

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 19, 2020
ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
[HTTPS://CSUN.ZOOM.US/MY/SUMMFALL2020BODMEETINGS](https://csun.zoom.us/my/summfall2020BODmeetings)
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 Melanie Alvarez.

II. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Jacob Akopnik*		Nick Echeverri*	Jonathan Loc*
Stephanie Barboza*		Jimmy Francis*	Dr. William Watkins*
Melanie Alvarez*		Elias Gallegos*	
Dr. Carroll Brown* <i>Arrived at 1:00 pm</i>		Angela Gattoni*	
Arrah Ebot Enaw*		Jeremy Hamlett*	
Ryan Edwards*		Ryan Hairapetian*	
Ayana Galves*		Rachel Hood*	
Jasmine Guerrero*		Joe Illuminate*	
Debra Hammond*		Sharon Kinard*	
H Landeros*		Kaila Lavin*	
Rose Merida*		Kingson Leung*	
Albert Martinez*		Samantha Liu*	
Yesenia Mateo*		Cindy Lucio*	
Gabriella Nguyen*		Jonathan Navarro*	
Dr. Ruelas-Bischoff*		Kristen Pichler*	
Dr. Edith Winterhalter*		Dave Ross*	
Dr. Tadeh Zirkian*		Tim Rasmussen*	
		Shelley Sakoda*	
		Dr. Freddie Sánchez*	
		Scott Teves*	
		Steven Wein*	

* Zoom video participant

III. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (J. Akopnik/ A. Galves) Motion to approve agenda for October 19, 2020.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

M/S/P (A. Ebot Enaw/ H. Landeros) Motion to approve minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting.

Motion passed 13-0-0.

V. Open Forum

No discussion.

VI. Chair's Report

Chair Alvarez informed the board that along with Vice Chair Martinez, they completed five-week check-ins with all BOD student representatives. The duos reported there being a great dynamic between the committee chairs and co-chairs. Alvarez said she and Martinez soon would begin scheduling the ten-week check-ins to see whether students are doing well academically, mentally, and physically. On October 5, the BOD held its annual meet and greet with staff. Alvarez thanked everyone who attended and said that she hopes everyone had as much fun as she did. She encouraged board members to continue to strengthen their staff relationships and further engage with departments.

VII. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Martinez said that he also was present during the check-ins and at the BOD/staff meet and greet. He said it was a great opportunity to learn more about the amazing staff. He said he has been busy working with EOP and providing three-to-four CSUN presentations to underserved high school students. He concluded by reminding directors that we are halfway through the semester and to finish strong.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Director Hammond congratulated those staff members who were reclassified to new roles due to the USU's reorganization plan. She informed the board that many programs offered virtually by the USU are being archived and made available to students to access at any time. Lastly, she thanked Pride Center Manager Sarina Loeb, and Programs Manager Audrey Martinez, for hosting the first USU Lunch Virtual Meet Up. She said that she enjoyed the event and had fun hearing the riddles!

IX. Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Dr. William Watkins (Time Certain 12:45 p.m.)

Dr. William Watkins greeted Chair Alvarez and Vice Chair Martinez and thanked them for allowing him to speak with the board. He also expressed thanks to student representatives for their service to the USU BOD and acknowledged the staff, colleagues and students who continue to provide engagement opportunities to Matadors despite the current work-from-home orders due to the pandemic. He said it has been a fall semester like no other and enrollments are higher than predicted. The university is awaiting the announcement of CSUN's next president, which should be announced at the upcoming CSU Board of Trustees meeting. There is a lot of change in the air, he said, especially with the announcement of the CSU's new Chancellor Dr. Joseph I. Castro. Lastly, he thanked the student union for showing up in powerful ways relating to social justice. He invited those who would like to reach him to do so via Dr. Ruelas-Bischoff and Debra Hammond.

X. A.S. Report

A.S. President Merida introduced herself as the A.S. liaison to the board for the remainder of the year. As a member of CSUN's presidential search committee, she announced that the committee had completed its interviews and was on track to name the next president. Out of the October CSSA Plenary, she said, will come an update regarding the implementation of the ethnic studies requirement. Merida also said A.S. has three senate seats available for the senators of Education, Graduate, and Science and Mathematics and invited directors to share this opportunity with students who might be interested. She announced that A.S. and the USU are planning a meet and greet for their student leaders on November 2 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the hope of learning more about one another. Merida invited directors with legislative referrals to reach out to A.S. to see whether a Senator is available to sponsor the referral. She ended her report by thanking everyone for their patience while she transitions to the USU board.

Director Brown arrived at 1:00 p.m.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Diversity & Inclusion

Chair Barboza said the Diversity & Inclusion Committee recognizes and acknowledges the Sesevitam, the first people of the ancestral and unceded territory of Sesevenga that is occupied by CSUN. The committee honors the elders, past and present, and the Sesevitam descendants who are citizens of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. Barboza said the committee held its first meeting on October 8 and approved a meeting schedule for the fall semester. It also looked at the committee's code, recommendations provided by the previous year's chair, and began discussing committee goals for the year. Its next meeting will be held on October 19.

B. Facilities & Commercial Services

Chair Ebot Enaw said the committee held its first meeting on September 28. The next meeting will be on October 26 from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. where members will vote on committee goals and the meeting schedule. She encouraged those who are interested to attend the meetings.

C. Finance

Chair Akopnik said the Finance Committee's orientation was held on September 25 and the first meeting was on October 2. The committee approved its goals and will work on updating the petty cash, cash handling and accounts receivable management policies. Its next meeting will be on October 23.

D. Personnel

Chair Galves said the Personnel Committee held an informal meeting on October 5. The next meeting will be on October 12 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. She ended her report with the following quote by Colin R. Davis: *"The road to success and the road to failure are almost exactly the same."*

E. Retirement

Vice Chair Martinez had no report. He said plans were underway to schedule meetings.

XII. Discussion Items

B. USU Construction / Renovation Project Update (Time Certain 1:15 p.m.)

Associate Executive Director, Operations and Services Jimmy Francis, Chair Alvarez and Vice Chair Martinez presented an update about the construction and renovation project, saying the project will resume in Spring 2021. Still to come is the project's approval and refinement process that will involve campus leadership, the Chancellor's Office and students. The project is expected to be completed in 2024-2025 rather than 2022-2023. The presenters said that it is important that directors remain knowledgeable about the project so they may relay updates to Matadors. Francis said there are no plans to raise the original student-fee increase due to the project's delay. Alvarez said she was excited and hopeful despite the setbacks that were the result of COVID-19. She invited directors who would like more information to reach out to Francis.

Director Brown left at 1:45 p.m.

C. Proposition 16 Presentation, Jonathan Loc (Time Certain 1:50 p.m.)

Jonathan Loc spoke in support of Proposition 16. Proposition 16 would allow voters to reinstate affirmative action programs. Loc said passing the proposition would help achieve a diverse workforce that is reflective of California's population. He urged everyone to vote in November.

XIII. Announcements

A. Director Akopnik wished Director Landeros a happy birthday. He reminded directors that today was the last day to register to vote in the November elections and encouraged voters to mail their ballots.

- B. Director Nguyen said the health center had free flu shots available for students who did not have medical insurance.
- C. Director Ruelas-Bischoff reminded directors and guests to continue to look at and share the CSUN as One website for information about student resources. She noted that the Food Pantry has expanded to operate four (4) days a week and asked those who need help to reach out.
- D. Director Barboza said that *Dreams to be Heard* is offering \$50 microgrants for food and gas. Grants will be given on a first-come basis to undocumented individuals. Applicants do not need to be CSUN students.
- E. Chair Alvarez thanked Dr. Freddie Sanchez for his years of support to the board. She said, this marked his last meeting as the board's administrator and the board is grateful for the support and guidance that he has provided. Moving forward, Associate Director, Administration and Communications Sharon Kinard will oversee the board. Lastly, she encouraged everyone to register and vote, to be the voice of those who can't vote, and to remember that every voice matters.

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debra L. Hammond,
Executive Director