

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
April 13, 2026 – Grand Salon**

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 12:39 p.m. by Chair Sabah.

**II. Roll Call**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Alexia Aguilar	Cesar Rosales	Alejandra Aparicio	Diego Yunda*
Alejandro Perez		Audrey Martinez	Jola Tuck*
Cameron Gonzalez		Janessa Reyes	
Cecilia Ortiz		Jenny Aw	
Dr. Edith Winterhalter*		Jeremy Hamlett	
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Joseph Illuminate	
Heet Patel		Lara Shaghoian	
Honey Modi		Magdalena Sanchez	
Joaquin Macias		Natalie Johnson	
Nawshin Sabah		Raine Hernandez	
Karim Kouatly		Raquel De Ruiz	
Dr. Marlesha Bell*		Samantha Liu	
Rudy Granillo		Sharon Kinard	
Scarlett Khadka (A.S. Liaison)		Steven Wein	
Steven Wang		Tim Rasmussen	
Vyom Pathak		Vincent King	

\*TEAMS video participant

**III. Approval of Agenda**

M/S/P (K. Kouatly / A. Perez) Motion to approve the agenda for April 13, 2026.

***Motion passed 14-0-0.***

**IV. Approval of Minutes 03/23/2026**

M/S/P (A. Aguilar / R. Granillo) Motion to approve the minutes for March 23, 2026.

***Motion passed 14-0-0.***

**V. Open Forum**

Manager, Strategic Marketing and Communications Steven Wein announced an exciting addition to the facility: some windows of the Reservations and Event Services office have been converted to electronic displays. This feature now opens the possibility of displaying different images and advertisements, which some of these dynamic graphics will be developed by IntersectLA, the creative agency on campus. S. Wein acknowledged Technical Manager Chris Jensen for his idea

and coordination. In response to Director Macias' inquiry, S. Wein clarified that the screens would mainly display advertisements for internal USU programming and events, as opposed to revenue-generating external advertisements, to focus on the student experience.

## **VI. Chair's Report**

Chair Sabah started her report with an apology for missing the last meeting. She shared encouraging sentiment to the Board regarding upcoming finals, emphasizing self-care during stressful times. Chair Sabah announced the conclusion of the USU Elections and congratulated the elected BOD Student Representatives: Vice Chair Rudy Granillo, Kori Higgins, Mahi Kachhadiya, Princy Savaliya, and Kimberly Vaquerano. She concluded her report with reminders about USU Night Market on April 17 and BOD training on April 20.

## **VII. Vice Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Granillo opened his report with excitement toward continuing with the Board of Directors next year. He thanked Director Koualty and Director Pathak for their support with the last social media meeting recap and encouraged the Board's participation in social media visibility.

## **VIII. Executive Director's Report**

Director Ortiz shared highlights in the areas of Professional Activities, Programs, Staff/Student Development, University-Wide Service, and Other. Collaborations & Special Projects Supervisor Raine Hernandez has joined the 2026 Association of College Unions (ACUI) Region I Conference Planning Team (CPT). The Board of Directors held the elections results reveal on April 9, in collaboration with Associated Students. On the same evening, Pride Center held Queer Prom: Masquerade Ball, celebrating queer identity and Trans Day of Visibility for students, staff, guests, and allies. Director Ortiz thanked everyone involved in organizing this event. Wellness Center Manager Condor and Supervisor Abigayle Brown attended the 2026 International Spa Association (iSPA) Conference. Several USU representatives attended the NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation Annual Conference. DREAM Center Manager Irvin Rendon attended the CSU Dream Centers meeting, which focused on potential collaborations and best practices. The USU supported Admitted Matadors Day through participation in the resource fair, Matador Experience Panel, and guided tours. Director Ortiz concluded her report with the USU's recognition at the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Annual Conference's "Steal this Idea" competition, gaining six awards in various categories.

## **IX. A.S. Report**

Associated Students (A.S.) Senator Khadka opened her report, wishing students luck on any mid-term exams. Outdoor Adventures is hosting multiple events, including rock climbing at Stoney Point, backpacking in Los Padres National Forest, hiking Switzer Falls in the San Gabriel Mountains, whitewater rafting on Kern River, and camping at California's Eastern Sierra. Productions and Sustainability continue to host Tuesday Farmers Market and Thursday Thrifts, in addition to organizing Sol Fest, electric vehicle test drives, and Earth Fair. Sports Club conducted their bi-weekly meeting on April 8 with the next meeting on April 22. Student Leadership has been making progress on referrals assigned with their standing committees, with some senators finalizing their senate events. A.S. Elections concluded on April 9, announcing their winning candidates. Additionally, several items have been approved related to Farmworkers Day, the allocation of funds, and manual updates. A.S. Senator Khadka concluded her report with a message about moving forward as a community to create positive change on campus.

## **X. Committee Reports**

### **A. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**

Director Gonzalez shared that the committee's survey on USU Accessibility is now open to submissions. Director Gonzalez and Director Rosales started tabling at several USU and AS

events and posting flyers around campus to gain as much student input as possible. Their goal is to reach 150 completed surveys. Findings will be gathered into a report for the Board's review.

Director Bell left at 1:10 p.m. and returned at 1:20 p.m.

## **B. Facilities & Operations**

Director Patel shared highlights from the last committee meeting. The committee submitted a nomination for the BOD Committee Member of the Year Award for Year End Celebration (YEC). Following the ACUI Annual Conference, the committee discussed key takeaways and ideas for storage systems, advertising platforms, and workstations. Members continued their review of the Plaza Pool utilization. Lastly, the committee made the decision not to install the pizza vending machines. The next meeting is on April 24.

## **C. Finance**

Director Pathak reported on the committee's discussion from their last meeting. To update aging equipment and promote efficiency, members reviewed capital outlay proposals, including a new flatbed golf cart, Grand Salon projector, and a portable power system. Additionally, they discussed replacing the Maintenance Shop roof, installing new outdoor furniture, upgrading HVAC control systems, and improving IT infrastructure. Director Pathak ended his report with an update on their next committee development activity.

## **D. Personnel**

Director Kouatly shared that the committee held their development activity at Dave & Buster's on March 30, where members strengthened relationships and discussed future plans. Members also approved two action items in their last committee meeting, which will be presented later during the BOD meeting.

## **E. Internal Review**

Vice Chair Granillo reported that the committee is reviewing the USU BOD Scholarship Policy by conducting research and cross-comparison analysis of adjacent organizations that offer similar student leadership opportunities. The goal is to establish a foundation for the following Board and committee to continue to refine the policy. Members will begin contacting these organizations to further their research. The next meeting is on April 17.

## **F. Visibility and Engagement**

Chair Sabah stated that the committee has no updates. The next meeting is on May 4.

## **XI. Action Items**

### **A. Form 990 Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax (2024-2025) - Time Certain 12:45 p.m.**

Motion out of the Audit Committee to approve the Form 990 Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax (2024-2025).

The IRS recommends that the Board of Directors of non-profit organizations accept the Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax Information prior to filing it with the IRS. Form 990 was prepared by CohnReznick, the USU audit and tax preparation firm.

Associate Director, Accounting & Finance Joe Illuminate provided context for the form, which was sent to the Board for review two weeks prior to the meeting. CohnReznick partners Jola Tuck and Diego Yunda were in virtual attendance and presented the document, providing clarification to terms and a general overview of each section.

***Motion passed 14-0-0.***

## **B. Re-Employment of USU Retiree Policy**

Motion out of the Retirement Plan Committee to approve the Re-Employment of USU Retiree Policy.

Due to the recent retirement and contracting of the former Executive Director as a consultant, the committee determined it necessary to establish a formal policy that outlines the procedure and best practices of rehiring retirees. A retiree is defined as an employee who is at least 60 years of age with 20 years of continuous employment and eligible in the Retirement Health Benefits Plan. Student employees are excluded from the requirement of 20 years of employment. Vice Chair Granillo provided further context to the policy.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Interim Associate Director, Human Resources & Professional Development Jenny Aw fielded questions from several Directors, regarding the reason for the policy, its main goal, prior references, and different scenarios. Director Ortiz clarified that the policy seeks to clearly address employment of future retirees and was not a result of an issue.

***Motion passed 13-0-1.***

A.S. Senator Khadka left at 1:30 p.m. and returned at 1:35 p.m. Director Macias left at 1:32 p.m.

## **C. Part-time Non-Student Temporary Emergency Wage Schedule**

Motion out of the Personnel Committee to approve the Part-time Non-Student Temporary Emergency Wage Schedule.

Effective July 1, 2026, the City of Los Angeles has imposed a minimum wage increase to \$18.42/hour. Accordingly, staff has updated the non-student temporary emergency hourly employee wage schedule. The proposed increases affect the part-time and temporary emergency employees within the Student Recreation Center. The request comes after reviewing market trends, and the need to maintain appropriate wage differentiation between student roles and specialized positions. If approved, the updated wage schedule will go in effect on June 21, 2026, which is the first day of the pay period covering July 1, 2026. Director Aguilar provided further context to the update, stating that the wage schedule is covered in the 2026-2027 operating budget.

***Motion passed 13-0-0.***

Director Macias returned at 1:35 p.m.

## **D. Student Assistant Employee Classification & Wage Range Schedule**

Motion out of the Personnel Committee to approve the updated Student Assistant Classification & Wage schedule, effective 6/21/26, and to suspend merit increases for student assistant employees for FY 2026-2027.

Effective July 1, 2026, the City of Los Angeles has imposed a minimum wage increase to \$18.42/hour. Accordingly, staff has updated the Student Assistant Classification & Wage Range Schedule. If approved, the updated wage schedule will go in effect on June 21, 2026, which is the first day of the pay period covering July 1, 2026. Director Kouatly provided further context to the update, stating that merit increases will be available on a case-by-case basis.

***Motion passed 14-0-0.***

Director Ortiz left at 1:39 p.m. and returned at 1:41 p.m.

## **XII. Discussion Items**

### **A. Year-End Celebration Awards**

Assistant Director, Programs & Leadership Audrey Martinez presented the nominations process for the BOD Committee of the Year Award and Aida C. Salazar Award for Year End Celebration (YEC). On behalf of their respective committees, Directors Pathak, Aguilar, and Perez read their submissions for their selected Committee Member of the Year nominee. A. Martinez opened the floor to any additional nominees for the Aida C. Salazar Award. Chair Sabah, Director Sanchez, Vice Chair Granillo, and Director Pathak shared their nominees for consideration. After nominations concluded, Directors voted via secret ballot. Award winners will be announced at YEC on May 1.

## **XIII. Announcements**

BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes congratulated the five elected Student Directors for the 2026-2027 academic year. Applications are open for additional Board vacancies, as graduating Student Directors will depart before completing their full two-year term. BOD Training will be held on April 20. Since topics will include the Year End Report and Capstone presentation, Executive Secretaries are highly encouraged to attend. Lastly, J. Reyes reminded graduating Student Directors about Graduate Appreciation Lunch on May 8. Registration information can be found in the email sent prior to the meeting.

Director Kouatly was excited to share that he presented his first poster at CSUNposium on April 10. His research was done on young adults, seeking to discover the association between everyday discrimination and sleep quality and whether physical activity influences that relationship. Directors and attendees provided congratulatory applause.

Director Sanchez shared two funding opportunities for students. CSUN College Corps will fund 98 students engaging in service in the local community. Applications are now open. The Social Justice Scholarships applications, approved by the BOD about five years prior, will open next week. Over 10 people have been awarded since its commencement. The DEI Committee Chair or Co-Chair will be involved in the review committee.

## **XIV. Adjournment**

Chair Sabah adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cecilia Ortiz, Executive Director