

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THOUSAND OAKS CONFERENCE ROOM  
AUGUST 29, 2016  
MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the USU BOD was called to order at 12:32 p.m. by Chair Thelmari Raubenheimer.

**II. Roll Call**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Sevag Alexanian	Debra Hammond	Patrina Croisdale	
Shannon Ashford		Jeremy Hamlett	
Frank Benkovic		Joe Illuminate	
Sharon Eichten		Carol Nardini	
Natalie Esparza		Jonathan Navarro	
Marquita Gammage		Kristen Pichler	
Farhad Khorasani		Freddie Sanchez	
Hifza Murtuza ( <i>arrived at 12:34 p.m.</i> )		Scott Schorn	
Michael Odino			
Iris Ramirez			
Thelmari Raubenheimer			
Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff ( <i>arrived at 12:34 p.m.</i> )			
Tonee Sherrill ( <i>via Skype</i> )			
Avi Stewart			
Rowie Wolfe			
Maria Zaman			

**III. Approval of Agenda**

M/S/P (I. Ramirez/S. Ashford) Motion to approve the agenda dated August 29, 2016.

*Motion passed 12-0-0.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

M/S/P (M. Odino/F. Benkovic) Motion to approve the minutes dated July 18, 2016.

*Motion passed 12-0-0.*

*Director Ruelas-Bischoff arrived at 12:34 p.m.*

*Director Murtuza arrived at 12:34 p.m.*

**V. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes**

M/S/P (N. Esparza/I. Ramirez) Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes dated July 18, 2016.

*Motion passed 13-0-1.*

**VI. Open Forum**

None.

**VI. Chair Report**

Chair Raubenheimer said that she and Vice Chair Stewart had the opportunity to attend ACUI's I-Lead conference in Tacoma, Washington. Many student leaders attended the conference and talked about how their student unions operate

on a daily basis. She recommended the conference to everyone saying it was a great experience. Raubenheimer said that if board members were not able to attend a training session or board meeting, they should notify both Raubenheimer and Carol Nardini, Staff Assistant via email. Voting and non-voting members for the standing and ad-hoc committees have been chosen based on the preferences that board members previously indicated. Notecards were distributed to the board members which contained the name of their committee.

**VII. Vice Chair Report**

Vice Chair Stewart attended the CSUnity conference in August which featured interaction and networking with student leaders from many CSU campuses and allowed constructive dialogue concerning issues that student leaders face on their campuses. It was also satisfying to interact and build relationships with students from CSUN's Associated Students. The Retirement Plan Committee held its first meeting last week. One of its goals is to determine if it is possible to convert the current retirement health benefits plan to a plan where the USU would pay medical and dental health premiums directly to the health insurance company on behalf of retirees and their partners. Stewart asked the board members to wear their polos when attending events such as board meetings, trainings, USU events, and tabling events. If it is not possible to wear a polo shirt, then business casual attire is advised.

**VIII. Executive Director's Report**

Report is attached.

**IX. A.S. Report**

A.S President Sevag Alexanian said that AS is working with Turbo Vote and partnering with departments on campus to increase voter registration for the upcoming elections. AS is hoping to partner with Southwestern Law School to create a legal clinic for students on CSUN's campus. Governor Jerry Brown appointed former AS President Jorge Reyes as student trustee for the California State University Board of Trustees. As the new student trustee, Reyes will work alongside board members from the 23 CSU campuses for the next two years; his second year will give him voting power. AS Attorney General Christian Rubalcava was appointed to the California Student Aid Commission. The AS Fair will be held August 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in front of the bookstore. Big Show will take place on October 23. The ground breaking ceremony for CSU's first Sustainability Center will take place on September 19 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Director Benkovic said the ceremony will be held behind the OST lawn. Chair Raubenheimer said September 19 is the date of the next board meeting. If it is over by 2:00 p.m. everyone can walk to the Sustainability Ceremony together.

**X. Action Items**

**A. BOD Goals – 2016-2017**

M/S/P (S. Ashford/H. Murtuza) to approve the board's goals for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Chair Raubenheimer and Vice Chair Stewart proceeded to review the goals with the board.

1. The USU Board of Directors will attend scheduled site visitations to other university's cross-cultural/multi-cultural centers.
2. The USU Board of Directors will work to continue strengthening relations with Associated Students (AS).
3. The USU Board of Directors will participate in various workshops on inclusion and diversity.
4. The USU Board of Directors will increase its campus visibility.

Discussion included that the board is excited and looking forward to visiting other colleges to see their multi-cultural centers, and will schedule a visit soon. A mixer with AS will be scheduled soon. Freddie Sanchez, the Assistant Director, Resource Centers, will inform the board once he schedules a workshop on inclusion and diversity. The board has many ideas to help increase its visibility across campus and will hold one meet-and-greet event per semester.

*Motion passed 14-0-0.*

**XI. Discussion Items**

**A. Pride Center Annual Report – 2015-2016**

Sarina Loeb, Coordinator, Pride Center & LGBTQ Initiatives, said that she was pleased to share the report's information with the Board of Directors. The Pride Center supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and questioning students, faculty and staff through programming and educational outreach to improve the campus climate for LGBTQ individuals as well as to advocate for the respect and safety of all members of the campus community.

The Pride Center now has four years of data to present and Loeb presented the highlights of the Pride Center annual report provided in the Board packet. Since moving to the Sol Center in June 2015, the Pride Center's customer

count increased by 22% during the fall semester and 20% during the spring semester compared to the previous year. With a larger space and having the Coordinator office housed within the facility, the Pride Center better assists the LGBTQ students in a variety of capacities, and have seen an increase in crisis intervention, and walk-in appointments. In previous years, crisis and support intervention meetings and individual education consultations were not tracked due to their infrequency. This past year, Loeb said she had 92 individual appointments and consultations. With the continued growth, Loeb informed the Board of the new programming structure, which includes outreach & advocacy, identity development, community building and educational programs.

Through the CSUN Ally Project, the Pride Center continues to provide trainings across campus on LGBTQ topics and during the last fiscal year there were 37 training presentations with a total of 1,024 participants. Loeb said she would like the opportunity to present a training to the board.

Loeb emphasized that the Pride Center offered more than programs. Through the Pride Center Advisory Committee, CSUN completed the Campus Pride Index and scored 4 out of 5 stars for having an LGBT-friendly campus climate. The committee, with the support of the CSUN Department of Social Work, also submitted a proposal to establish more gender inclusive restrooms.

Discussion included whether housing could be designated for LGBTQ students anywhere on campus. Director Ruelas-Bischoff said that there have been a number of ideas regarding the housing issue. It would need to be more formalized, possibly a suite or a floor could be designated. Current housing needs to be looked at more closely. Board members commented on how beautiful the Pride Center is, and congratulated Loeb for the great job that she has done.

### **XIII. Announcements**

- Director Ramirez said that AS has five open positions and she asked the board to notify others.
- Director Ruelas-Bischoff said the campus is currently projected to enroll just over 40,000 students for the upcoming academic year. Freshman orientation also just concluded with 4,350 freshmen having attended orientation over the last three weeks. Over the past weekend, Housing welcomed students back into the residence halls, and also, approximately 1,200 students were on campus to attend Greek 102. Freshmen Convocation will be held September 15 at 6:00 p.m. and all board members are welcome to attend. She congratulated Chair Thelmar Raubenheimer for winning the Diane F. Harrison Leadership Award at this same time a few years ago. Finally, the campus is excited to announce that the CSUN food pantry will open this fall semester in its temporary location within the bookstore annex. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.
- Director Benkovic encouraged the board to attend the President's Picnic, September 1, on the Bayramian Hall Lawn, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and again from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- Chair Raubenheimer distributed fliers from the Marketing Department for upcoming events, including Freshmen Convocation, Matafest, Matador Nights and many other USU programs.
- Vice Chair Stewart said the board will have its picture taken at its next meeting on September 19.

### **XIV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Raubenheimer at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carol Nardini,  
Staff Assistant

APPROVED BY:

Debra L. Hammond,  
Executive Secretary