UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 8, 2026 – Northridge Center

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 12:43 p.m. by Chair Granillo.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Alexia Aguilar	A.S. Vice President Sheen Gupta	Alejandra Aparicio	Christopher Mulrooney
Cameron Gonzalez	Alejandro Perez	Alex Hertzog	Vincent Watchinda
Cesar Rosales	Dr. Edith Winterhalter	Ani Davtyan	Kimberly Vaquerano
Cecilia Ortiz	Dr. Marlesha Bell	Condor	Mahi Kachhadiya
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Jenny Aw	Kori Higgins
Heet Patel		Jesse Corona	Princy Savaliya
Honey Modi		Jimmy Francis	Arpita Vekaria
Joaquin Macias		Jolee Innocent	Bharath Reddy Pamu*
Karim Kouatly		Joseph Illuminate	
Rudy Granillo		Lara Shaghoian	
Steven Wang		Magdalena Sanchez	
Vyom Pathak*		Natalie Johnson	
		Raine Hernandez	
		Samantha Liu	
		Sharon Kinard	
		Shelley Sakoda	
		Steven Wein	
		Tim Rasmussen	

**TEAMS video participant*

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (C. Rosales/ H. Patel) Motion to approve the agenda for June 8, 2026.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

IV. Open Forum

There were no participants for Open Forum.

V. Chair's Report

Chair Granillo provided context about the BOD Leadership Program this past year, highlighting its curriculum around the Social Change Model of Leadership (SCM) in the monthly training sessions. As part of their capstone, Student Directors were tasked to reflect on how SCM shaped their leadership experience on the Board, in addition to sharing highlights from their Year-End Reports. Specifically, students were asked to select a “C” from the 7 C’s of SCM to reflect on:

1. Consciousness of Self
2. Congruence
3. Commitment
4. Collaboration
5. Common Purpose
6. Controversy with Civility
7. Citizenship

Chair Granillo started his presentation with BOD highlights, sharing the creation of the Visibility & Engagement Ad Hoc Committee and several approvals related to the F&O, Finance, Personnel, Retirement Plan, and the Internal Review Ad Hoc Committees. Various Student Directors attended conferences, including Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Region I, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), and ACUI National Conference.

The Visibility & Engagement Ad Hoc Committee—successfully established in Spring 2026—achieved proactive planning for the 2026-2027 academic year and transition.

The Internal Review Ad Hoc Committee achieved Board approval for the revised USU bylaws and continued review of the Committee Codes and USU Scholarship Policy, setting the foundation for succeeding BOD and committee members.

The Retirement Plan Committee reviewed all Voluntary Employer Beneficiary Association (VEBA) updates, proposed and received Board approval on the Reemployment of USU Retirees Policy, and welcomed Interim Associate Director, Human Resources and Professional Development Jenny Aw and Executive Director Cecilia Ortiz in Fall 2025. Chair Granillo gave a special thanks to Dennis and Sallie DeYoung for their contributions.

Chair Granillo concluded the presentation with his reflection on why, “Commitment,” was most prominent in his leadership experience on the Board this year.

VI. Vice Chair’s Report

Vice Chair Aguilar had no updates since her recent appointment.

VII. Executive Director’s Report

Director Ortiz announced the commencement of Sunny Days Camp and welcomed Assistant Director, Recreational Programs Jeremy Hamlett, a former camper turned Camp Counselor, and a Junior Camp Counselor to the podium. Both counselors shared how Sunny Days Camp helped strengthen their maturity and confidence, as well as their communication skills with children and adults.

VIII. A.S. Report

The Associated Students (A.S.) liaison was absent. Chair Granillo shared that A.S. is working on appointing a new representative to the BOD meetings.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Director Rosales started the presentation by thanking each committee member, as well as Executive Secretaries Dr. Tari Hunter and Natalie Johnson, for their work this year. Director Gonzalez reviewed the committee goal and highlights, which included the collaboration with the USU DEI Internal Work Team, development of the accessibility survey, and acquisition of 117 survey respondents. They recommended continuing to analyze the accessibility survey for further implementation in the USU, focusing on student values and their reflection in the USU, and developing strong plans with flexibility to change.

Director Rosales detailed why, “Common Purpose,” was a major factor in his leadership on the Board, and Director Gonzalez expressed how, “Congruence,” supported her decision-making in the communities she is involved with.

B. Facilities & Operations

Director Patel started his presentation with a brief roadmap, then provided an overview of the committee’s three main goals and a timeline of milestones. Committee highlights included the Computer Lab analysis, Plaza Pool redevelopment, operational improvements, research on innovative enhancements, and a stronger committee culture. Director Patel made recommendations related to the Computer Lab transition, Plaza Pool furniture, wayfinding and USU Gateway Project coordination, and flexible facility use. Key lessons from the committee experience revolved around asking quality questions to deeply understand key topics and ensuring respect and inclusivity in student perspectives.

Director Patel concluded his presentation by reflecting on how, “Controversy with Civility,” shaped his leadership. This Social Change Model value allowed him to see the importance of disagreements within committee members, especially when discussing Plaza Pool furniture concepts and storage units. On behalf of Director Perez, Director Patel shared his reflection on, “Common Purpose.”

C. Finance

Director Pathak and Director Modi started their capstone presentation with a committee overview of core responsibilities and a timeline showcasing the committee’s activity and accomplishments throughout the year. The committee completed both of its goals regarding the USU Gateway Project and Finance Policy review, while also prioritizing budget oversight and student leadership development. Additionally, the committee held many discussions about the planning and enhancement of The Valera NEST, the Fixed Asset & Leasehold Improvement Policy, and capital outlay and reserves. Committee members were able to engage in various development activities and networking opportunities. Director Pathak and Director Modi reflected on how, “Collaboration,” was an integral component of their work with BOD members, committee members, USU staff, and campus administrators. They concluded their presentation with future priorities, key takeaways, and special thanks.

Director Sanchez left at 1:26 p.m. and returned at 1:30 p.m.

D. Personnel

Director Kouatly and Vice Chair Aguilar began their presentation with committee goals and accomplishments. They highlighted the review of and updates to various policies related to the student assistant classification and wage schedule, medical leave benefits for long-term employees, relocation and expense reimbursement, and instructor wages. The committee recommended and received Board approval for five of six committee goals. Future priorities should include the review and update of the relocation policy, as well as the Medical Leave Benefits for Long-Term Employees Policy.

Director Kouatly shared that “Commitment” was key to balancing personal responsibilities and increased expectations during his time on the Board. Director Aguilar explained how “Collaboration” impacted her experience leading the committee through critical policy updates. They concluded their presentation with pride in completing 5 of 6 goals and in committee member Jolee Innocent for being awarded Committee Member of the Year.

E. Retirement

Since this report was included in his earlier presentation, Chair Granillo went into further detail on future plans, areas of concern, and additional comments.

F. Internal Review

Since this report was included in his earlier presentation, Chair Granillo went into further detail on the full report.

X. Action Items

A. Interim Vice Chair Appointment – Time Certain 12:40 p.m.

M/S/P (H. Patel / H. Modi) Motion to approve the appointment of an Interim Vice Chair.

Former Chair Sabah resigned from her seat on the Board of Directors during the last meeting on June 1, 2026. Following protocol as established in the USU bylaws, former Vice Chair Granillo will now serve as Interim Chair. Chair Granillo recommended the appointment of Director Aguilar as the Interim Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

B. Internal Review Ad Hoc Committee Student Representative Appointment

M/S/P (K. Kouatly / H. Modi) Motion to approve the Internal Review Ad Hoc Committee Student Representative Appointment.

There is a vacancy on the Internal Review Ad Hoc Committee. Motion to approve the appointment of Heet Patel as a BOD student representative for the Internal Review Committee effective June 8, 2026. Recommendations are made by Chair Granillo and Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, & Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter.

Director Patel shared positive sentiments toward previously serving in the Internal Review Committee and the potential of serving again.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

C. Student Representative Appointment

M/S/P (H. Modi / H. Patel) Motion to approve the Student Representative Appointment.

There is a student vacancy on the USU Board of Directors. Motion to approve the appointment of Arpita Vekaria as a student representative effective June 8, 2026 until June 14, 2027. Recommendations are made by Chair Granillo and BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes.

Chair Granillo expressed positive feedback from the interview with A. Vekaria, highly recommending her for the appointment. Since A. Vekaria was absent from the meeting and could not provide an introduction, Chair Granillo shared that she is a student employee at the Department of Police Services, volunteer at CSUN VITA, and a Finance major.

Director Pathak left at 1:43 p.m.

Motion passed 9-0-1.

D. Student Representative Appointment

M/S/P (C. Gonzalez / K. Kouatly) Motion to approve the Student Representative Appointment.

There is a student vacancy on the USU Board of Directors. Motion to approve the appointment of Christopher Mulrooney as a student representative effective June 8, 2026 until June 14, 2027. Recommendations are made by Chair Granillo and BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes.

Chair Granillo expressed positive feedback from the interview with C. Mulrooney, highly recommending him for the appointment. C. Mulrooney, a History major and member of the DEI Committee, provided a brief introduction about himself, highlighting how his experience as a veteran and non-traditional student would bring a unique perspective to the Board.

Director Rosales vouched for C. Mulrooney's candidacy, as he was a consistent and standout DEI committee member.

Director Pathak returned at 1:48 p.m.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

E. Student Representative Appointment

M/S/P (C. Rosales / K. Kouatly) Motion to approve the Student Representative Appointment.

There is a student vacancy on the USU Board of Directors. Motion to approve the appointment of Bharath Reddy Pamu as a student representative effective June 8, 2026 until June 14, 2027. Recommendations are made by Chair Granillo and BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes.

Chair Granillo expressed positive feedback from the interview with B. Pamu, highly recommending him for the appointment. B. Pamu provided a brief introduction about himself, sharing that as a Computer Science major and international student, his journey at CSUN has taught him about the importance of leadership. He expressed a strong passion for uplifting student voices and needs.

Director Wang left at 1:54 p.m. and returned at 1:57 p.m.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

F. Faculty Representative Appointment

M/S/P (K. Kouatly / H. Patel) Motion to approve the Faculty Representative Appointment.

There is a vacancy on the USU Board of Directors. Motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Marlesha Bell as the Faculty Representative effective June 8, 2026 until June 2028. Recommendations are made by former Chair Sabah, Chair Granillo, and Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs & Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter.

Director Bell was appointed in February of this year to fulfill former Faculty Representative Dr. Mirna Sawyer's term, which ends today. Since Director Bell was absent from the meeting, Director Ortiz expressed Director Bell's commitment to the Board of Directors and championing student voice.

Motion passed 10-1-0.

G. Alumni Representative Appointment

M/S/P (C. Rosales / C. Gonzalez) Motion to approve the Alumni Representative Appointment.

There is a vacancy on the USU Board of Directors. Motion to approve the appointment of Joaquin Macias as the Alumni Representative effective June 8, 2026 until June 2028. Recommendations are made by former Chair Sabah, Chair Granillo, and Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs & Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter.

Director Macias expressed gratitude for serving the BOD thus far. In this next term, he shared his plans to engage more with alumni to connect them with students for support with their careers. He discussed with the Chair and Executive Director about ideas to deepen that connection between students and alumni.

In response to Director Wang's inquiry, Director Macias' favorite moments in the past three years on the Board are the conversations around The Valera NEST and seeing it come to fruition.

Motion passed 10-0-1.

XI. Announcements

Director Kouatly closed his last Board meeting by thanking Wellness Manager Condor, Wellness Supervisor Abigayle Brown, Administration & Assessment Manager Shelley Sakoda, Interim Associate Director, Human Resources and Professional Development Jenny Aw, and Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter for their guidance.

Director Rosales shared his appreciation for everyone, sharing his journey on the Board. He credited the Board for giving students experience and pride to CSUN. Director Rosales praised Board members and thanked Director Gonzalez, Dr. T. Hunter, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager Natalie Johnson.

Director Ortiz thanked all the outgoing BOD members, sharing what a pleasure it was to work with them. She concluded with warm and encouraging words about their impact and leadership experience.

With support from BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes, Chair Granillo awarded new, returning, and exiting Directors, as well as Executive Secretaries, small gifts in the spirit of transitioning leadership.

XII. Adjournment

Chair Granillo adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

XIII. Transition Ceremony / Seating of New Board

Chair Granillo welcomed everyone to the 2026 Transition Ceremony.

The Board retained 9 members from 2025-2026. He called the following Directors to the stage:

- Alexia Aguilar
- Honey Modi
- Steven Wang
- Joaquin Macias
- Dr. Freddie Sanchez
- Cecilia Ortiz
- Rudy Granillo

He then introduced and welcomed the new Board members:

- Arpita Vekaria
- Christopher Mulrooney

- Kori Higgins
- Kimberly Vaquerano
- Mahi Kachhadiya
- Princy Savaliya

Directors Bell and Director Winterhalter were absent from the meeting but were recognized as returning Directors. Chair Granillo led the 2026-2027 Directors through a pledge to uphold the USU Mission. This ceremony was followed by a ten-minute break, where Directors, staff, and guests enjoyed refreshments.

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 2:49 p.m. by Chair Granillo.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Alexia Aguilar	A.S. Vice President Sheen Gupta	Alejandra Aparicio	Christopher Mulrooney
Arpita Vekaria	Dr. Edith Winterhalter	Alex Hertzog	Vincent Watchinda
Bharath Reddy Pamu	Dr. Marlesha Bell	Ani Davtyan	Kimberly Vaquerano
Cecilia Ortiz		Condor	Mahi Kachhadiya
Christopher Mulrooney		Janessa Reyes	Kori Higgins
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Jenny Aw	Princy Savaliya
Honey Modi		Jesse Corona	Arpita Vekaria
Joaquin Macias		Jimmy Francis	Bharath Reddy Pamu*
Kimberly Vaquerano		Jolee Innocent	
Kori Higgins		Joseph Illuminate	
Mahi Kachhadiya		Lara Shaghoian	
Princy Savaliya		Magdalena Sanchez	
Rudy Granillo		Natalie Johnson	
Steven Wang		Raine Hernandez	
		Samantha Liu	
		Sharon Kinard	
		Shelley Sakoda	
		Steven Wein	
		Dr. Tari Hunter	
		Tim Rasmussen	

**TEAMS video participant*

III. Action Items

A. Election of Chair

Chair Granillo asked for nominations for the Chair position.

(A. Aguilar / H. Modi) Motion to nominate Honey Modi. Nomination was accepted.
(P. Savaliya / M. Kachhadiya) Motion to nominate Mahi Kachhadiya. Nomination was accepted.
(J. Macias / R. Granillo) Motion to nominate Rudy Granillo. Nomination was accepted.
(K. Higgins / K. Higgins) Motion to nominate Kori Higgins. Nomination was accepted.

Director Kachhadiya withdrew candidacy for Chair.

The three candidates stepped out of the room at 2:53 p.m. to prepare a statement. Because Chair Granillo was one of the nominees, Vice Chair Aguilar was seated as Chair for this portion of the meeting. Each candidate was called back into the room, individually, to present their statement and field questions from the Board. After the candidate statements were complete, Board members engaged in an internal discussion. The candidates returned to the room at 3:55 p.m. Following their return, voting commenced.

BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes collected secret ballots from the Board. While Associate Executive Director Dr. Tari Hunter and J. Reyes counted the votes, the Board took a break at 4:00 p.m. The meeting resumed at 4:08 p.m., and Chair Aguilar announced that Rudy Granillo was elected Chair for the 2026-2027 Board of Directors. Chair Aguilar congratulated R. Granillo and returned to the Vice Chair seat. Chair Granillo expressed his gratitude for his appointment as BOD Chair.

B. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Granillo asked for nominations for the Vice Chair position.

(A. Vekaria / M. Kachhadiya) Motion to nominate Mahi Kachhadiya. Nomination was accepted.
(H. Modi / H. Modi) Motion to nominate Honey Modi. Nomination was accepted.
(K. Higgins / K. Higgins) Motion to nominate Kori Higgins. Nomination was accepted.
Director Sanchez motioned to nominate Alexia Aguilar. Nomination was declined.

The three candidates stepped out of the room at 4:15 p.m. to prepare a statement. Each candidate was called back into the room, individually, to present their statement and field questions from the Board. After the candidate statements were complete, Board members engaged in an internal discussion. The candidates returned to the room at 5:09 p.m. Following their return, voting commenced.

Director Sanchez left at 4:13 and returned virtually at 4:20 p.m.

BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes collected secret ballots from the Board. While Associate Executive Director Dr. Tari Hunter and J. Reyes counted the votes, the Board took a short break and resumed at 5:17 p.m., and Chair Granillo announced that Kori Higgins was elected Vice Chair for the 2026-2027 Board of Directors. Chair Granillo congratulated K. Higgins, in which she transitioned to the Vice Chair seat. Vice Chair Higgins expressed appreciation for everyone’s consideration.

C. USU BOD Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027

M/S/P (C. Mulrooney / P. Savaliya) Motion to approve the USU BOD Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027.

BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes presented the proposed BOD meeting schedule, noting 13 dates in total. This schedule was drafted in consultation with Assistant Director, Programs & Leadership Audrey Martinez, Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, & Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter, and Executive Director Cecilia Ortiz and in reference to the 2026-2027 academic calendar to avoid conflicts.

Unlike majority of the meeting locations being in the Grand Salon, the Board meeting on March 15, 2027 will be held in the Northridge Center, due to space availability at the time of reservation.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

Director Pamu left at 5:23 p.m.

XIV. Announcements

Director Vekaria approached the podium and apologized for her absence during her time of appointment. She provided a brief introduction about herself, sharing her campus affiliations and involvement.

Director Sanchez congratulated the new Board, looking forward to working with them.

Director Ortiz expressed optimism toward working with the new Board this year, especially highlighting the Student Directors that ran for Chair and Vice Chair elections. Committee Chair and Co-Chair appointments will occur soon.

XV. Adjournment

Chair Granillo adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cecilia Ortiz,
Executive Director