

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 27, 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 Granillo.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Alexia Aguilar*	Dr. Edith Winterhalter	Alejandra Aparicio	John Veatch
Arpita Vekaria*	Dr. Marlesha Bell	Ani Davyan	
Bharath Reddy Pamu*	Sheen Gupta (A.S. Liaison)	Audrey Martinez	
Cecilia Ortiz		Evette Palacios	
Christopher Mulrooney*		Hannah Kiernan	
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		James Matzen	
Honey Modi		Janessa Reyes	
Joaquin Macias		Jeremy Hamlett	
Kimberly Vaquerano		Joseph Illuminate*	
Kori Higgins*		Lara Shaghoian	
Mahi Kachhadiya		Milasse Doho	
Princy Savaliya		Natalie Johnson	
Rudy Granillo		Raine Hernandez	
Steven Wang		Robert Graves	
		Samantha Mendoza	
		Sharon Kinard	
		Shelley Sakoda	
		Steven Wein	
		Tari Hunter	
		Vincent Watchinda	

**TEAMS video participant*

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (S. Wang / H. Modi) Motion to approve the agenda for July 27, 2026.

Director Mulrooney left at 12:38 p.m.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes 06/01/2026

M/S/P (H. Modi / M. Kachhadiya) Motion to approve the minutes for June 1, 2026.

Director Mulrooney returned at 12:40 p.m.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

V. Approval of Minutes 06/08/2026

M/S/P (H. Modi / M. Kachhadiya) Motion to approve the minutes for June 8, 2026.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

Director Ortiz motioned for a friendly amendment to the agenda to move up Action Item A. Committee Chair and Co-Chair Appointments as the next item.

VI. Action Items

A. Committee Chair and Co-Chair Appointments

M/S/P (C. Mulrooney / H. Modi) Motion to approve the Committee Chair and Co-Chair Appointments.

Chair Granillo read the appointments as follows:

- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: Chair Alexia Aguilar, Co-Chair Bharath Reddy Pamu
- Facilities & Operations: Chair: Christopher Mulrooney, Co-Chair: Mahi Kachhadiya
- Finance: Chair Arpita Vekaria, Co-Chair Princy Savaliya
- Personnel: Chair Honey Modi, Co-Chair Kimberly Vaquerano
- Retirement Plan: Vice Chair Kori Higgins

Director Mulrooney left the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

VII. Open Forum

Graphic Designer James Matzen shared information about an upcoming opportunity for student leaders to provide their input for a future mural concept in the USU. During this meeting, initial concepts from USU partners at IntersectLA will be shared for student feedback.

Veterans Resource Center Manager Robert Graves thanked the BOD for accepting Director Mulrooney's appointment. R. Graves praised Director Mulrooney and looked toward more veteran representation. Director Mulrooney thanked R. Graves for the kind words.

Chair Granillo emphasized the opportunity to attend the student feedback session for the USU mural concept, which will have the option to attend virtually. J. Matzen shared that the design has very early general concepts, which is why they are looking for input. Director Ortiz provided some background to the concept of the mural. The idea comes from facilities planning and identifying Instagram-able spaces to increase foot traffic and student engagement with the space, as a result of the USU Gateway Project. The mural will consist of an LED window installation and a permanent portion.

Director Mulrooney joined the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

VIII. Chair's Report

Chair Granillo started his report by introducing CSUN Assistant Vice President, Budget Planning and Managements John Veatch, as he will be serving as a proxy to Dr. Edith Winterhalter. J. Veatch provided a brief introduction and is looking forward to working with all students and staff.

Chair Granillo highlighted the new BOD cardigans provided to Board members at the beginning of the meeting. These cardigans were an idea of his from last semester. Chair Granillo thanked BOD Leadership and Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes, Assistant Director, Programs &

Leadership Audrey Martinez, Marketing Supervisor Lara Shaghoian, and Graphic Designer James Matzen for turning the idea into fruition.

Chair Granillo shared his enjoyment of working with the Board at the BOD Summer Retreat, thanking A. Martinez and J. Reyes for putting it together. He hoped that participants gained fresh perspectives of their roles and work. He encouraged student directors to prepare for the year by building relationships with their committee leadership team members. Chair Granillo concluded his report reminding everyone of his and Vice Chair Higgins' support, guidance, and partnership.

IX. Vice Chair's Report

On behalf of Vice Chair Higgins, Chair Granillo read the Vice Chair Report. She opened her report with gratitude for being the BOD Vice Chair and shared similar sentiments as Chair Granillo about the BOD Summer Retreat. She encouraged student directors to lead with integrity, authenticity, and intention alongside their committee leadership team members. Vice Chair Higgins concluded her report with optimism toward learning from and supporting Chair Granillo, while also supporting the rest of the Board.

X. Executive Director's Report

Director Ortiz started her report by thanking AV Administration Supervisor Dillon Goyette for the meeting's audio improvements. She highlighted Interim Human Resources Manager Christina Leon's new reassignment and welcomed new personnel to the podium to introduce themselves. Assessment & Administration Assistant Vincent Watchinda, Strategic Marketing & Communications Supervisor – Communications Hannah Kiernan, and Veterans Resource Center Evette Palacios provided brief introductions.

Following, Director Ortiz reported on Program highlights. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) hosted a Juneteenth Watch Party in collaboration with the California State University (CSU) systemwide virtual Juneteenth commemoration and symposium. She praised the team for a well-crafted program, drawing in more attendance than anticipated. Sunny Days Camp reached a total of 525 unique campers registered for the summer; 41 CSUN students employed as counselors and directors that help plan and lead daily activities for 270 weekly campers.

XI. A.S. Report

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

XII. Committee Reports

A. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Director Aguilar reported that she met with Assistant Executive Secretary Natalie Johnson during Retreat. They discussed planning for committee member recruitment and interviews. She is also coordinating with Director Pamu to meet through Zoom to discuss their schedules and finalize a meeting schedule. N. Johnson shared insights from the previous committee's work to help guide their planning. Additional updates will be provided as progress is made.

B. Facilities & Operations

Director Mulrooney shared that the committee leadership team is setting up meeting dates and agenda topics for the upcoming year.

C. Finance

On behalf of Director Vekaria, Director Savaliya stated that the committee leadership team discussed availability for committee meetings following Retreat and her excitement for the semester.

D. Personnel

Director Modi expressed excitement about completing training, recruiting committee members, and working together for a productive year. She thanked Executive Secretary Jenny Aw for her guidance.

E. Internal Review

Chair Granillo shared that the committee leadership team is reviewing the revised Committee Codes from last year's revisions. The finalized version will be brought to the Board for review and approval early fall semester.

F. Visibility and Engagement

The committee is recruiting members and will continue their work to the fall semester.

XIII. Discussion Items

A. 2026-2027 BOD Goals

Director Ortiz started the presentation on Aspirational vs. Operational Goals and the decision approach. Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, & Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter provided an overview of existing goals pertaining to operational efficiency and visibility and engagement, themes from the Board's discussion during Retreat, and emerging considerations. The Board engaged in a discussion about the focus of a third aspirational goal. Regarding the theme mobilization and partnerships, Director Ortiz offered student organization meetings and class presentations as considerations, as well as participation expectations. Director Kachhadiya offered department townhall meetings as another opportunity to engage with students.

Director Sanchez inquired about the DEI Committee's accessibility study from last academic year and progress on USU projects to avoid creating a goal from scratch. Dr. Hunter stated that they will share the survey results with new committee members and determine whether they want to start a new project. Some of the survey's data can be supported through the Visibility & Engagement Committee. Associate Director, Operations and Services Samantha Mendoza provided some context to the upcoming phases of the USU Gateway Project, advising that the process is confidential which limits the ability to use it as a BOD goal.

Dr. Hunter guided the discussion to consider specific student populations that need more attention. Students from the Black/African American, Latine, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander, and international communities were mentioned as potential focuses, highlighting the anticipation of an increase in international students in the fall semester, as well as CSUN's new Black Serving Institution (BSI) designation. As discussion concluded, Dr. Hunter prepared a QR code for the Board's input.

XIV. Announcements

Director Ortiz followed up on the sand activity retreat attendees participated in on their last day. BOD Leadership and Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes shared that it will be presented soon.

J. Reyes reminded the Board and Executive Secretaries about the Chair/Co-Chair/Executive Secretary training on Wednesday, July 29.

Director Sanchez hosted a retreat with the identity-based centers and USU resource centers, expecting a full team by December. They plan to continue enacting heritage months; the first one being Latine Heritage Month. He encouraged student directors to bring their conversations with their friends and peers back to their BOD committees.

Dr. Hunter asked the Board to complete the QR code to share their input on the BOD goals. The list was not inclusive of all underrepresented communities, but the ones discussed earlier. Director Macias said there is representation of the listed groups from alumni chapters and will work on making those connections.

XV. Adjournment

Chair Granillo adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cecilia Ortiz,
Executive Director