

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

**June 2, 2025 – 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 Lopez.

**II. Roll Call**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Rudy Granillo	Joaquin Macias	Amelia Zapata	Dennise Garcia
Alvaro Geminiano Aragon (A.S. Liaison)		Audrey Martinez	Gajender Singh Mann
Nidharsh Kempegowda		Cesar Jimenez	Isaac Gavino
Daniel Lopez		Irvin Rendon	Kiery Saravia
Devaansh Mann		Janessa Reyes	Kimberly Basilio
Marilyn Orantes		Jeremy Hamlett	Lorena Toledo Carranza
Cecilia Ortiz		Joseph Illuminate	Maju Mann
Heet Patel		Ken Rosenthal	Maximiliano Arias Gomez
Vyom Pathak		Malahat Zhobin	Naveed Stirzadi
Cesar Rosales		Natalie Johnson	
Nawshin Sabah		Rolando Cabral	
Dr. Freddie Sanchez		Ruth Vasquez	
Dr. Mirna Sawyer		Ryan Hairapetian	
Steven Wang*		Samantha Liu	
Dr. Edith Winterhalter*		Steven Wein	
		Dr. Tari Hunter	
		Tim Rasmussen	

*\*TEAMS video participant*

**III. Approval of Agenda**

M/S/P (R. Granillo / C. Rosales) Motion to amend the agenda by changing Action Item B: "Know Your Rights Social Medica Campaign 2025-2026" to a Discussion Item.

***Motion passed 13-0-0.***

M/S/P (C. Rosales / D. Mann) Motion to approve the agenda as amended for June 2, 2025.

***Motion passed 13-0-0.***

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes 05/05/2025**

M/S/P (N. Sabah / R. Granillo) Motion to approve the minutes for May 5, 2025.

***Motion passed 12-0-1.***

#### **V. Open Forum**

Several Associated Students (A.S.) student leaders and USU staff voiced their support for the DREAM Center Fellowship Program Funding Proposal that was scheduled to be presented to the Board for consideration later in the meeting. Among the supporters were A.S. President Kiery Saravia, A.S. Senator for College of Science and Math Lorena Toledo Carranza, A.S. Senator for Humanities Kimberly Basilio, A.S. Communication Senator for Arts, Media, & Communication, USU DREAM Center Manager Irvin Rendon, and BOD Diversity & Inclusion Committee Member Amelia Zapata. Supporters of the proposal highlighted the hard work put forth into this resolution, the collaboration between the USU and A.S., and the significance of this fellowship for themselves, their peers, and their families. Chair Lopez thanked everyone for being there to voice their support.

Director Mann expressed his gratitude to the Board for letting him serve and thanked his parents, who were in attendance.

Chair Lopez provided closing remarks and thanked everyone for their work and support.

#### **VI. Chair's Report**

Chair Lopez stated he had no urgent updates, indicating that he and Vice Chair Orantes will provide the BOD report next Monday. He expressed gratitude to the Board for their commitment this year. Chair Lopez mentioned a few notable USU milestones to highlight the productive year they had, such as recruiting and onboarding the new Executive Director, resolving the litigation, passing various important policies, and executing many great programs. Chair Lopez shared bittersweet sentiment with Vice Chair Orantes about nearing the end of their journey with the Board, especially as he started as a committee member over three years ago. Chair Lopez closed his report by thanking the USU staff for their support.

#### **VII. Vice Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Orantes was feeling under the weather and wanted to keep her report brief. She also shared how bittersweet it felt to be ending her journey with the Board. Vice Chair Orantes was in awe of the support from individuals, such as Executive Director Cecilia Ortiz, Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, & Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter, Assistant Director, Programs & Leadership Audrey Martinez, and BOD Leadership & Administrative Coordinator Janessa Reyes. She ended her report by congratulating all the graduating student Directors.

#### **VIII. Executive Director's Report**

Director Ortiz reported on highlights in the areas of Personnel, Programs, Projects and Services, Staff Development, and Publications. The USU turnover rate has decreased to 5%, a considerably low statistic compared to the past few years. Abigayle Brown was offered employment as the regular Wellness Supervisor. Several graduation programs took place to celebrate Matadors' achievements, including the Graduation Luncheon on May 9, Vet Grad on May 10, and Rainbow Graduation on May 16. The Programs Department held Crunch Time from May 5 to May 15 to support students with finals week through food, supplies, activities, and study space. USU Maintenance completed multiple projects, such as the installation of new flooring in the Prayer/Reflection/Meditation Room on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the enhancement of the SRC walkway on May 26, and the SRC field replacement and reopening on May 27. Equity, Diversity, and

Inclusion Manager Natalie Johnson and Pride Center Manager Martel Okonji were selected to participate in the Association of College Unions International's (ACUI) 2025 Closing the Gap Career Advancement Program. Associate Executive Director, Equity, Programs, and Leadership Dr. Tari Hunter was selected to serve as a mentor for the 2025 cohort. Director Ortiz closed her report by mentioning two recent publications: The Programs Department was featured in the CSUN News & Events article, "Students Relax to a Diverse Range of Music Genres at Art Jam Sessions," on April 24; the Pride Center was featured in the CSUN Daily Sundial article, "In Spectrum of Strength' Highlights LGBTQ+ and Disability Resources" on May 12.

## **IX. A.S. Report**

Chair Lopez welcomed the Board's new Associated Students (A.S.) liaison, A.S. Vice President Alvaro Geminiano Aragon. A.S. Vice President Geminiano Aragon shared his excitement to be there. A.S. Inauguration occurred earlier that day. He is in training, along with President Saravia, with Student Leadership Manager Denisse Ibarra and Interim Executive Director Tim Szczepanski. Regarding the A.S. Senate meeting earlier that day, Senate passed policies and amendments to committee roles. They are working on interviews from June 16 to June 19 for seat vacancies. A.S. Vice President Geminiano Aragon voiced his support and commitment to the A.S. Resolution supporting undocumented students, which allocated \$40,000 toward the DREAM Center fellowship program. He stated how he values the collaboration with the USU on this initiative, as well as highlighted Senators Basilio, Toledo Carranza, Gavino, and President Saravia. He closed his report with an inspiring quote.

## **X. Committee Reports**

Committee Reports were encouraged to be brief to ensure ample time for the Action and Discussion Items.

### **A. Diversity & Inclusion**

Director Granillo thanked the individuals who attended this meeting to support the DREAM Center fellowship program funding proposal that the committee was going to present to the Board.

### **B. Facilities & Operations**

Director Mann stated that there have been no new updates since the last BOD meeting. The last Facilities & Operations Committee meeting was held on May 23 virtually. He expressed his gratitude toward everyone, especially the committee, staff, and Director Kempegowda.

### **C. Finance**

Director Pathak opened his report by thanking the Board members. It was a productive year for the Finance Committee. He shared his appreciation for what he has learned this past year.

### **D. Personnel**

Director Sabah shared similar sentiments of gratitude for the Board, as she has been serving for about three years. She shared that now that she will be starting graduate school, she was excited to spend another year on the Board as part of her new journey. The Personnel Committee's last meeting was on May 7, when they passed a policy on extended medical benefits. She closed her report by saying that she was looking forward to meeting the new Board members.

### **E. Retirement**

Vice Chair Orantes began her report by discussing a recap of the May 21 committee meeting:

As of March 31, the First Quarter Retirement Plan Review 2025 reflected cash balances of \$5,261,425 for 403(b) and \$3,697,786 for 403(a), totaling \$8,959,211. The investment performance has increased 3.73% on average in the last 12 months.

The balance of the Voluntary Employer Beneficiary Association (VEBA) was \$4,528,381. USU deposits to date totaled \$3,800,032; gains/losses were \$759,738; disbursements were \$31,389.

Vice Chair Orantes also shared that she and Executive Secretary Joe Illuminate presented certificates of appreciation to committee members to express their gratitude for their time served on the committee. They also thanked Accounting & Finance Student Administrative Support Assistant II Jolee Innocent for being an asset to the team.

#### **F. Internal Review**

Vice Chair Orantes reported that the committee completed reviewing the Bylaws and discussed feedback and revisions, unanimously. The committee is in the process of compiling these changes and presenting them to the Board once a draft has been finalized. The committee will potentially meet during the summer at the discretion of the next Chair and Vice Chair. Vice Chair Orantes closed her report by thanking the entire team behind the committee for their commitment.

### **XI. Action Items**

#### **A. DREAM Center Fellowship Program Funding Proposal**

Motion out of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to recommend the approval of the DREAM Center Fellowship Program Funding Proposal.

In 2024–2025, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee partnered with the USU DREAM Center and campus stakeholders to identify ways to better support undocumented students. Their work led to two key recommendations: increasing the visibility of “Know Your Rights” resources and proposing a funded fellowship program. The fellowship aims to expand professional development, leadership, and engagement opportunities for undocumented students. This initiative reflects the USU’s commitment to equity and ensuring all students have access to resources that support their academic and personal success.

M/S/P (F. Sanchez / C. Rosales) Motion to amend to specify a timeline for the reevaluation of continued funding.

The original motion stated: “The USU will allocate \$28,500 from unallocated reserves to fund fellowships in the DREAM Center for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. This allocation will increase by \$12,000 annually through the 2029–2030 fiscal year. The DREAM Center will submit and present annual reports to the Board of Directors summarizing program effectiveness, funding utilization, and key outcomes.”

The proposed amendment stated: “The USU will allocate \$28,500 from unallocated reserves to fund fellowships in the DREAM Center for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. This allocation will increase by \$12,000 annually through the 2029–2030 fiscal year. The DREAM Center will submit and present annual reports to the Board of Directors summarizing program effectiveness, funding utilization, and key outcomes. Continued funding will be evaluated at the fourth year period (2029) for additional funding beyond 2030.”

***Motion to amend passed 13-0-0.***

M/S/P (F. Sanchez / V. Pathak) Motion to approve the DREAM Center Fellowship Program Funding Proposal, as amended.

***Motion passed 13-0-0.***

#### **B. 2025-2026 Operating Budget Proposal**

Motion out of the Finance Committee to approve the 2025-2026 Operating Budget Proposal with projected revenues and expenses in the amount of \$22,394,454.

Director Pathak and Director Patel presented on the 2025-2026 Budget Message. Director Winterhalter discussed CSUN student headcount and CSU implications, pertaining to impacts of Governor Newsom's FY 2025-2026 proposal and federal executive orders. She highlighted that the CSU will be conservative, considering the effects on international student enrollment.

Director Kempegowda voiced concerns over student headcount and highlighted that international students make up 10% of the student body. Because of what is happening at a national level, he is hoping that there will be a 3-4% buffer in the budget. Associate Director, Accounting & Finance Joe Illuminate stated that if there is an adjustment to the budget, they will update the plan in the quarterly budget, as well as redo numbers as Director Winterhalter's office receives more information.

***Motion passed 13-0-0.***

### **C. Third Quarter Budget Report (9&3)**

Motion out of the Finance Committee to approve the Third Quarter Budget Report (9&3).

The USU does a thorough budget review every quarter. The Third Quarter Budget Report is for the Third Quarter, ended March 31, 2025. The term "9&3" signifies that there are nine months of actual data and three months of projected data. Director Pathak and Director Patel presented on the Third Quarter Budget Report and Financial Statement Report, including Statement of Activities, Statement of Financial Position, Investment Report, Capital Outlay & Reserves Summary, CSUN Foundation Account Balances, and Work Study Report.

***Motion passed 13-0-0.***

## **XII. Discussion Items**

### **A. Defective Student Recreation Center (SRC) Windows**

Director Ortiz provided introductory remarks about the item that was originally tabled during the BOD meeting on May 5th, regarding pending litigation presented to the Board in a closed session in 2023. Former Executive Director Debra Hammond wanted to personally share the update with the Board during this meeting but was unable to attend. Director Ortiz called on Associate Vice President, Facilities, Development & Operations Ken Rosenthal to present the resolution regarding the Student Recreation Center (SRC) defective IGU's.

The USU is receiving 58 IGUs, valued at approximately \$480,000, with 16 units for replacing failed ones and 42 units as attic stock for future use. The USU will incur about \$175,000 cost for installing the 16 failed IGUs and will handle the installation of the remaining 42 IGUs as they fail, with a total cost of about \$580,000. Installation of the 16 units will be completed by December 31, 2025, while the timing for the remaining 42 will depend on future failures. The funding for these installations, as well as any future replacements, will come from the Major Purchases, Repair, and Replacement Fund. The USU is also responsible for the cost of storage and installation for any IGU failures beyond the initial 58 units.

K. Rosenthal responded to several Board questions. He confirmed that there is no warranty for the stored units. As far as storing the units, 42 units will be sent to campus packaged in pallets, so the USU should be able to find storage on-site. In response to Director Sanchez's question whether we should have purchased 58 units, K. Rosenthal said that it was more cost effective to order the units in larger groups, as 16 units cost \$170,000.

Director Sanchez thanked everyone for their level of engagement because this issue has been an extensive process.

#### **B. Know Your Rights Social Media Campaign 2025-2026**

Director Granillo and Director Rosales presented their proposal for a “Know Your Rights” Campaign. In 2024–2025, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee focused on supporting undocumented student success in collaboration with the USU DREAM Center and other campus partners. Their efforts led to two key recommendations: boosting visibility of “Know Your Rights” resources and proposing a funded fellowship program through the DREAM Center. This initiative aims to empower undocumented students and their allies with accurate legal information and supportive tools. Overall, it reinforces the USU’s commitment to equity, empowerment, and inclusive educational opportunities through increasing campus-wide awareness of immigration rights and resources for undocumented students, international students, and their allies.

Director Granillo stated that the plan would be executed between the Marketing Department and DREAM Center with no specific start date. Director Kempegowda voiced an idea to put QR codes on mirrors in hallways that will say, “The person you see has rights,” and direct users to a link with more resources. Director Granillo liked the idea, but their proposal is focused on increasing visibility digitally, since not all students are on campus. Director Sanchez suggested that this is a good time to consider beyond visibility and call on the institution to best support the undocumented community.

Director Wang left at 2:23 p.m. and returned at 2:24 p.m. Director Winterhalter left at 2:27 p.m. Vice Chair Orantes left at 2:29 p.m.

#### **XIII. Announcements**

Director Rosales extended his sincerest gratitude to the Board of Directors for their approval of the DREAM Center Fellowship Program, emphasizing how life changing these funds will be for those who are impacted directly.

Chair Lopez reminded everyone that the Transition Ceremony was the following week. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. He encouraged the Board to be prepared for the meeting to be longer than usual.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Cecilia Ortiz,  
Executive Director