

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
[HTTPS://CSUN.ZOOM.US/J/87694532981](https://csun.zoom.us/j/87694532981)
MINUTES**

This meeting was facilitated through an online Zoom format, consistent with the Governor’s Executive Order N25-20, suspending certain open meeting law restrictions.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Christopher Aldana*	Mishell De Leon	Alejandra Aparicio*	Michael Good*
Melissa Baghoumian*	Michael Tejax	Xiomara Carranza*	Jackie Richman*
Tiffany Castellanos* (Arrived at 12:35 p.m.)	Dr. Freddie Sanchez	Lusine Dayan*	
Nikki Garcia*	Dr. Edith Winterhalter	Jeremy Hamlett*	
Debra Hammond*		Tari Hunter*	
Adrian Hernandez*		Joe Illuminate*	
Christian Lipton*		Sharon Kinard*	
Daniel Moreno*		Kaila Lavin*	
Gisselle Olmedo Torres*		Samantha Liu*	
Benjamin Plotkin*		Audrey Martinez*	
		Tim Rasmussen*	
		Shelley Sakoda*	
		Kristen Pichler*	
		Steven Wein*	

* Zoom video participant

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (C. Lipton / M. Baghoumian) Motion to approve the agenda for September 12, 2022.

Director Lipton said the agenda should be amended to include approval of the minutes for August 29, 2022.

M/S/P (C. Lipton / B. Plotkin) Motion to amend the agenda to include the approval of the minutes for August 29, 2022.

Director Castellanos arrived at 12:35 p.m.

Amendment passed 8-0-0.

Amended agenda passed 8-0-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes 08/29/2022

M/S/P (B. Plotkin / C. Aldana) Motion to approve the minutes for August 29, 2022.

Motion passed 8-0-0.

V. Open Forum

Acting Programs Coordinator, Xiomara Carranza presented event information for the Matador Fun Fest event hosted by the University Student Union, on Friday, September 23, 2022. The large scale evening event is open to all CSUN students including dependents aged 13 years or younger. The event will include live entertainment, performances, Silent Disco, free food, arts and crafts, raffles, and more. She invited the students to participate in the event and answered questions from the board.

VI. Chair Report

Chair Olmedo-Torres informed everyone that BOD student representatives as well as committee member applications were still open until September 16, 2022. She encouraged members to solicit potential members and help recruitment efforts. The Board of Directors were also tabling for Meet the Clubs hosted by the Matador Involvement Center, encouraging Board Members to assist and stop by during the event. She reminded everyone of the BOD Meet and Greet event taking place on Monday, September 19, 2022. It was an opportunity to network and make connections with our USU staff members. Lastly, Director Olmedo-Torres shared that she and Director Lipton have formatted the Board of Directors goals and awaiting feedback from Director Hammond.

VII. Vice Chair Report

Vice Chair Lipton also shared upcoming completion of the Board of Directors goals which include strengthening the relationship of the Board of Directors with the University Student Union departments and programs. He encouraged board members to join and stop by upcoming events including "Karaoke Oke @ the Oki" hosted by the Veterans Resource Center, "Super Smash Brothers" tournament in the Games Room and several other events. The goal is to unify and promote the USU altogether. He also thanked Directors Baghoumian, Aldana and Moreno for assisting with the Meet the Clubs tabling event.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Director Hammond shared that the University Student Union (USU) has had several successful kick-off events and good traffic in the facility as we welcomed back students for the fall semester.

Numbers included:

- 400-500 student visits in the Computer Lab per day
- Averaging 2700-2900 student visits in the SRC (Monday – Thursdays)
- 200-400 student visits per day at the Oasis
- 500-800 student entries as reported by Guest Services
- 40-60 student visits per day in the Dream Center (50-85) VRC, (40-55) in the Pride Center
- Games Room has reported high volume numbers, 500 daily thanks to esports
- 700+ attendees at Matafest

There is a lot going on at the USU, and we are seeing good numbers and good foot traffic.

As Director Olmedo-Torres and Director Lipton had mentioned, she will be reviewing the Board of Directors goals and hope to get it out soon. Director Hammond also shared that food trucks will now be present by Sierra Center to help alleviate food service challenges and needs on campus. The staffing shortage is being widely felt on campus especially in food service. She shared that

any issues or concerns regarding food service can be shared with her or Associate Director for Operations, Samantha Liu.

IX. A.S. Report

The Associated Students (A.S.) representative Michael Tejax was not present, but Director Lipton shared their report on behalf of A.S. The Associated Students Senate and Cabinet are working to diversify food options on campus as the Sierra Center will not be fully operational until fall 2023. The A.S. Senate has 4 available seats, one in Health and Human Development, one in Humanities, and two seats in Education. They have confirmed their new Assistant Chair of Finance and new Chair of Elections. The renovations in the University Library will continue to take several more months to complete. The A.S. Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Chair is working on an annual student summit which will include student leaders from key campus clubs and organizations concerned about diversity and inclusion. In addition, the A.S. D&I committee will be sending a survey to students to collect data about specific A.S. resources and the populations utilizing these resources.

X. Committee Reports

A. Diversity & Inclusion

Director De Leon was not present at the meeting. Her report can be found on page 14 of the BOD packet. D&I committee meetings have yet to be held, and the committee is focused on recruitment efforts for the 22-23 year.

B. Facilities & Operations

Director Aldana said the Facilities & Operations Committee have not held their committee meetings yet and are also working to recruit members for the committee.

C. Finance

Director Baghoumian said the Finance Committee has created a tentative fall schedule for their committee and are continuing recruitment efforts. They have reached out to former committee members, sent flyers to the Business College, Accounting and Finance associations, along with graduate studies. They anticipated conducting interviews soon.

D. Personnel

Director Moreno and Director N. Garcia said the Personnel Committee has not had any official committee meetings as of yet. They are aiming to recruit 4-6 members for the year. Three previous committee members are being invited to re-apply for the committee once again.

XI. Action Items

A. 2021-22 Financial Audit Report (Time Certain 12:40 p.m.)*

Motion out of the Audit Committee to accept the 2021-22 Financial Audit Report prepared by CohnReznick LLP.

Associate Director for Accounting & Finance Joe Illuminate stated that CohnReznick has been the USU's audit firm for the past seven years. Illuminate recognized the Accounting & Finance department, under the leadership of Accounting Manager Lusine Dayan, for the completion of another successful audit. He asked Michael Good from CohnReznick to speak about the report. Good presented an overview of the report, summarizing that the USU received an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion that an audit firm can award its client. In addition, the audit resulted in no negative findings, audit adjustments or disagreement with management.

Motion passed 8-0-0.

B. Format for October Board of Directors Meeting

M/S/P (D. Hammond/ M. Baghoumian) Motion to approve in-person as the format for the October 24, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

Associate Director, Administration and Communications, Sharon Kinard, shared that a new declaration, Assembly Bill 2449, will go into effect in January 1, 2023 if signed by the Governor. The new bill introduced to the Senate extended teleconferencing through January 2026 under certain conditions, but not necessarily related to emergencies. Once the bill is signed, the Board of Directors will no longer have to vote monthly on the format of Board of Directors meetings.

Director N. Garcia encouraged the Board of Directors to take caution as COVID cases remain to be persistent.

Motion passed 7-0-1.

XII. Discussion Items

A. USU Project Update and Future Considerations

Associate Director for Operations and Services, Samantha Liu prepared a presentation regarding the status of the USU Project and considerations. In continuing to be transparent and providing the most updated information to the Board of Directors, it was shared that the project was experiencing delay and difficulties related to what we are calling as “The Perfect Storm”. Enrollment numbers are down, the project is over budget, and the cost of materials continue to increase with inflation and interest rate to borrow money are increasing. A current project estimate slide was shared reflecting a \$45.6 million-dollar shortfall.

Options for moving forward with the project were shared which included:

1. Full scope and large monetary increase for student’s fees (\$90-95) [Referendum Required]
2. Reducing current project to support minimal increase (\$20-40) [Referendum Required]
3. Reducing the scope of the project to maintain \$125 student fee increase [Approval Required TBD]
4. Apportionment of referendum for renovation and reserves [Approval Required TBD]
5. Fund targeted projects with available reserve funds [Requires USU BOD Approval]
6. Stop all project work and halt USU improvement [Requires USU BOD Approval]

In discussion, the Board of Directors inquired about the impact of increasing student fees. Questions including what the most reasonable student fee increase would be was at the forefront of the discussion. The Board of Directors are seeking best ways to move forward including the exploration of current priorities for CSUN students, the need to gather input from the Chancellor’s Office and General Counsel about the referendum language.

XIII. Announcements

- A.** No announcements were made.
- B.** A special acknowledgement of Student Recreation Center Director, Kaila Lavin, was made by Director Olmedo-Torres thanking her for her service to the University Student Union and wished her the best upon her departure from the organization.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Olmedo-Torres adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debra L. Hammond,
Executive Director