

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JANUARY 24, 2022  
ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE  
[HTTPS://CSUN.ZOOM.US/MY/SPRING2022BODMEETINGS](https://csun.zoom.us/my/spring2022bodmeetings)  
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 12:31 p.m. by Chair Jacob Akopnik.

**II. Roll Call**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Jacob Akopnik*	Ayana Galves	Daniela Barcenias*	
Dr. Carroll Brown* <i>Arrived at 1:09 p.m.</i>		Kyle Hufnagel*	
Bryant Garcia*		Joe Illuminate*	
Debra Hammond*		Ayan Jama*	
Robert Jacome*		Sharon Kinard*	
Christian Lipton*		Kaila Lavin*	
Gisselle Olmedo Torres*		Angelouise Legaspi*	
Kaitlyn Orozco*		Samantha Liu*	
		Cindy Lucio*	
Fredy Perez*		Audrey Martinez*	
Benjamin Plotkin*		Kristen Pichler*	
Charlie Rodriguez-Salazar*		Tim Rasmussen*	
Dr. Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff*		Shelley Sakoda*	
Dr. Edith Winterhalter*		Ali Sadri*	
Dr. Tadeh Zirakian* <i>Arrived at 12:40 p.m.</i>		Steven Wein*	

*\* Zoom video participant*

**III. Approval of Agenda**

M/S/P (B. Garcia / C. Lipton) Motion to approve the agenda for January 24, 2022.

***Motion passed 10-0-0.***

**IV. Approval of Minutes 12/06/2021**

M/S/P (F. Perez / R. Jacome) Motion to approve the minutes of December 06, 2021.

***Motion passed 9-0-1.***

**V. Open Forum**

No discussion.

**VI. Chair Report**

Chair Akopnik congratulated former Chair of the Board Albert Martinez and former Chair of Finance Karina Perez for accepting fulltime positions in their professional careers. He also congratulated Directors Garcia and Rodriguez Salazar for being appointed as Chair of their respective committees. Akopnik requested the BOD's assistance with recruitment for two board vacancies. Chair Akopnik and Vice Chair Olmedo Torres will be attending the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) conference from March 13 – 17, 2022. Akopnik also will participate with Model United Nations (UN) from April 10 – 14, 2022.

*Director Zirakian arrived at 12:40 p.m.*

**VII. Vice Chair Report**

Vice Chair Olmedo Torres thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as its Vice Chair and hoped to fulfill this role to the best she can. During the past few weeks Olmedo Torres worked on a script to get the board started on its goal of creating a social media presence. She met weekly with Chair Akopnik, Associate Director for Administration and Communications Sharon Kinard and BOD Administrative Support Coordinator Emery Hernandez to onboard her in her new role.

**VIII. Executive Director's Report**

Director Hammond informed the board that there are a number of personnel changes occurring as a result of the great resignation. She congratulated DREAM Center Manager Daniela Barcenas for serving as the co-chair of the Undocumented Student Success Task Force, and announced that bookstore grant applications of up to \$250 for students are still being accepted. Chair Akopnik and Vice Chair Olmedo Torres serve as readers of these applications.

**IX. A.S. Report**

Associated Students (A.S.) Vice President Orozco said that she had the opportunity to table at the CSUN Village Apartments to network with parent scholars about how the university can better support them. Director Rodriguez Salazar submitted the first legislative referral for a transfer resource center that would provide transfer students extra resources for counseling, community college outreach, leadership opportunities, academic guidance and student peer mentorship.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Diversity & Inclusion**

Director Jacome said the committee has not formally met since November 22, 2021. He, Co-Chair Ayana Galves and executive secretaries Audrey Martinez and Ayan Jama plan for the committee to meet at start of the semester. Jacome and his journey toward higher education was featured on Univision's *Primer Impacto*. The Board congratulated him.

**B. Facilities & Operations**

Director Lipton said the committee has not formally met but are assessing where the committee is currently at and what might be needed.

**C. Finance**

Director Rodriguez Salazar attended the Graduation Preparation Seminar (GPS). He said it was very motivating and engaging. The Finance Committee has not formally met but a planning meeting will take place later this week.

**D. Personnel**

Director Garcia said he has been communicating with the committee's executive secretary about the first steps of the semester. He will work on the recruitment and onboarding of the position of Co-Chair.

*Director Brown arrived at 1:09 p.m.*

#### **E. Retirement Plan**

Vice Chair Olmedo Torres said she is looking for a student representative to serve on the Retirement Plan Committee. The time commitment is flexible as there are only two meetings left in the semester. She asked those who are interested in serving alongside her to contact her.

### **XI. Action Items**

#### **A. Student Audit Committee Appointment**

M/S/P (B. Plotkin / R. Jacome) Motion to approve Ashley Shterenberg as a student representative on the Audit Committee.

Chair Akopnik said the Board of Directors must approve all student appointments to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has three voting student members. In addition, student committee members are required to have familiarity with basic accounting principles. Chair Akopnik, Vice Chair Olmedo Torres, Audit Committee Chair Sharon Eichten and Associate Director for Accounting & Finance Joe Illuminate recommend Shterenberg for the appointment.

*Shterenberg was unavailable to attend the board meeting and Chair Akopnik read Shterenberg's brief personal statement.*

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

#### **B. Format for Board of Directors February 2022 Meeting**

M/S/P (C. Rodriguez Salazar / C. Lipton) Motion to approve teleconferencing as the format for the February 14, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

Associate Director of Administration and Communications Sharon Kinard explained that on November 10, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow local agencies to continue conducting public meetings remotely during a state of emergency, so long as certain requirements are met. On Jan. 5, 2022, Gov. Newsom extended the option for state agencies to continue to meet via teleconferencing through March 31, 2022 as a step to protect the public, due to the fast-spreading Omicron variant (Executive Order N-1-22).

To continue to rely on the relaxed teleconferencing provisions, the local agency (USU Board of Directors) must reconsider two (2) circumstances and make the following findings by majority vote, **every 30 days**:

**A.** The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; or

**B.** State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

*Board members discussed which format they preferred for the February 14, 2022 meeting and concluded that the best course of action for February would be a teleconference format.*

***Motion passed 11-0-1.***

**XII. Discussion Items**

**A. USU Operations in Response to COVID-19 Update**

Associate Director of Human Resources and Professional Development Kristen Pichler, Student Recreation Director Kaila Lavin, Acting Assistant Director of Operations and Services Samantha Liu, and USU Executive Director Debra Hammond provided the board with updates about USU operations as a result of COVID-19. Updates included booster vaccine requirements, an updated mask mandate for USU employees, updated guidelines for COVID exposure management and isolation requirements, and operating hours of USU facilities.

*Director Jacome left at 1:35 p.m.*

**XIII. Announcements**

**A.** Vice Chair Olmedo Torres informed the board that she is using the vice chair email address as her Board communications preference.

**B.** Chair Akopnik said the Undocumented Student Success Task Force was scheduled to meet on February 01, 2022 at 1 p.m.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Chair Akopnik adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debra L. Hammond,  
Executive Director