UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 1, 2026 – Grand Salon

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 12:37 p.m. by Chair Sabah.

II. Roll Call

Present	**Absent**	**Staff**	**Guests**
Alexia Aguilar	Alex Perez	Audrey Martinez	Christopher Mulroney
Alejandro Perez	Dr. Marlesha Bell	Jeremy Hamlett	
Cameron Gonzalez	Sheen Gupta (A.S. Liaison)	Jimmy Francis	
Cesar Rosales		Joseph Illuminate	
Cecilia Ortiz		Lara Shaghoian	
Dr. Edith Winterhalter*		Natalie Johnson	
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Ryan Hairapetian	
Heet Patel		Samantha Liu	
Honey Modi		Sarina Loeb	
Nawshin Sabah		Sharon Kinard	
Karim Kouatly		Shelley Sakoda	
Rudy Granillo		Steven Wein	
Steven Wang		Tari Hunter	
Vyom Pathak			

**TEAMS video participant*

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (K. Kouatly / R. Granillo) Motion to approve the agenda for June 1, 2026.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes 05/04/2026

M/S/P (A. Aguilar / H. Modi) Motion to approve the minutes for May 4, 2026.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

V. Open Forum

There were no participants for Open Forum.

VI. Chair's Report

Chair Sabah congratulated all graduating seniors serving on the Board of Directors. She expressed gratitude to the Board members for their commitment throughout the year and thanked the USU staff for their support during the 2025–2026 academic year.

VII. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Granillo also congratulated the graduating seniors and expressed excitement for their next endeavors. As a returning student director, he shared that he looked forward to working with the returning and incoming directors during the 2026–2027 academic year.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ortiz reported on highlights related to programs, services, co-sponsorships, and year-end celebrations. The USU celebrated DREAM Grad on May 9 with 181 attendees and Rainbow Grad on May 16 with 235 attendees. Sunny Days Camp was officially sold out for the summer and scheduled to begin on June 10. During May, the USU co-sponsored the Shy'oot Grad Reception, Parent Scholars United's Year-End Pool Party, Project Rebound's Alumni Lunch, and the Black Scholars Matter Year-End Celebration and Senior Send-Off.

Several USU staff members also participated in year-end celebrations across campus. Associate Executive Director of Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter attended the A.S. End-of-Year Celebration. Intramural Sports and Day Camp Coordinator Demetrius Scott served as a guest speaker at the CSUN Greek Graduation on May 4.

Following the report, Executive Director Ortiz presented Chair Sabah and Vice Chair Granillo with commemorative plaques honoring their service as Chair and Vice Chair during the 2025–2026 academic year.

IX. A.S. Report

The Associated Students (A.S.) Vice President Sheen Gupta was absent. No reports were shared at the meeting.

X. Committee Reports

A. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Director Rosales reported that the committee held its final meeting of the semester on May 14. The final results of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee's accessibility survey had been received and would be presented later in the meeting as a discussion item. Chair Rosales and Director Gonzalez thanked the committee members for a successful year and congratulated those who graduated in May.

B. Facilities & Operations

Director Patel reported that the committee assisted with the Plaza Pool naming campaign and noted that "The Pit" received the highest number of votes. The committee's final meeting was held on May 15. During the meeting, the committee reviewed the final Computer Lab utilization analysis and continued its review of ongoing facility initiatives, including furniture and equipment for the Plaza Pool redevelopment.

C. Finance

Director Pathak reported that the committee reviewed the proposed 2026–2027 fiscal year budget and the Third Quarter Budget Report (9&3), both of which would be presented to the Board as action items. During its final meeting, the committee reflected on its annual goals and the progress made throughout the year. Committee members also recognized one another for their contributions and extended their best wishes for the coming year.

D. Personnel

Director Kouatly was proud to share that the committee accomplished five out of six goals for the year. Committee member Jolee Innocent was awarded BOD Committee Member of the Year Award and the committee could not be prouder. They wished the Board and the rest of the attendees a great close to the semester.

E. Retirement

No updates were shared from the Retirement Committee.

F. Internal Review

Vice Chair Granillo reported that the committee is currently in the process of reviewing committee codes for revision. Current committee vacancies are also being filled.

G. Visibility & Engagement

Chair Sabah invited Associate Director, Communications and Technology, Sharon Kinard to the podium to share updates. She reported that the committee met the morning of June 1 and reviewed the timeline for the survey launch date which will take place in September. The survey will be submitted to CSUN IRB for review and approval. The committee discussed recruitment efforts as members including Dr. Conn and student graduates have created vacancies.

Director Pathak arrived at 1:00 p.m.

XI. Action Items

A. 2026-2027 Annual Operating Budget*

Motion out of the Finance Committee to approve the 2026-2027 Annual Operating Budget with projected revenues and expenses in the amount of $26,890,356. Director Modi and Director Pathak presented on the 2026-2027 Budget Message. The presentation included budget strategies for the upcoming fiscal year

Motion passed 13-0-0.

B. 2025-2026 Third Quarter Budget Report (9&3)*

Motion out of the Finance Committee to approve the Third Quarter Budget Report (9&3).

The USU does a thorough budget review every quarter. The Third Quarter Budget Report is for the Third Quarter, ended March 31, 2026. The term “9&3” signifies that there are nine months of actual data and three months of projected data. Director Pathak and Director Modi presented on the Third Quarter Budget Report and Financial Statement Report, including Statement of Activities, Statement of Financial Position, Investment Report, Capital Outlay & Reserves Summary, CSUN Foundation Account Balances, and Work Study Report.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

XII. Discussion Items

A. USU Gateway Project – Post Feasibility Study Update

Executive Director Cecilia Ortiz, Associate Director of Operations and Services Samantha Mendoza, and Associate Director of Accounting and Finance Joseph Illuminate presented an update on the status of the USU Gateway Project and the results of the post-feasibility study. The presenters provided an overview of the project’s history, including the gradual student fee increases approved by CSUN students through a campus referendum. The USU had appropriately used the funds, paving the way for the construction and opening of the Valera NEST.

The recently completed feasibility study determined that the USU had a viable project, allowing the project to enter the design-build process. Three potential site options had been proposed for the USU Gateway Building. To remain within the projected cost model, Schematic B was selected.

The Gateway Project was entering the criteria phase. Secondary and supporting projects would accompany the main project, including outdoor furniture, fixtures, and equipment; landscaping; outdoor wayfinding; branding totems; and a building-numbering system. These improvements were intended to enhance the USU facilities overall.
Associate Director Illuminate presented the project's budget overview. Of the total estimated project cost of $125 million, $90,460,000 had been allocated to the new Gateway Building.

The project remained on schedule. The Southwest Addition building was expected to be vacated in spring 2028, and completion and occupancy of the new building were projected for fall 2030. Following the presentation, the Board discussed ideas for the building and potential opportunities to collaborate with campus partners.

Executive Director Ortiz concluded the discussion by expressing appreciation to Associate Director Mendoza and the project team for advancing the project despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. She also encouraged Board members to continue contributing to the project and laying the foundation for future Matadors.

Director Granillo left at 1:40 p.m. and returned at 1:43 p.m.

B. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee 2026 Accessibility Survey

Directors Rosales and Gonzalez presented the results of the Board of Directors Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee's Accessibility Survey, which was administered in spring 2026.

The survey's goal was to better understand students' experiences, identify key themes and areas for improvement, and inform future conversations related to accessibility and campus climate. The six-question survey was promoted through 17 outreach events and received 117 responses. Of the respondents, 77% reported having accessed the USU, 32% reported that they had not experienced barriers at the USU, and 47% recommended improved wayfinding.

When asked what would make the USU more accessible, students identified a need for additional quiet and sensory spaces, clearer facility signage and wayfinding, diverse programming, accessible seating, greater flexibility, and improved physical accessibility. Directors Rosales and Gonzalez highlighted direct quotations from survey participants that supported the need for improved accessibility at the USU.

The BOD DEI Committee presented three key recommendations: implementing an accessibility symbol system, expanding awareness and training related to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, and increasing visible signage and wayfinding throughout the USU.

The committee thanked the USU for its support in launching the survey and expressed hope that the findings would have a positive impact on the organization.

C. **DREAM Center IMPACT Fellowship Program***

DREAM Center Manager, Irvin Rendon and DREAM Center IMPACT Fellow, Diana Crespo-Munoz provided an overview and review of the pilot year for the DREAM Center IMPACT Fellowship Program. Launched in 2025, the programs aimed to support undocumented students by “Investing in Mentorship, Professional Advancement and Career Training (IMPACT)”. The Associated Students (A.S.) and USU Board of Directors committed to a multi-year funding to support IMPACT fellowship opportunities, providing a stable foundation for program sustainability and expansion of fellowship placements and learning opportunities.

The pilot year focused on foundation and framework for the program. Two mentor info sessions and three student info sessions were hosted and the program had four Fellows at the DREAM Center. Fellows gained skills and were able to give back to the community and built connection with the CSUN campus. In 2026-2027, the DREAM Center will focus on Professional Development Curriculum, Lesson Plans for Workshops, and Mentor and Student Agreements. The goal is to have 12 student fellowship opportunities (three graduate and nine undergraduate students). Additional funding in the amount of $21,000 has been granted for the program from partners including the Office of Student Success and Global HSI.

XIII. Announcements

Chair Sabah called for announcements and invited Assistant Director of Programs and Leadership Audrey Martinez to address the Board. She shared several upcoming dates. Board Director Orientation was scheduled for June 3 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. and June 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Thousand Oaks Room. Following orientation, the BOD Transition Ceremony would take place on Monday, June 8, in the Northridge Center. Assistant Director Martinez expressed excitement about meeting the incoming Board of Directors at the ceremony. She also introduced and thanked the new BOD Student Business Assistant, Milasse Doho.

Chair Sabah announced her resignation from the Board of Directors, effective at the conclusion of the meeting. She had accepted an internship at Columbia University in New York that would begin during the week of the Transition Ceremony. Chair Sabah expressed sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors and stated that it had been her privilege and honor to serve the USU and CSUN.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Sabah adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cecilia Ortiz,
Executive Director