

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 25, 2025 – Grand Salon**

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 12:33 p.m. by Chair Sabah.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Alejandro Perez	Joaquin Macias	Alejandra Aparicio	Christopher Talavera
Alexia Aguilar		Ani Davtyan	Ricky Rosado
Alvaro Geminiano Aragon* (A.S. Liaison)		Audrey Martinez	Dr. William Watkins
Cameron Gonzalez		Chaunti Hatchett	
Cecilia Ortiz		Dr. Tari Hunter	
Cesar Rosales		Janessa Reyes	
Dr. Edith Winterhalter*		Jeremy Hamlett	
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Joseph Illuminate	
Heet Patel		Kristen Pichler	
Honey Modi		Lara Shaghoian	
Karim Kouatly		Natalie Johnson	
Dr. Mirna Sawyer		Priscillia Hernandez	
Nawshin Sabah		Ryan Hairapetian	
Rudy Granillo		Samantha Liu	
Steven Wang		Sharon Kinard	
Vyom Pathak		Shelley Sakoda	
		Steven Wein	
		Tim Rasmussen	

**TEAMS video participant*

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (K. Kouatly / C. Rosales) Motion to approve the agenda for August 25, 2025.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes 07/28/2025

M/S/P (R. Granillo / A. Aguilar) Motion to approve the minutes for July 28, 2025.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

V. Open Forum

Pride Center Supervisor Chaunti Hatchett introduced herself to the Board. Directors provided a warm applause.

VI. Chair's Report

Chair Sabah wished everyone a good start to the semester. She reported on the Executive Secretary/Chair/Co-Chair training, where they reviewed their roles and expectations, as well as the importance of their collaboration. Additionally, Chair Sabah provided a timeline for the committee recruitment process. Committees should be ready to conduct their first meetings by October. She concluded her report with words of support

VII. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Granillo began his report by recognizing Director Rosales and Director Modi for their contributions as Student Representatives in the USU Gateway Project Executive Committee and the Retirement Committee. The Internal Review Ad Hoc Committee finalized revisions of the bylaws and are now starting on the review of the committee codes, in which Vice Chair Granillo invited Board members to participate. The next meeting is on Friday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Additionally, the Retirement Committee held orientation last Friday and will host a kickoff meeting, tentatively scheduled on Friday, September 26 at 2:30 p.m. Vice Chair Granillo concluded his report by sharing that the Social Justice Scholarship Committee has completed the review of candidates for the 2025-2026 academic year. Finalists have been selected and are moving forward. He thanked everyone involved in the review process.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Director Ortiz welcomed everyone to the fall semester, which marks the beginning of her first full academic year in her position. Director Ortiz started her report by thanking the Student Directors who attended SUMMIT, as well as the team involved in making improvements to the BOD meeting, including IT and AV. Human Resources executed SUMMIT, which involved Director Ortiz's State of the Union Address, a USU Project Update, a presentation on the USU JEDI Review 2024-2025, a presentation on NASPA student employment survey results, various workshops, and a connection opportunity at the end of the program. The USU held multiple kickoff events to celebrate the start of the semester, including the DREAM Center Welcome: Semester Kick-Off and Veterans Welcome. The Pride Center, Programs, and USU Strategic Marketing & Communication Departments visited University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). Director Ortiz ended her report by acknowledging Technical Coordinator Chris Jensen's contribution to a team that won the Jolene Koester Team Award for CSUN Big Show at the 59th Staff Service and Recognition of Excellence Awards.

A.S. Vice President Geminiano Aragon left at 1:02 p.m.
Director Sawyer joined the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

IX. A.S. Report

On behalf of Associated Students (A.S.) Vice President Geminiano Aragon, Director Rosales provided updates on various areas. A.S. welcomed the new A.S. Executive Director Vicki Allen and approved job openings for a Teacher position and four Sports Club Coaches. Multiple A.S. departments underwent training during Development Day. A.S. Vice President Geminiano Aragon also attended the August plenary and CSUnity hosted by California State Student Association (CSSA), as well as a meeting with IT to discuss initiatives and potential collaborations. A.S. Senate approved appointments and engaged in a special presentation on immigration enforcement resources in their most recent meeting. A.S. Productions concluded Summer Movie Fest and look forward to hosting Matador Movie Night, A.S. Welcome Celebration, and Big Show in the fall. The Sports Club Council will begin meeting on September 3 and tryout season has begun. A.S. Outdoor Adventures had their Summer Backpacking Training Trip and hosted Camp Matador.

Several Directors had inquiries about A.S. Big Show. Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter stepped in to provide some insight.

X. Committee Reports

A. Diversity & Inclusion

Director Rosales passed the floor to Director Gonzalez to read the report. They have scheduled independent development activities with their executive team to collaborate and plan for the year ahead. Actions from the previous D&I Committee reached the California Student Aid Commission, and the DREAM Center Fellowship funding allocation was presented on August 14 by A.S. President Saravia. They aim to solidify a committee meeting time by the end of the month. Director Gonzalez ended the report by sharing their excitement to start the year in their BOD roles.

B. Facilities & Operations

Director Patel began his report by greeting the Board. They are refining their options for committee meeting times to Wednesdays from 12:00-1:30 p.m. or Fridays between 9:00-12:30 p.m. Possible F&O Committee goals include:

1. Review and advise on opportunities to enhance the comfort and vibrancy of USU spaces.
2. Evaluate and provide recommendations on the future utilizations of the USU Computer Lab.

Director Patel also mentioned their visit to California State University, Dominguez Hills to explore their newly installed hot food vending machine, as well as their progress on committee member recruitment.

C. Finance

Director Pathak shared a brief overview of the Major Repair & Replacement De-allocation Request they would later propose to the Board. He mentioned that the motion was not brought to the committee, but the executive team was aligned in bringing it for the Board's consideration. Director Pathak closed his report by sharing that they will be interviewing two candidates for their committee member recruitment.

D. Personnel

Director Kouatly started his report by wishing everyone a good start to the fall semester. He reported on his meeting with Personnel Co-Chair, Director Aguilar, sharing that they will be finalizing their committee meeting times soon. They are considering Mondays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. when a BOD meeting is not scheduled. They also began developing committee member interview questions and reviewing applications.

E. Retirement

Vice Chair Granillo reiterated the anticipated kickoff meeting on September 26 at 2:30 p.m. Additionally, he and Director Modi completed orientation.

F. Internal Review

Vice Chair Granillo encouraged Directors to attend the next committee meeting on August 29 at 10:00 a.m. He will also reach out for Director involvement in the committee codes review process.

XI. Action Items

A. 2025-2026 Capital Outlay Issue

M/S/P (K. Kouatly / H. Patel) Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Capital Outlay Issue.

The recommended motion: Approve the capitalization of two soccer field goals for the Student Recreation Center (SRC) Turf Field, which were expensed instead of capitalized as a fixed asset in 2024-2025 using the AMEX corporate credit card. The Credit Card Policy prohibits fixed asset

purchases using the corporate card. The monthly audit of Concur AMEX credit card reports revealed this error.

In response to Director Sanchez's inquiry about the fiscal year correction, Associate Director, Accounting and Finance Joe Illuminate clarified that the expense was made last year but with the Board's approval, it would be transferred into an asset account and continue to appreciate.

Motion passed 14-0-0.

B. Major Repair & Replacement De-Allocation Request

M/S/P (V. Pathak / A. Perez) Motion to approve the Major Repair & Replacement De-Allocation Request.

The recommended motion was to de-allocate \$285,537 from six Major Repair & Replacement projects: A.S. Athletics Renovation, SRC Selectorized and Cardiovascular Equipment, Southwest Building HVAC Replacement, SRC Turf Field Replacement, Central Plant Chiller Replacement, and Energy Management System Replacement and Installation. The de-allocated funds would be available for current or future Major Repair & Replacement projects.

Motion passed 14-0-0.

XII. Discussion Items

A. 2025-2026 Academic Welcome, Dr. William Watkins, Vice President, Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Dr. Watkins provided welcome remarks to the Board of Directors. He thanked the Directors for their service to CSUN's student community. He recalled serving on the Board for many years, collaborating with former BOD Chairs, Director Macias and Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter. He believes that it will be a very interesting and engaging year.

Following remarks, Dr. Watkins fielded questions from the Board regarding student engagement and retention and anticipated challenges.

B. BOD Goal-Setting 2025-2026

Executive Director Cecilia Ortiz and Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter facilitated a continuation of the 25-26 BOD goals discussion. Several Directors shared their thoughts on the draft goal submissions. Director Ortiz posed a question related to visibility and accessibility for the Board to consider. To further refine the goal themes, Directors were prompted to complete a poll to determine which theme to focus on: Visibility, Access, & Belonging or Collaboration & Community Engagement. Dr. Hunter clarified that the Board of Directors will focus on two goals total. One goal is a continuation from last year, aimed at the internal review of documents and policies; the second goal is currently being formed and can potentially continue next year.

Further discussion continued regarding the need to increase foot traffic in USU spaces to ensure the success of the USU Gateway Project in 2030. Vice Chair Granillo highlighted the importance of differentiating visibility, engagement, and traffic. The Mentimeter was later updated to allow Directors to submit additional comments to guide the discussion moving forward.

C. Insertion of Crave Robotics Hot Food Vending Machine

Members of the Facilities & Operations Committee visited California State University, Dominguez Hills to explore the newly installed Crave Robotics hot food vending machine, per The University Corporation and Chartwells recommendation. Prices of the hot food options varied between \$5-\$14. The University Corporation and Chartwells would have handled the contract and payment

with Crave Robotics, so no funding would have come from the USU. Regarding machine maintenance and troubleshooting, Crave Robotics would send an on-site tech to resolve issues. Based on Crave Robotics' food quality and machine feasibility, the F&O team did not recommend moving forward with this option. Crave Robotics reported replenishing the machine every 2-3 days, but the possibility of having an empty machine in addition to dissatisfactory food quality deterred the F&O team from further consideration.

XIII. Announcements

Director Sawyer announced that she will be stepping down from her Faculty Representative position but will continue to attend BOD meetings until someone is appointed. She reminisced on the beginning of her term and highlighted moments of pride. Director Sawyer expressed heartfelt sentiment toward the Board of Directors, especially its Student Representatives. She hopes to continue serving students through her involvement in The Valera NEST.

Chair Sabah thanked Director Sawyer for her service and being an inspiration to her. Following this announcement, Chair Sabah encouraged the Board to notify her and Vice Chair Granillo about any faculty recommendations for this position. She concluded announcements by reminding Directors to stay back for a group photo and complete the updated poll for goal setting.

XIV. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by,



Cecilia Ortiz,
Executive Director