

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 24, 2022
12:30 P.M. – GRAND SALON**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 12:32 p.m. by Chair Gisselle Olmedo-Torres.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Christopher Aldana	Tiffany Castellanos	Alejandra Aparicio	Matt Bohannon
Melissa Baghoumian	Mishell De Leon	Daniela Barcenas	Aja Butler
Nikki Garcia		Amanda Christianson	Andrew Diaz
Debra Hammond		Condor	Brenda Dzul
Adrian Hernandez		Ryan Hairapetian	Simcha Friedman
Christian Lipton		Jeremy Hamlett	Elisa Gevorgian
Daniel Moreno		Tari Hunter	Katie Karroum
Gisselle Olmedo Torres		Joe Illuminate	Rose Merida
Benjamin Plotkin		Sharon Kinard	Sankalp Pala
Michael Tejax		Samantha Liu	Dr. Shelley Ruelas Bischoff
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Sarina Loeb	Dr. Mirna Sawyer
Dr. Edith Winterhalter		Audrey Martinez*	Isela Vidauri
		Kristen Pichler	
		Irvin Rendon	
		Tim Rasmussen	
		Shelley Sakoda	
		Demetrius Scott	
		Steven Wein	

* Zoom video participant

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (C. Lipton / B. Plotkin) Motion to approve the agenda for October 24, 2022.

Motion passed 10-0-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes 09/12/2022

M/S/P (C. Lipton / M. Baghoumian) Motion to approve the minutes for September 12, 2022.

Motion passed 9-0-1.

V. Open Forum

New Student Orientation and Matador Mentors representatives Andrew Diaz and Rose Merida said they are looking for mentors and students to participate in various programs, including

commencement. A.S. Lower Division Senator Katie Karroum said they were happy to be in attendance after the USU presented on the project during that morning's senate meeting. Karroum and A.S. Vice President Sashoua are working on a survey related food options and food service on campus. Karroum can share with the BOD if they are interested in providing feedback on the draft version before the survey goes live. Director Hammond noted that this would be appreciated and USU staff would provide feedback prior to the deadline.

VI. Chair Report

Chair Olmedo-Torres along with Vice Chair Lipton informed everyone that they are starting to meet with USU student employees and staff during their department and area staff meetings. The BOD will be participating during the USU's Mystic Evening event on Friday, October 28 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Olmedo-Torres asked for volunteers if available. Each committee is having a friendly competition on decorating its Executive Secretaries' office door. The deadline will be Monday, October 31 at 12:15 p.m. Winner will win a prize!

VII. Vice Chair Report

Vice Chair Lipton thanked everyone who participated at Matador Fun Fest. He has received good feedback on the event. Lipton shared that some content for the Instagram welcome video from the BOD has been recorded and will be posted in the coming days.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Director Hammond shared that as a result of Director of Student Recreation Center Kaila Lavin's separation of employment, Assistant Director for Fitness & Wellness Amanda Christianson and Assistant Director for Recreation Programs Jeremy Hamlett are now serving as Acting Co-Directors of the Student Recreation Center. Hammond informed the board that the USU is hosting a wide number of programs for students. USU staff is also participating in multiple professional developments and seminars. Hammond thanked Directors Lipton, Aldana and Moreno for their participation at New Student Convocation.

IX. A.S. Report

The Associated Students (A.S.) representative Michael Tejax said *One Card* is launching Spring 2023 and will also be known as MataCard. This card will serve as an ID, keycard, meal plan access card and as a payment card across campus. He also encouraged everyone to stop by the Mental Health Awareness Fair on Thursday, October 27 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

X. Committee Reports

A. Diversity & Inclusion

No discussion.

B. Facilities & Operations

Director Aldana said the Facilities & Operations Committee has a total of four (4) committee members and are working on their Fall committee schedule.

XI. Discussion Items

A. USU Student Employment Presentation (Time Certain: 1:00 p.m.)

Political Science Professor Dr. Jason Morin and Senior Director for Institutional Research Janet Oh said they are working on evaluating the USU's Employment Program dating back to 2010. The evaluation of the USU's employment program includes comparing the USU's employment data to all undergraduates enrolled at CSUN during the years in question. Factors included student's demographics, incoming GPA, and student major. Their research concluded that Latinx students are the highest population employed by the USU. Results also showed that students who are employed by the USU tend to have a higher GPA than those non-USU employed across all races. In addition, students who work on campus are more likely to be employed by the USU.

Additional research to be conducted will be to look at additional disaggregation by other student demographics and possible further breakdowns for non-USU employed students. Findings will be shared at a later date.

XII. Committee Reports

C. Finance

Director Baghoumian said the Finance Committee had its first meeting on October 18 where their committee goals for the year were proposed.

Director Sanchez left at 1:18 p.m. and returned at 1:20 p.m.

D. Personnel

Director Moreno said the committee is now complete and are working on potential meeting dates and times.

Director Aldana left at 1:19 p.m.

XIII. Action Items

A. Faculty Representative Appointment – Dr. Mirna Troncoso Sawyer

M/S/P (C. Lipton / F. Sanchez) Motion to approve Dr. Mirna Troncoso Sawyer as the Faculty Representative effective October 24, 2022 through June 2024.

USU Executive Director Debra L. Hammond, Chair Olmedo Torres and Vice Chair Lipton interviewed and recommended Dr. Troncoso Sawyer as the faculty representative.

Dr. Troncoso Sawyer introduced herself and fielded questions from the board.

Motion passed 9-0-0.

The board congratulated Dr. Troncoso Sawyer and she took her seat with the rest of the board.

B. New Regular Position – Assistant Director, Equity & Diversity Initiatives

M/S/P (D. Moreno / N. Garcia) Motion to approve the new regular position of Assistant Director, Equity & Diversity Initiatives.

Associate Director for Human Resources and Professional Development Kristen Pichler and Personnel Committee Chair Daniel Moreno explained that as the USU continues to evolve, a new regular (staff) position is being recommended for the Board of Directors approval. The Assistant Director, Equity & Diversity Initiatives will oversee social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (J.E.D.I) initiatives for the University Student Union, plan, develop, implement, and evaluate co-curricular programs and events focused on equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice advocacy, and develop and oversee a J.E.D.I training program for employees and the USU Board of Directors. Position will also work closely with campus departments, faculty and staff to support collaborative and more broad-based J.E.D.I. efforts and trainings.

Director Aldana returned at 1:25 p.m.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

C. New Regular Position – Assistant Director, Resource Centers

M/S/P (N. Garcia / B. Plotkin) Motion to approve the new regular position of Assistant Director, Resource Centers.

Personnel Committee Chair Daniel Moreno said that as the USU continues to evolve, a new regular (staff) position is being recommended for the Board of Directors approval. The Assistant Director, Resource Centers is responsible for overseeing the management of the Pride Center, Veterans Resource Center, DREAM Center and other resource center related efforts. Position also provides oversight for the HEAL Project, which provides access to “at-promise” students using a healing-centered engagement practice.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

D. USU BOD Goals 2022-23

M/S/P (C. Aldana / D. Moreno) Motion to approve the USU BOD Goals for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Chair Olmedo Torres and Vice Chair Lipton informed the board of its proposed goals for the 2022-23 academic year:

- Goal #1: The University Student Union (USU) Board of Directors (BOD) Chair and Vice Chair will meet with USU student assistant employees to introduce them to the BOD and the role that the board plays in supporting student success.
- Goal #2: The USU BOD will advocate for the USU’s *New Heart of Campus* project (or a modified version) through comprehensive, strategic, and transparent communication to students, staff, and alumni.
- Goal #3: The USU BOD will create accessible grants and other support programs to aid students toward graduation completion.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

E. New Heart of Campus Project

M/S/P (C. Lipton / N. Garcia) Motion to approve pursuing Option 2 to re-imagine the project within the constraints of the previously approved \$125/semester fee increase rather than ask students for an additional fee increase while also considering shifts in student needs and priorities which may have occurred since 2019. This motion also recommends that staff instruct the architects to cease work on Options 1a & 1b effective on or about November 1, 2022.

Executive Director Debra L. Hammond and Associate Director for Operations & Services Samantha Liu explained that the best course of action is to not increase the student fee and continue the project, in scaled down version, with the original \$125/semester fee increase. Option 2 includes:

Option 2 (*presented as the “Blue”, “Green, and “Purple” options on October 17, 2022*)

Re-imagine the project to stay within the 2019-approved USU fee increase.

- **Design.** The project team would stop the current design and instead re-examine the existing USU complex for opportunities to deliver project elements from the 2019 referendum through more modest means such as renovating existing facilities and/or reducing space allocations for various functions. A smaller new building, if possible, would likely be required should the USU implement the entire \$125/semester fee increase, due to the specific language in the referendum. During the feasibility study, the project team would re-engage campus stakeholders and students to determine if and how student priorities have changed since the 2019 referendum to help re-establish project priorities. The project team will also engage with campus leadership, Campus Fee Advisory Committee and CSU system

administrators to explore the possibility of using only a portion of the previously approved \$125/semester fee increase to deliver the most essential project elements should the USU determine it to be the wisest use of student funds.

- **Student Fees.** There would be no additional increases to student fees beyond the \$125/semester already approved in 2019.
- **Schedule.** The project timeline and scope would need to be determined after a completely new feasibility study and design effort. The Basic Needs Suite as currently designed in the Pub building could be delivered by 2024 or 2025 if it were to secure the additional funding needed (currently estimated to be \$7 million). This would require food service to be relocated to other areas as part of the re-imagining of the project.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

M/S/P (B. Plotkin / D. Moreno) Motion for the BOD to approve having the project design team complete the current design of the Basic Needs Suite in the existing Pub Building so it can be submitted for permit approvals by December 31, 2022.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

M/S/P (D. Hammond/ B. Plotkin) Motion for the USU BOD will instruct staff to engage students in a comprehensive assessment process to determine additional options for the BOD's consideration.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

F. Student Representative Appointment #1 – Isela Vidauri

M/S/P (C. Lipton / C. Aldana) Motion to approve the appointment of Isela Vidauri as a student representative effective October 24, 2022 until June 2023.

Chair Olmedo Torres, Vice Chair Lipton and Administrative Support Coordinator Emery Hernandez conducted interviews and recommended Vidauri for the appointment.

Vidauri introduced herself and fielded questions from the board.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

The board congratulated Vidauri and she took her seat with the rest of the board.

G. Student Representative Appointment #2 – Sankalp Pala

M/S/P (C. Lipton / C. Aldana) Motion to approve the appointment of Sankalp Pala as a student representative effective October 24, 2022 until June 2024.

Chair Olmedo Torres, Vice Chair Lipton and Administrative Support Coordinator Emery Hernandez conducted interviews and recommended Pala for the appointment.

Pala introduced himself and fielded questions from the board.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

The board congratulated Pala and he took his seat with the rest of the board.

H. Format for November Board of Directors Meeting

M/S/P (N. Garcia / D. Moreno) Motion to approve in-person as the format for the November 14, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

Associate Director for Administration and Communications Sharon Kinard, shared that Assembly Bill 2449, extended teleconferencing through January 2026 under certain conditions. Under this exception, the bill would authorize a member to participate remotely under specified circumstances, including participating remotely for just cause or due to emergency circumstances.

Motion passed 12-1-0.

XIV. Announcements

A. No announcements were made.

XV. Adjournment

Chair Olmedo-Torres adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debra L. Hammond,
Executive Director