UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 24 2026 – Grand Salon

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Chair Granillo.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Alexia Aguilar	Dr. Edith Winterhalter	Alejandra Aparicio	Adam Solorzano
Arpita Vekaria	Joaquin Macias	Ani Davyan	David Rodriguez
Bharath Reddy Pamu	Dr. Marlesha Bell	Audrey Martinez	Elizabeth Rose
Christopher Mulrooney		Christina Leon	Jacqueline Garcia Nunez
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Hannah Kiernan	John Veatch
Honey Modi*		Hannah Kiernan	Matthew McCaw
Kimberly Vaquerano		Janessa Reyes	Nicki Calvert
Kori Higgins		Jenny Aw	
Mahi Kachhadiya		Jeremy Hamlett	
Princy Savaliya		Joseph Illuminate	
Rudy Granillo		Lara Shaghoian	
Cecilia Ortiz		Magdalena Sanchez	
Steven Wang		Milasse Doho	
		Natalie Johnson	
		Raine Hernandez	
		Ryan Hairapetian	
		Samantha Mendoza	
		Sarina Loeb	
		Sharon Kinard*	
		Shelley Sakoda	
		Steven Wein	
		Dr. Tari Hunter	
		Tim Rasmussen	

**TEAMS video participant*

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (F. Sanchez / K. Higgins) Motion to approve the agenda for August 24, 2026.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes 07/27/2026

M/S/P (A. Aguilar / M. Kachhadiya) Motion to approve the minutes for July 27, 2026.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

V. Open Forum

Several USU Scholarship recipients individually approached the podium to introduce themselves to the Board and shared how their recent scholarship award will support their academic journey and leadership development at CSUN. The recipients present at the meeting included:

- Nicki Calvert, Veterans Resource Center Scholarship
- Elizabeth Rose, Tanni Block Memorial LGBTQIA+ Scholarship
- Adam Solorzano, Pride Center Scholarship
- Itzel Cano Soledad, DREAM Center Scholarship

Chair Granillo and Director Sanchez thanked the students for speaking today and congratulated them on their efforts. Director Mulrooney, similarly, emphasized N. Calvert's speech highlighting veterans.

VI. Chair's Report

Chair Granillo started his report with a warm welcome back from summer break, reminding everyone to prioritize their well-being and lean on each other for support. As each committee continues to recruit members, he announced vacancies in the Retirement Plan and Visibility & Engagement Ad Hoc Committees that must be filled by Board members. He encouraged anyone who is interested to contact him.

VII. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Higgins started her report with gratitude for serving in her Board position and excitement toward working with Joe and members of the Retirement Plan Committee. Vice Chair Higgins reiterated the need for a Student Representative to join the committee. Their first meeting is scheduled for September 15 with an orientation taking place beforehand. As the semester begins, she voiced her openness and commitment to support her peers and members of the campus community. She concluded her report with a reminder of how important communication and collaboration are in their work in serving and representing students.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Director Ortiz opened with a happy first day of the semester. She shared highlights from the areas of Programs, Personnel, Projects/Services, and Staff/Student Development. The USU resource centers organized several Welcome events, which Director Ortiz encouraged the Board to attend and identify any gaps to bring forth to their committees and the rest of the Board. Human Resources hosted SUMMIT, the biannual training program for USU student assistant employees and Board members. She thanked Chair Granillo and Director Mulrooney for their participation. The Oasis Wellness Center successfully completed and launched a new MataCard station, modernizing the check-in experience. Alannah Francisco was appointed to Programs Supervisor as a temporary emergency hire. The Programs Department visited Associated Students (A.S.), where they learned how other institutions host signature events with a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) perspective.

IX. A.S. Report

The Associated Students (A.S.) Liaison has yet to be appointed. No report was shared at the meeting.

X. Committee Reports

A. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Director Aguilar shared that the committee leadership team met last week to organize their meeting schedules for interviews and the upcoming semester.

B. Facilities & Operations

Director Mulrooney reported that the committee leadership team is familiarizing themselves with the work and recommendations from the previous members of the Facilities and Operations

Committee, involving the Computer Lab transition, Plaza Pool redevelopment, wayfinding, and USU Gateway Project coordination, operational improvements, and opportunities for flexible and innovative use. As the academic year begins, they are setting up committee member interviews, establishing goals, and preparing for their upcoming meetings. Director Mulrooney closed his report with optimism about a productive year ahead.

C. Finance

Director Vekaria was happy to report that in partnership with Director Savaliya, they established a tentative fall committee meeting schedule on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on October 7, October 28, November 18, and December 9. They plan to recruit four to six members who are excited, available, and willing to participate in the committee's work, while working with Executive Secretaries Joe Illuminate and Allen Schentrup to prepare for meetings and activities. Director Vekaria closed her report with appreciation for the support of USU staff.

D. Personnel

Director Modi shared that the committee leadership team has started reviewing committee applications. They met with Executive Secretaries Jenny Aw and Christina Leon to discuss committee planning and establish a regular meeting schedule, potentially on Mondays or Wednesdays. They will finalize the schedule after committee recruitment is complete. Director Modi looks forward to working with the committee and Board throughout the year.

E. Internal Review

Chair Granillo shared that the committee leadership team is reviewing Committee Codes and that he will continue to Chair this committee.

F. Visibility and Engagement

The committee is recruiting members and will continue their work to the fall semester. They are looking to designate a Committee Chair.

XI. Action Items

Items B-D were certain 12:45 p.m. and considered sequentially in the order listed.

A. University Representative Appointment

M/S/P (C. Ortiz / C. Mulrooney) Motion to approve the University Representative Appointment.

There is a vacancy on the USU Board of Directors for the University Representative position. Recommendations are made by Chair Granillo, Vice Chair Higgins, Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter, Executive Director Cecilia Ortiz, and former University Representative Dr. Edith Winterhalter.

John Veatch is the Assistant Vice President, Budget Planning and Management at CSUN, previously holding other roles as the Interim Associate Vice President – Financial Services, Director of Financial Systems and Operations, Director of Accounting and Reporting, and Manager of Finance and Trust Accounting. J. Veatch approached the podium to share his excitement toward working with the Board. Director Sanchez expressed positive sentiments about J. Veatch's appointment.

Director Modi left at 12:40 p.m., returned at 1:15 p.m., and left at 1:25 p.m.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

B. Audit Committee Student Appointment

M/S/P (C. Mulrooney / A. Aguilar) Motion to approve the Audit Committee Student Appointment – David Rodriguez.

David Rodriguez was recommended for appointment by Chair Granillo and Associate Director, Accounting and Finance Joe Illuminate. D. Rodriguez provided a brief introduction about himself, his interest in the role, leadership experience, and goals he hopes to achieve from his experience. He is majoring in Accounting/Information Systems.

Director Ortiz praised D. Rodriguez's thought-out presentation to the Board and looked forward to working with him.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

C. Audit Committee Student Appointment

M/S/P (S. Wang / P. Savaliya) Motion to approve the Audit Committee Student Appointment – Jacqueline Garcia.

Jacqueline Garcia was recommended for appointment by Chair Granillo and Associate Director, Accounting and Finance Joe Illuminate. J. Garcia provided a visual presentation and brief introduction about herself, her interest in the role, campus affiliations, leadership experience, and goals she hopes to achieve from her experience. She is double majoring in Financial Analysis and Professional Accountancy.

Director Wang commended J. Garcia for including her job experience at IHOP because of its transferrable skills. Director Ortiz praised J. Garcia's inclusion about representing student voices.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

D. Audit Committee Student Appointment

M/S/P (P. Savaliya / C. Mulrooney) Motion to approve the Audit Committee Student Appointment – Matthew McCaw.

Matthew McCaw was recommended for appointment by Chair Granillo and Associate Director, Accounting and Finance Joe Illuminate. M. McCaw provided a brief introduction about himself, his interest in the role, leadership experience, and goals he hopes to achieve from his experience. He is majoring in Professional Accountancy. In response to Vice Chair Higgins' question, M. McCaw shared how his shift lead experience at Jamba Juice provides transferrable skills and a steppingstone to working with Audit committee members.

Motion passed 11-0-0.

E. Amendment of Previously Approved Minutes 06/01/2026

M/S/P (F. Sanchez / K. Higgins) Motion to approve the amendment of the previously approved minutes of the BOD meeting on June 1, 2026.

An incorrect version of the BOD minutes of June 1, 2026 was previously approved in the BOD meeting on July 27, 2026. Attachments included a redlined copy of the amendments and the clean version of the final document for approval.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

F. 2026-2027 BOD Goals

M/S/P (K. Vaquerano / A. Vekaria) Motion to approve the 2026-2027 BOD Goals.

Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter and Executive Director Cecilia Ortiz presented a refresher on the current BOD goals and themes discussed in

the last meeting, sharing Mentimeter results of BOD members' ranking of student populations to highlight in Goal #3. The results showed the top three communities being students with disabilities, international transfer students, and BSI-connected students. The Board engaged in a thoughtful discussion about impact, data, and feasibility. Dr. Hunter wrapped up the conversation by encouraging Directors to participate in further goal development before the item is brought back to Board in the next BOD meeting. With that said, Chair Granillo recommended postponing the item until then.

M/S/P (F. Sanchez / C. Mulrooney) Motion to postpone the 2026-2027 Goals to the next regular meeting on September 14, 2026.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

XII. Discussion Items

A. 2025-2026 Student Employment Assessment Results

Since 2015, the USU has implemented an annual assessment that evaluates the impact of the USU student employment program on the development of key transferable skills that support career readiness. The USU updated its instrument in 2025-2026 to combine the new National Association of Colleges & Employers (NACE) Competency Assessment Tool for Students with essence from the original, customized Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) Student Unions and Programming Survey. USU student assistant employees completed the assessment at Winter SUMMIT in January 2026, with findings providing a snapshot of student learning across various competencies such as critical thinking, teamwork, technology, leadership, communication, and equity and inclusion. To support the USU's 2025-2026 strategic goal that sought to provide learning-based student work experiences that prepare students for post-college success, assessment results and next steps will be shared with the USU Board of Directors.

Administration and Assessment Manager Shelley Sakoda and Assessment Coordinator Alejandra Aparicio provided a visual presentation on the assessment results and plans for 2026-2027. Vice Chair Higgins shared her appreciation for the presentation, which demonstrates the skills and competencies that students are gaining through their employment. Director Sanchez asked whether there have been conversations with Director of the Career Center Dr. Nyla Jolly Dalferes about how this tool can be replicated for the rest of campus. S. Sakoda responded that although they have not started a partnership yet, Dr. Dalferes has designed stations based on the NACE competencies as part of the Career Center Open House in the past. With that, S. Sakoda affirmed that they will further that partnership with the Career Center. Director Sanchez closed his thoughts with a reminder about the institution's commitment to students, highlighting the data on students' career readiness.

Director Kachhadiya left at 2:03 p.m. and returned at 2:06 p.m. Director Wang left at 2:14 p.m.

XIII. Announcements

Vice Chair Higgins reannounced the vacancies in the Retirement Plan and Visibility & Engagement Ad Hoc Committees. Interested Directors should reach out to Chair Granillo for more information.

Director Sanchez welcomed everyone to the first day of the semester and encouraged BOD members to visit the resource centers to better understand the students they are serving.

Chair Granillo hinted at upcoming tabling opportunities for the Board to participate in.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Granillo adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cecilia Ortiz,
Executive Director