

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
[HTTPS://CSUN.ZOOM.US/MY/SUMMFALL2021BODMEETINGS](https://csun.zoom.us/my/summfall2021bodmeetings)
MINUTES**

This meeting was facilitated through an online Zoom format, consistent with the Governor’s Executive Order N25-20, suspending certain open meeting law restrictions.

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 12:34 p.m. by Chair Albert Martinez.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Jacob Akopnik*		Kyle Hufnagel*	Michael Good*
Dr. Carroll Brown*		Joe Illuminate*	Catherine Kniazewycz*
Ayana Galves*		Ayan Jama*	
Bryant Garcia*		Jennifer Kim*	
Debra Hammond*		Sharon Kinard*	
Robert Jacome*		Kaila Lavin*	
Albert Martinez*		Samantha Liu*	
Gisselle Olmedo Torres*		Cindy Lucio*	
Kaitlyn Orozco*		Audrey Martinez*	
Fredy Perez*		Jonathan Navarro*	
Karina Perez*		Ariel Pasion*	
Benjamin Plotkin*		Kristen Pichler*	
Charlie Rodriguez-Salazar*		Shelley Sakoda*	
Dr. Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff*		Dr. Freddie Sanchez*	
Dr. Edith Winterhalter*		Steven Wein*	
Dr. Tadeh Zirakian*			

* Zoom video participant

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (A. Galves / B. Plotkin) Motion to approve the agenda for September 13, 2021.

Director Akopnik said he would like to remove Action Item C BOD 2021-22 Goals and table it to the next meeting. He would also like to add Discussion Item B “No Real Education No Real Tuition” flier.

M/S/P (J. Akopnik / A. Galves) Motion to amend the agenda to remove Action Item C “BOD 2021-22 Goals and tabling it for the next BOD meeting and adding discussion item B “No Real Education No Real Tuition” flier.

Amendment to the motion passed 15-0-0.

Amended motion passed 15-0-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes 08/30/2021

M/S/P (A. Galves / C. Lipton) Motion to approve the minutes for August 30, 2021.

Motion passed 15-0-0.

V. Open Forum

No discussion.

VI. Chair Report

Chair Martinez said that virtual recruitment had been difficult but thanked the student representatives for their continued efforts in committee member recruitment.

VII. Vice Chair Report

Vice Chair Akopnik encouraged everyone to visit the USU whenever they are on campus Akopnik will be at a conference on October 30, November 5 and November 19.

VIII. Action Items

A. 2020-21 Financial Audit Report (Time Certain 12:45 p.m.)

Motion out of the Audit Committee to accept the 2020-21 Financial Audit Report prepared by CohnReznick LLP.

Associate Director for Accounting & Finance Joe Illuminate stated that CohnReznick has been the USU's audit firm for the past seven years. Illuminate recognized the Accounting & Finance department, under the leadership of Accounting Manager Jonathan Navarro, for the completion of another successful audit. He asked Michael Good from CohnReznick to speak about the report. Good overviewed the report, summarizing that the USU received an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion that an audit firm can award its client. In addition, the audit resulted in no negative findings or audit adjustments.

Motion passed 13-0-2.

B. 2021-22 Major Purchase, Repair, & Maintenance Allocation Increase Request (Time Certain 1:05 p.m.)

M/S/P (B. Plotkin / A. Galves) Motion to approve an allocation of \$4,400,000 from the 2021-22 Major Purchase, Repair & Replacement account to begin the schematic design process and detailed design work for the repair and renovation of the South Patio Outdoor Deck.

Director Perez, Director Rodriguez Salazar and Architect Catherine Kniazewycz stated that the large deck directly to the south of the Pub building will provide shaded outdoor lounge space to complement the gathering spaces inside of the building. Large windows will be installed in the south wall of the building so that views of the deck, trees, and sky will enhance the indoor experience. This south-facing deck is almost uninhabitable on warm days, completely lacking any shade and is exposed to heat and glare from the east, south, and west. The scope and budget of the deck renovation includes:

1. A structural study to determine what structural strengthening will be needed to carry the additional load of a large shade structure, outdoor furniture, and container plants. A Structural Engineer from JAMA, a subconsultant to CannonDesign, determined that the

South Patio Outdoor Deck is approved to be used intermittently for temporary reservations. However, additional studies need to be completed of the footings to determine how much reinforcement will be needed in the future. There are significant costs, included in the project budget, to upgrade the structure below the patio to bear the new structural loads of the shade structure, furniture, plants, and concentrated gatherings of people.

2. A large shade structure for outdoor seating which will help shade the new southern windows of the Pub building/Basic Needs suite.
3. Tables & chairs for outdoor eating including lounge furniture.
4. Planters with small trees and drought-resistant plants.
5. Durable and attractive paving material.
6. The deck will receive new waterproofing to correct major leaks into the spaces below. The waterproofing would prevent leaks in the spaces below for the life of the waterproofing and deck surface, usually about 30 years. The deck is a roof and roofing needs to be replaced from time to time.

Motion passed 15-0-0.

IX. Executive Director's Report

Director Hammond informed the board that Kimia Ebadirad was appointed to Computer Lab Supervisor as a temporary emergency hire. Ariel Pasion was appointed as the Fitness Programs Coordinator. A number of USU employees participated as Matadors Forward Ambassadors to help welcome and assist CSUN students, faculty, and staff as they returned to the physical campus community. Hammond thanked Kaila Lavin and Samantha Liu for taking the lead with this program as well Grace Haddad and Jeremy Hamlett. Acting Assistant Director for Operations & Services Samantha Liu and Executive Director Hammond gave President Dr. Erika Beck, Chief of Staff Evans Taylor, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Dr. William Watkins, and Associate Vice President for Student Life Dr. Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff a tour of the USU facilities and services on August 31.

X. A.S. Report

Associated Students (A.S.) Vice President Orozco said that she and A.S. President Hay met with the Dean and Associate Dean of the University Library to discuss goals and ways in which they can partner to promote student success. A.S. has continued to interview students who applied for committee member positions. A new cabinet position has been established and will be known as the Chair of Communications. Interviews for the leadership manager position have been finalized. Once a decision has been made, Orozco will inform the USU.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Diversity & Inclusion

Director Jacome said the committee has gone through the transition of its new executive secretaries. Acting Assistant Director for Programs and Inclusion Audrey Martinez and Acting Manager for Diversity & Inclusion Ayan Jama have been appointed to this role. Its next committee meeting will take place early October.

B. Facilities & Operations

Director Lipton said the Facilities & Operations Committee has not had any official meetings yet. It has three members and two more interviews will be taking place in the coming days.

C. Finance

Director Perez said the Finance Committee has focused on recruitment. It has four potential applicants that have moved onto the interview phase. The committee will present an action item today.

D. Personnel

Director Olmedo Torres said the Personnel Committee has reviewed applications and will interview students. Once the roster has been finalized, it will plan its official meeting schedule.

E. Retirement Plan

Vice Chair Akopnik reported that the Retirement Plan Committee will meet in the second quarter of the year.

XII. Discussion Items

A. Student Employee Engagement Survey Results 2020-2021

Associate Director for Administration and Communications Sharon Kinard presented to the board the findings from the student employment program surveys. The findings came from NASPA and the USU Exit Survey. Overall, the results showed that the student employment program continued to positively impact student workers in the areas of professional development, customer service, teamwork, campus engagement, and retention.

B. “No Real Education No Real Tuition” Flier

Executive Director Hammond explained that USU staff had found fliers throughout the USU. The fliers were also placed throughout campus. The flier was apparently from anonymous student(s) concerned about tuition, the quality of education in a virtual environment and a lack of accessibility to campus amenities. The flier contains a QR code with a letter but did not contain any contact information.

The board engaged in a discussion that included personal perspectives and ideas about how the USU should address this matter.

Board leadership stated that it was already developing a campaign to raise awareness about the USU budget and how student fees are being allocated. The Board also concluded that it would ask the Marketing Department to conduct a “Did You Know” campaign that would inform students about various aspects of the Board and the USU. It was noted that we may want to do something similar since we have approximately 10,000 new students every year.

Chair Martinez left at 2:30 p.m. and the gavel was handed to Vice Chair Akopnik.

XIII. Announcements

A. Vice Chair Akopnik encouraged eligible California residents to vote in the recall election.

XIV. Adjournment

Vice Chair Akopnik adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debra L. Hammond,
Executive Director