

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

October 6, 2025 – Grand Salon

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors was called to order at 12:34 p.m. by Chair Sabah.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Alejandro Perez	Joaquin Macias	Alejandra Aparicio	Nelson G. Cox
Alexia Aguilar	Dr. Mirna Sawyer	Audrey Martinez	
Alvaro Geminiano Aragon (A.S. Liaison)		Janessa Reyes	
Cameron Gonzalez		Joseph Illuminate	
Cecilia Ortiz		Kristen Pichler	
Cesar Rosales		Lara Shaghoian	
Dr. Edith Winterhalter		Natalie Johnson	
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Priscillia Hernandez	
Heet Patel		Samantha Liu	
Honey Modi		Sharon Kinard	
Karim Kouatly		Shelley Sakoda	
Nawshin Sabah		Dr. Tari Hunter	
Rudy Granillo		Tim Rasmussen	
Steven Wang			
Vyom Pathak			

**TEAMS video participant*

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (V. Pathak / R. Granillo) Motion to approve the agenda for October 6, 2025.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes 09/15/2025

M/S/P (K. Kouatly / A. Perez) Motion to approve the minutes for September 15, 2025.

Motion passed 11-0-1.

V. Open Forum

Director of Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity with CSUN's Department of Police Services Nelson Cox announced the CSUN Safe App. The CSUN Safe App is available to students, faculty, staff, and visitors anywhere on campus, including CSUN Housing. The app contains one-button access to text 9-1-1, as well as the "Mobile BlueLight" feature, which initiates emergency dispatchers and automatically shares the user's geo-location if access is shared on the user's phone. The app can also be used off campus, but instead of directly contacting CSUN Department of Police Services, local authorities would be alerted.

N. Cox fielded questions from the Board, including inquiries about ICE activity, SB 98, and any potential data tracking. N. Cox shared that his team is assessing how to incorporate the red card into the app. Additionally, he clarified that geo-location and contact information are only shared if 9-1-1 is activated. Lastly, he reiterated various ways to contact police services through the app and text.

Director Winterhalter joined at 12:39 p.m.

VI. Chair's Report

Chair Sabah opened her report with warm remarks and wished Directors luck with their initial committee meetings. During the last BOD training session on September 22, Chair Sabah and Vice Chair Granillo checked in with Student Directors and discussed Board involvement in tabling opportunities. Chair Sabah reported to have had an engaging conversation, gaining insight on how to and what might foster participation. In addition to Chair Sabah, Directors Modi and Perez will be attending the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Region I Conference in November. She closed her report by reminding Board members that she and Vice Chair Granillo are available for further discussion, information, inquiries, or feedback.

VII. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Granillo started his report by showing his support for Directors who are beginning their committee meetings, reminding them of the resources available to them. He attended the first Parents Scholars United meeting of the academic year, where they discussed the idea of curating "Commitment Statements," short phrases that align with the USU's mission statement. Vice Chair Granillo plans to share his statement with the Board after completion.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Director Ortiz highlighted several updates in the areas of Personnel, Programs, University-Wide Service, and press. Recruitment for the regular position of Facility & Guest Services Coordinator – The Valera NEST has opened. The Pride Center collaborated with Associated Students for "PRIDEComing!" on October 10 to kickoff LGBTQIA2S+ History Month, where campus partners and community vendors provided queer resources, food, and connection opportunities. USU Human Resources attended the Career Center's virtual on-campus job panel on September 4 as part of "How to Find an On-Campus Job Series." Pride Center Manager Martel Okonji provided a keynote and served as a facilitator for the Matador Involvement Center (MIC) Leadership Conference on September 27. Director Ortiz closed her report highlighting the Veterans Resource Center feature in the CSUN Daily Sundial article, "VRC Honors Victim During 9/11 Memorial," on September 13.

IX. A.S. Report

Associated Students (A.S.) Vice President Geminiano Aragon hoped everyone was having a good fall semester and preparing for midterms. The first Council of Chairs was held with the elected Chairs of the Standing Committees. Interviews commenced for Senate, Cabinet, and committee member seats with several appointments approved during the Senate Meetings. A.S. Vice President Geminiano Aragon engaged in various meetings, including Executive Cabinet meetings, Instructionally Related Activities Orientation, check-ins with Senators, and check-ins with A.S. Executive Director Vicki Allen. He, along with President Saravia, met with Provost Meera Komaraju and Vice Provost Joy Borah about A.I. initiatives and implementation, as well as the change in management in CSUN advising. They also met with President Beck and Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Dr. Watkins about financial aid processes and potential student feedback, funding for campus initiatives, and HSI funding. A.S. Vice President Geminiano Aragon finalized Mental Health Mondays, featuring a collaboration with the Oasis Wellness Center on October 27. Additionally, he highlighted members for presenting at the MIC Leadership Conference and President Saravia for her speech during New Student Convocation. A.S. Vice President Geminiano Aragon closed his report with upcoming event dates.

X. Committee Reports

A. Diversity & Inclusion

Director Gonzalez reported on the committee's first meeting, where members engaged with each other and went through committee orientation. The next meeting will occur on October 7, where they will finish orientation and work on committee goals. Director Rosales and Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter will be attending the ACUI Region I Conference to share information about the DREAM Center Fellowship that was approved in Spring 2025. Director Gonzalez concluded the report with excitement for the committee and their future work.

A.S. Vice President Geminiano Aragon left at 1:02 p.m.

Facilities & Operations

Director Perez was excited to share that the committee conducted orientation on September 19, stating that it went very well. They held their first official meeting on September 26. Key highlights from the meeting included the approval of the committee meeting schedule for the year, along with beginning the discussion about committee goals.

B. Finance

Director Pathak successfully completed recruitment and welcomed four new student members. The first committee meeting was held on October 3 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., where they conducted orientation.

The committee will continue to meet from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- October 17, 2025
- October 13, 2025
- November 21, 2025
- December 5, 2025

Lastly, Director Pathak shared that they plan to host a committee development activity sometime this semester.

C. Personnel

Director Kouatly hoped everyone had a good start to the week. The committee did not have any major updates, besides preparation for the orientation and a potential facility tour.

Director Kouatly reminded everyone of the committee meeting schedule, which is as follows:

- October 13, USU Conference Room
- October 27, Zoom
- November 10, Zoom
- December 8, Zoom

Director Aguilar reported on updates from the Food Advisory Committee, including new food and beverage options at Freudian Sip in the USU, The Mercado, and CSUN Housing. A Voice to Vision survey will also be distributed to gain student feedback on campus food and dining.

D. Retirement

The Retirement Plan committee held its first meeting on September 26 at 2:30 p.m., where they reviewed the Q2 retirement plan, expenses, and the most recent VEBA update.

E. Internal Review

Vice Chair Granillo shared that the committee welcomed a new student-at-large member, Amelia Zapata. They are still recruiting a student assistant employee. Additionally, the committee

meeting time has shifted back to 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Fridays, bi-weekly, with its next meeting on October 17. He reminded the Board about their assistance with committee code review and encouraged Directors to attend the next meeting.

XI. Action Items

A. F-Plant Project Funding

M/S/P (C. Rosales / H. Patel) Motion to approve the F-Plant Project Funding.

Recommended motion: Motion to approve an additional \$1,010,465 from the Major Repair and Replacement Fund to the \$913,239 for the Roof Replacement – F Building Project and \$97,226 for the F-Plant Cooling Tower Wall Replacement Project due to cost increases and contingency for unforeseen site conditions. Associate Director, Accounting and Finance Joe Illuminate provided a financial overview and Facilities and Operations Coordinator Rolando Cabral provided additional context to the project.

In response to Director Winterhalter's inquiry, Associate Director, Operations and Services Samantha Liu confirmed that the USU expansion project covers these costs, as they were part of the referendum fee in ensuring facilities are up to code.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

XII. Discussion Items

A. 2025-2026 Board of Directors (BOD) Goals

Chair Sabah and Vice Chair Granillo presented details on the Visibility & Engagement Ad Hoc Committee. The committee is a result of BOD Goal #2: "The BOD will enhance visibility, access, and belonging by expanding awareness of USU spaces and services and positioning the USU as a central, inclusive hub that benefits all students." Chair Sabah and Vice Chair Granillo outlined the committee's charge and timeline, as well as its proposed composition.

Several Directors engaged in thoughtful discussion regarding the timeline, composition, and metrics. Executive Director Cecilia Ortiz justified that the charge of the committee is beyond the scope of USU departments. Chair Sabah encouraged those interested in serving on the committee to reach out to Vice Chair Granillo and herself.

XIII. Announcements

Vice Chair Granillo wished everyone who is attending the upcoming Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Conferences a safe flight. He also reminded everyone to review the committee codes and bylaws on behalf of the Internal Review Ad Hoc Committee.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Sabah adjourned the meeting at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Cecilia Ortiz,
Executive Director