

UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 12, 2021
ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
[HTTPS://CSUN.ZOOM.US/MY/SPRING2021BODMEETINGS](https://csun.zoom.us/j/9101234567)
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 12:32 p.m. by Chair Melanie Alvarez.

II. Roll Call

| Present | Absent | Staff | Guests |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jacob Akopnik* | Dr. Carroll Brown | Amanda Christianson* | Anisha Arumogam* |
| Melanie Alvarez* | | Ana Dattoo* | Gisselle Olmedo Torres* |
| Arrah Ebot Enaw* | | Kyle Hufnagel* | Sanjiti Sharma* |
| Ayana Galves* | | Jennifer Kim* | |
| Jasmine Guerrero* | | Sharon Kinard* | |
| Debra Hammond* | | Kaila Lavin* | |
| Robert Jacome* | | Jeremy Hamlett* | |
| Albert Martinez* | | Joe Illuminate* | |
| Yesenia “Rio” Mateo* | | Kingson Leung* | |
| Rose Merida* | | Samantha Liu* | |
| Gabriella Nguyen* | | Gabriel Rosales* | |
| Dr. Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff* | | Cindy Lucio* | |
| Dr. Edith Winterhalter* | | Audrey Martinez* | |
| Dr. Tadeh Zirakian* | | Kristen Pichler* | |
| | | Jonathan Navarro* | |
| | | Dave Ross* | |
| | | Tim Rasmussen* | |
| | | Shelley Sakoda* | |
| | | Dr. Freddie Sanchez* | |
| | | Randy Sorensen* | |
| | | Scott Teves* | |
| | | Steven Wein* | |
| | | | |

* Zoom video participant

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (A. Galves/J. Akopnik) Motion to approve the agenda for April 12, 2021.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

M/S/P (J. Akopnik/A. Ebot Enaw) Motion to approve minutes of the March 22, 2021 meeting.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

V. Open Forum

No discussion.

VI. Chair's Report

Chair Alvarez wished everyone the best in their studies as the end of the semester approaches. She congratulated all of the candidates who ran in the Spring '21 Board of Directors elections. Although it was a fully virtual election, it was successful. The following students were elected for a two-year term, commencing June 07, 2021:

- Karina Perez
- Ayana Galves
- Christian Lipton
- Bryant Garcia
- Jassmine Guerrero

Chair Alvarez, Vice Chair Martinez, Executive Director Hammond, and Associate Director for Programs and Inclusion Dr. Freddie Sanchez met with Associated Students Executive Director Patrick Bailey to continue conversations regarding the "Justice" scholarship both organizations are funding. Alvarez has resumed conversations on the construction and renovation project. She said it was important that the discussions continue and that an action plan is established. The BOD held its last training of the year on April 5. The training was facilitated by the Career Center and Associate Director for Human Resources and Professional Development Kristen Pichler to support students' preparation for the post-graduation job search. Alvarez announced that the Chair and Co-Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Stephanie Barboza and H Landeros, respectively) had resigned their positions. She thanked them for their service and wished them well in their future endeavors.

VII. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Martinez said he attended the webinar "A Talk by Drs. Rosaura Sánchez and Beatrice Pita on The Californio Testimonios" on March 22. Drs. Sánchez and Pita examined the complicated and often conflicted identity formation of Californios. The study included an examination of Indigenous and Mexican dispossession. On March 29, he participated and presented with Dr. Freddie Sánchez at the Explore CSUN event to share about USU services and resources with incoming CSUN students. On March 26 and April 2, he attended additional Literature Review and Thesis Writing workshops that he said helped him tremendously with his current master's work.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Director Hammond said Assistant Director of Facilities & Maintenance Dave Ross separated employment effective March 31, 2021. The USU is looking at reopening plans for the Plaza Pool, outdoor deck and the Student Recreation Center with a limited capacity. Before the reopening news can be shared with the community, the USU needs to hire an adequate number of staff for these areas. More information will be coming in the following weeks.

IX. A.S. Report

Associated Students (A.S.) President Merida informed the board about various events that AS is hosting. More information can be found on its website. Merida congratulated the candidates from the USU and AS

joint elections. She noted that her current administration had about one month remaining and she invited directors to let her know how she may be of service with anything.

X. Committee Reports

A. Diversity & Inclusion

Chair Alvarez said the Diversity & Inclusion Committee met on March 22, 2021. In absence of the Chair & Co-Chair, Executive Secretary Sánchez appointed committee member Sophie Malchus to serve as *Chair Pro Tem*. for the meeting. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee met on April 5, 2021. In absence of the Chair & Co-Chair, Executive Secretary Sánchez appointed Dominique Silva to serve as *Chair Pro Tem*. for the meeting. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee continues to work on finalizing the Land Acknowledgement Policy and working on finalizing the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement. Two committee representatives sit on the USU Internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work team that is updating the USU Mission Statement. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee voted and is excited to nominate later in the meeting its candidate for the Committee Member of the Year Award.

B. Facilities & Commercial Services

Chair Ebot Enaw said the Facilities and Operations Committee held two meetings on Monday, February 15, 2021 and Monday, March 29, 2021. It discussed the Allocation of Space Policy and reviewed the Muslim Student Association's Space Request form. Its next meeting will take place on April 26, 2021. Everyone is invited to attend if available.

C. Finance

Chair Akopnik said the Finance Committee met on April 2, 2021 where the following items were discussed:

- The 2021-22 Capital Outlay Allocation Budget Proposal
- The 2021-22 Major Purchases, Repairs, & Replacements Allocation Proposal
- The 2021-22 Administrative Contingencies and Operating Expense Proposals
- Recommended revisions to the Contracts Policy to add language affirming the campus policy that prohibits entering into a contract with any organization that uses convict labor
- Nominated a student committee member for the Committee Member of the Year Award.

The committee confirmed June 01, 2021 as the date for the Annual Budget Meeting. Its next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 23, 2021 at 3 p.m.

D. Personnel

Chair Galves said the Personnel Committee held its first meeting of the semester on March 22, 2021 where she reviewed the committee's eligibility requirements, roles of a committee member, and the USU's mission and values. The committee also discussed paid holidays for employees regularly scheduled to work 25 hours/week, the early exit program, and the new policy about communications equipment and related services reimbursement. Its next meeting will be held on April 19, 2021. She concluded her report with a quote by Jim Rolon: "*Motivation is what gets you started, habit is what keeps you going.*"

E. Retirement

Vice Chair Martinez said the committee had nothing to report. Its next meeting will be held on May 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

XI. Action Items

A. Student Director Appointment – Gisselle Olmedo Torres

M/S/P (J. Akopnik /A. Galves) Motion to approve the appointment of Gisselle Olmedo Torres as a student director. Gisselle's term would take effect on April 12, 2021 and end in June 2022.

Chair Alvarez informed the board that along Vice Chair Martinez and BOD Administrative Support Coordinator Emery Hernandez they conducted interviews and are recommending Gisselle for the position of Chair of Diversity & Inclusion.

Gisselle presented herself to the board as a first-generation student majoring in CTVA Film Production. She was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. She has served on the Finance Committee and recently was appointed to serve on the Campus Quality Fee Advisory Committee. She said she is excited to work collectively and create a better environment for students. Director Akopnik said he was excited to see her move to the board. He stated that Gisselle has a growth mindset and willingness to learn. AS President Merida mentioned that she attended the Campus Quality Fee Advisory Committee and Gisselle did a wonderful job and asked great questions.

Motion passed 12-0-0.

XII. Discussion Items

A. Fall 2020 Student Engagement Report

Fitness and Wellness Manager Amanda Christianson provided the board with the Fall 2020 statistics on student engagement. Despite the USU operating in a fully virtual capacity, the USU provided a great number of student engagement opportunities through the various programs and services. Engagements ranged from social media interactions and virtual office visits, to program and service attendance. Director Hammond gave recognition to the entire USU staff for being extremely creative in coming up with virtual ways to reach students.

B. Year End Awards

Assessment and Special Initiatives Coordinator Kingson Leung explained the procedure for voting on the recipients of the Aida C. Salazar Award and the Committee Member of the Year Award. The nominations for the Aida C. Salazar Award were:

- Albert Martinez
- Dr. Paulette Theresa-Schechtel
- Kyle Susser
- Uriel Tapia

Voting was conducted via secret ballot. The Aida C. Salazar Award recipient will be announced at the Year End Celebration on May 7, 2021.

The nominations for the Committee Member of the Year Award included a nomination from each committee. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee nominated Kyle Susser for always going above and beyond to help the committee. He has volunteered for multiple positions to make the USU more equitable. He is willing to step up and lead whenever needed. The Facilities and Operations Committee nominated Adrian Lopez for always being flexible. He has served on the committee for more than a year and has made valuable insights and contributions. The Finance Committee nominated Jassmine Guerrero for her excellence of work. She has stepped up whenever asked and conducted interviews during times that worked best for other students. The Personnel Committee nominated Whitney Chabela for the various research she has conducted alongside Executive Secretary Kristen Pichler. She is the first to make motions and suggest changes. She truly wants to make a change not just at CSUN but in the broader community.

Voting was conducted via secret ballot. The Committee Member of the Year Award recipient will be announced at the Year End Celebration on May 7, 2021.

XIII. Announcements

No discussion.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debra L. Hammond,
Executive Director