphasizing that reduced BART access would make commuting significantly more difficult for students, particularly those traveling from surrounding cities to campus. He highlighted the importance of maintaining reliable public transportation for student accessibility and success.

M. Dawan questioned how ASI could realistically influence such decisions, noting that BART operates on a larger regional scale. **D. Lopez** acknowledged this challenge and suggested that the resolution could begin as a formal statement of support opposing service cuts. The plan would involve first presenting the resolution to campus administration and, if approved, potentially escalating it to external governing bodies.

D. Lopez considered directing the resolution to the City of Hayward, but **M. Dawan** pointed out that BART is a regional system spanning multiple cities, making it more appropriate to engage with state-level authorities. **D. Lopez** agreed and noted the need to further clarify the appropriate channels, possibly involving state government entities in Sacramento.

D. Lopez concluded by encouraging collaboration on drafting the resolution, suggesting that the committee revisit and refine the proposal in their next meeting before moving forward with approval and submission.

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

D. Lopez shared that, through participation in CHESS, they had the opportunity to meet with representatives from two congressional offices. During these conversations, one discussion focused on AB 2212, a bill aimed at reducing harmful uses of artificial intelligence, particularly in generating inappropriate or abusive content. He noted that such technologies can be misused to create harmful images and contribute to harassment, negatively affecting students' mental health and well-being.

D. Lopez expressed strong support for the bill and suggested that the school, through ASI, should also formally endorse it. This recommendation was tied to growing concerns about social media-related harassment on campus, which he indicated has recently become a significant issue, with multiple students raising concerns directly.



D. Lopez highlighted concerns about the effectiveness of current Title IX training, suggesting that it may be outdated and not consistently completed by students. He emphasized the need to strengthen awareness and enforcement of these trainings to better address evolving challenges, particularly those related to online harassment. As part of a broader effort to improve student safety, he proposed drafting a resolution focused on these issues. A key concern raised was the anonymous social media platform Yik Yak, which he described as a source of harassment for students. While not necessarily advocating for its removal, he stressed the importance of addressing the negative impact it has on campus climate.

D. Lopez concluded by underscoring the responsibility of student leadership, particularly within ASI, to foster a safe and supportive campus environment and to take action against forms of harassment that harm the student community.

X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

D. Lopez introduced a special sustainability project focused on transforming a campus balcony into a small garden. He explained that the plan involves setting up a space approximately 3 feet by 17–18 feet, where herbs and tomato plants could be grown in pots. After consulting with Evelyn Muñoz, he clarified that the project would not require facilities approval since it would rely on movable pots rather than permanent installations.

D. Lopez identified long-term maintenance as a key concern, emphasizing the need for future sustainability committee members and the next Director of Sustainability to continue managing the garden. To address this, he proposed ensuring that sustainability committee members remain active even during the summer and winter terms.

The committee then discussed design options for the garden layout, including whether to use multiple smaller planter boxes (such as 3x3 sections) or one larger continuous setup. **D. Lopez** also considered expanding the project to another side of the balcony with additional smaller planters. Cost estimates were discussed, with pots alone projected at around \$220 and total costs, including soil, potentially reaching \$500.00. **D. Lopez** noted funding constraints, as most of the available budget was already allocated to upcoming Earth Week events.

D. Lopez encouraged all committee members to participate in the balcony project and mentioned plans to share a draft sketch of the layout with **J. Carroll** for further input.



D. Lopez outlined activities for Earth Week. Wednesday would feature the Earth Fair, while Thursday would include the EB Jamboree, where the committee would host a tabling event. Additional plans included organizing a sustainability-focused speaker event on Monday the 21st, participating in the Walkway Fair on Tuesday the 22nd, and hosting interactive activities such as carnival-style games with sustainable prizes like bento boxes and reusable metal bottles.

D. Lopez also proposed a closing activity for Friday, suggesting a campus hike combined with a cleanup effort to promote environmental responsibility. **M. Dawan** contributed by recommending outreach to the campus Fulfillment Center in the Student Services and Administration (SA) building to obtain surplus East Bay merchandise. Both agreed that redistributing existing items aligns with sustainability goals by reducing waste and making use of available resources.

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 02:47PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

Chair/Director of Sustainability:

Daniel Kristofferson Lopez

Minutes approved on:

04/23/26

Date

