

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes of March 12th, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER at 2:13PM

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

Absent: Mukul Dawan, Erick Loredó

IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda of sustainable affairs meeting on March 12th, 2026 by **S. Baka**, Seconded by **R. Reddy**. **Motion Carried.**



V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of, February 26th 2026

Motion to approve the agenda of sustainable affairs Minutes of February 26th, 2026 by **S. Baka**,
Seconded by **R. Reddy**. **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 comment

VII. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

No Unfinished Items

VIII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. DISCUSSION ITEM - Upcoming Event: “Rescue & Relish” The committee will be informed about the upcoming event’s logistics and execution.

D. Lopez stated that the Rescue and Relish event would remain scheduled for the same days, taking place from the 17th to the 19th of the upcoming week. He noted that the following week would be particularly busy, as there would be almost one agenda item scheduled each day. He explained that the event would be held on the UU Walkway as well as on the first floor of the UU, with the exact location changing each day. **D. Lopez** then asked which members would be available to assist at the walkway around 11:00 a.m. to approximately 12:00 or 1:00 p.m. He clarified that volunteers did not need to be present the entire time. Finally, he confirmed that the event would take place on Tuesday and Thursday.

04:11

The committee then proceeded to discuss the members’ availability, their scheduled times at the event, and the responsibilities assigned to each member.

D. Lopez thanked the members for informing him and explained that volunteers could rotate responsibilities during the event. He noted that members could assist briefly with tasks, such as helping with set-up or other needs, and then switch with others as necessary. He further explained that the event would not only focus on distributing food but would also include informational



outreach. QR codes would be available for students to scan, directing them to resources related to food services on campus, including the campus pantry and guidance on using EBT benefits.

D. Lopez stated that event set-up would begin at 10:30 a.m., and he would arrive at that time to prepare the Bayview Room, although he noted that the space might again be the same room used previously that month. He added that a signage system would be in place to guide participants and help manage the food distribution process. **D. Lopez** clarified that members working at the tabling stations would primarily provide information about sustainable food options available on campus. This would include informing students about alternatives to frequently ordering food through delivery services and raising awareness that EBT cards can be used on campus. He also highlighted that the campus pantry provides resources for students experiencing food insecurity, including materials that allow them to prepare meals in their dorms.

D. Lopez explained that tabling would take place both on the UU walkway and inside the building to reach more students. On Tuesdays, tabling would occur outside on the walkway, while on Thursdays, it would be held inside the building where many students gather to eat. In addition to the tabling location, resource outreach would also take place upstairs in the designated area.

During the event, volunteers would distribute food and encourage participants to complete a survey about how the university could improve sustainability in its food systems. The survey would focus on broader ideas, such as changes to campus food practices, potential community initiatives like gardens, or other approaches to improving sustainable food access.

D. Lopez noted that the collected responses could help guide future sustainability initiatives and support planning for the following year, particularly for those interested in roles related to sustainability leadership. He added that, at the end of the event, volunteers would collect the remaining materials and compost any appropriate waste. He estimated that the event might engage approximately 40 to 60 participants. He asked members to keep track of the number of students who stopped by the table. He also mentioned that around 40 flyers would be provided for distribution each day and that the event would be promoted through the organization's social media stories.

10:31

D. Lopez asked the committee whether members had been reaching out to local food establishments regarding potential donations for the event. In response, **S. Budithi** mentioned that she knew of a food establishment and offered to ask them about the possibility of contributing. Lopez encouraged her to contact the establishment over the weekend and explain that the committee was organizing an event and was seeking businesses willing to donate surplus food rather than discarding it. He explained that the donated food could then be redistributed to students in need.



S. Budithi noted that the establishment was a restaurant and mentioned that it might be able to provide food later in the evening. **D. Lopez** responded that he would look into how that arrangement might work. He added that the committee had already reached out to Paris Baguette and another bakery, but those were the only two locations he had successfully contacted so far.

D. Lopez asked the committee members to try contacting additional establishments over the weekend if possible and said he would continue reaching out to other businesses with the assistance of his advisor. He also suggested prioritizing bakeries, as their products typically have a slightly longer shelf life compared to other perishable foods.

B. DISCUSSION ITEM - Upcoming Event: “Thrift, Swap & Drop” The committee will be informed about the upcoming event’s logistics and execution.

D. Lopez informed the committee that they would be updated on the logistics, planning, and execution of upcoming events. He expressed excitement about a particular event that had originally been scheduled for that week but had been postponed to the following week. He explained that the event would take place on the walkway and would be a simple tabling activity.

D. Lopez described the event as a clothing thrift and swap initiative. He encouraged committee members to bring clothing, shoes, and other items they no longer used, provided that the items were in good and usable condition. Participants would be able to browse and select thrifted items or exchange clothing they brought with them. He explained that participants would initially be allowed to select one top, one bottom, and one pair of shoes. However, those who brought additional items could swap them for other clothing. Individuals would also have the option to donate items without exchanging them.

D. Lopez added that participants who donated items might receive a small ASI giveaway as a token of appreciation. He noted that the event would mainly require committee members to assist with the tabling and coordination during the activity.

12:37

The committee then proceeded to discuss the members’ availability, their scheduled times at the event, and the responsibilities assigned to each member.

D. Lopez explained that refreshments would be available during the event. He noted that although there had initially been plans to purchase new refreshments, he decided not to buy additional items because a large number of snacks, such as chocolate, had already been purchased. He added that tea



bags and other light refreshments would also be provided, emphasizing the importance of maintaining sustainability and avoiding unnecessary purchases.

He further stated that signage would be displayed and that a QR code would be available for participants. Committee members would assist by distributing the codes to attendees, who would then be allowed to select two to three items. Participants would also have the opportunity to browse, swap, or donate clothing and other items.

D. Lopez added that after the event concluded, the remaining items would be collected and packed. At the end of Wednesday, the items would be organized and redistributed, with donations being sent to organizations such as Goodwill, Ego Trip, or Cosmo Trip.

C. DISCUSSION ITEM - Upcoming Event: “GenCo X CSUEB Tabling” The committee will be informed about the upcoming event’s logistics and execution.

D. Lopez stated that he was planning to organize a tabling activity for Gen Expo, noting that the event was approaching as April neared. He added that he intended to coordinate the tabling schedule by reviewing the committee members’ availability.

16:18

The committee then proceeded to discuss the members’ availability, their scheduled times at the event, and the responsibilities assigned to each member.

D. Lopez noted that the committee had completed planning for the next two weeks and would schedule their next meeting to continue further discussions and planning.

D. DISCUSSION ITEM - Resolution Draft | Laundry Detergents Replacement The committee will be discussing the upcoming resolution.

D. Lopez asked the committee if anyone had experience writing a resolution and offered to provide a brief workshop on the process. He stated that he would share a slide presentation explaining how to draft a resolution. **D. Lopez** explained that resolutions are an important tool used to advocate for students, as they help establish policies and support their implementation on campus to improve student experiences.

As an example, he referenced a policy adopted in 2020 or 2022 that required at least one all-gender restroom in each campus building or within close proximity, noting that the policy helped make the campus more inclusive for students.

D. Lopez then discussed a potential new resolution the committee had been exploring. He explained that the proposal would be more complex, largely due to financial considerations. The resolution would require research comparing the amount of money students at other universities spend on laundry services and related materials with the costs incurred by students at their own campus. This comparison would help determine whether adopting a detergent replacement program or similar sustainability initiative would be feasible.

He noted that the committee would also need to examine the amount of waste generated from laundry-related products and compare those findings with practices at other institutions. Lopez suggested reviewing information from the University of California, Santa Barbara, which had previously shared relevant data that might help inform the proposal. The committee would also need to develop a compelling justification for the funding request, which he estimated could require approximately \$9,000.

28:40

Lopez asked if at least two members would be willing to assist him with writing the resolution and conducting the necessary research. He added that he would share the workshop slides with those who volunteered.

In response, **S. Baka** commented that it might be difficult to obtain sufficient data for meaningful comparisons because such information is not always readily available. **D. Lopez** acknowledged this challenge and explained that gathering data is a common part of the resolution-writing process, which can sometimes take several months or even up to a year to complete. He noted that this particular resolution might realistically be completed by the summer.

D. Lopez also mentioned that he had encountered difficulties obtaining survey data because the administration had indicated that distributing a campus-wide survey might not be possible. He stated that he was exploring alternative ways to collect relevant information and welcomed suggestions from the committee.

S. Baka added that while he had some experience with research, progress would be limited if the necessary data could not be accessed.



D. Lopez stated that the resolution initiative was still in its early stages and explained that a previous discussion had indicated that there had been no survey conducted to gather student input. However, he noted that the individual he had spoken with was now open to conducting a survey and that he would introduce the committee members to her. He clarified that the person he was referring to was Giao, also known as the Director of Generation Conscious.

R. Reddy asked when the meeting would take place. **D. Lopez** responded that he was planning to schedule it approximately two weeks later and noted that it might fall during spring break. Reddy then mentioned that he would not be available if the meeting occurred during that time.

34:18

D. Lopez asked if any other members would be interested in attending the meeting, noting that the meeting had not yet been confirmed. He explained that several administrative members were expected to attend, including **Jennifer, Mylan,** and **Evelyn,** and possibly **Jennifer Luna,** in addition to himself. He stated that the purpose of the meeting would be to discuss strategies for implementing the resolution, as the idea had been under discussion since the previous semester but had proven difficult to put into practice.

D. Lopez added that he could introduce interested committee members to the individuals involved in the discussion. He further explained that one of the next steps in the resolution process would be obtaining approval from the cabinet. He noted that it would also be helpful to have someone from the committee maintain communication with the relevant administrative groups and attend upcoming meetings.

He mentioned that the Assembly Committee for the campus was expected to meet on March 17 at approximately 2:00 p.m., although he said he would need to confirm the exact time. Lopez clarified that this meeting was open to the entire campus community and not limited to his committee. He added that he would inform the members if the meeting time changed.

S. Baka indicated that he would be able to attend if the meeting took place on March 17 at around 2:00 or 3:00 p.m., while **R. Reddy** stated that he would attend if the meeting began at 2:00 p.m. **S. Budithi** noted that he would not be available the following week.

D. Lopez then asked the committee for suggestions on what additional elements should be included in the proposed resolution. He explained that the primary objective of the policy would be to change how students at Cal State East Bay manage their laundry practices in order to reduce plastic waste associated with laundry products. He also emphasized that the initiative aimed to help students save



money by reducing the need to purchase laundry-related supplies, allowing them to instead use their funds for necessities such as food, clothing, or rent. He noted that Santa Barbara had implemented a similar initiative with the goal of reducing costs and waste, and that their program had reportedly saved students a significant amount of money.

35:50

D. Lopez said he would share information detailing the savings and outcomes from that initiative. He concluded by emphasizing that the proposal could be particularly beneficial for housing students, who often face financial challenges, and asked the committee if they had additional ideas or knew of other individuals or departments that the committee could collaborate with to strengthen the resolution.

E. DISCUSSION ITEM - Resolution Draft | Braddock Center Main Garden The committee will be discussing the upcoming resolution.

D. Lopez noted that the agenda item had been added earlier and mentioned that it might have been included prematurely. He explained that Dean Carmen Bustos was currently preparing a white paper that would be submitted to the President's Office for approval before the project could move forward. **D. Lopez** stated that the white paper would determine whether the committee could proceed with the next steps related to the initiative. In the meantime, he said he wanted to briefly discuss the topic and begin considering potential roles for committee members.

D. Lopez explained that the proposed resolution aimed to repurpose the Product Center main garden space. The long-term goal of the initiative would be to develop a community garden that could eventually support the creation of an Environmental Science degree option on campus. He noted that, based on information he had received, the campus currently did not offer such a degree program. The envisioned garden would provide a space where students could participate in hands-on learning and conduct class-related activities.

D. Lopez acknowledged that a major challenge was determining how the committee could access and utilize the space. He explained that the committee might not have direct authority over the area, which he believed could fall under construction or external campus management. Because of this uncertainty, he asked the committee for suggestions on how they might approach the situation. He suggested that, at the very least, minor improvements such as repairing the sprinklers could potentially be considered, though he emphasized that progress would likely need to wait until the white paper was completed.



40:41

S. Baka responded that significant work on the project could only begin after official approval was granted. He explained that initiatives involving landscaping or modifications to campus spaces typically require coordination with multiple campus services, and those processes cannot begin without formal authorization.

D. Lopez agreed with this assessment and reiterated that the committee might not be able to take action immediately. He explained that he brought up the item primarily to keep the committee informed. He added that he intended to continue including the topic on future agendas so that members could remain updated until there were developments or opportunities for the committee to move forward with the project.

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

D. Lopez stated that he had additional information to share regarding a recent meeting, although the details were not linked in the agenda. He explained that the discussion referred to a SHAC meeting that had taken place earlier in the week or the previous week. **D. Lopez** noted that he was unsure whether any committee members had been able to attend. He mentioned that he had communicated with **M. Dawan** about the meeting, but **M. Dawan** was ultimately unable to attend.

D. Lopez added that he would share the Zoom link with committee members in the future so that they could join similar meetings. He explained that he had initially intended to attend the meeting in person but was unable to do so. During the meeting, participants discussed updates related to Student Health and Counseling (SHAC). Lopez stated that the SHAC website had recently been updated, and that their Instagram page had also been refreshed with new content, including upcoming mental health highlight videos.

D. Lopez encouraged committee members to visit the Student Health and Counseling center, noting that it offers a range of services that could benefit students. He suggested that one of the committee's future initiatives could focus on encouraging more students to utilize the facility.



He proposed that the committee could incorporate SHAC outreach into their own events by distributing informational flyers and informing students about available services. These services include free health screenings, counseling services, and other health-related resources, as well as certain specialized services that may require a small fee. **D. Lopez** suggested that promoting these resources at events such as Rescue and Relish and Thrift Swap and Drop could help reach students who may be experiencing mental or physical health challenges and encourage them to access the support available on campus.

X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

No Roundtable Remarks

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 2:56PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

Chair/Director of Sustainability:

Daniel Kristofferson Lopez

Minutes approved on:

04/09/2026

Date

