

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of August 21st, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER at **12:04 PM**

II. [ROLL CALL](#)

Present: Nolan Calara, Erick Loreda, Charan Reddy Doolam, London Deguzman, Deepthi Bhimanapati, Kartik Tripathi, Germione Villegas, Jana Ramos, Nidhi Sharma, Joe Trujillo, Sai Lokesh Gayam, Sophia Dela Cruz, Venkata Anirudh, Yashica Avhad, Martin Castillo, James Carroll, Ashley Depappa, MyLan Huynh, Steve Spencer, Maureen Scharberg

Absent: Stephanie Ann Lustina, Terry Buttchen

III. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda of August 21st, 2024, by **C. Doolam**, seconded by **Y. Avhad**, motion **CARRIED**.

IV. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of the Minutes of July 10, 2024**

Motion to approve the minutes of June 10th, 2024, by **E. Loreda**, seconded by **D. Bhimanapati**, motion **CARRIED**

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – **Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.**

No public comment.

3:09

VI. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

No unfinished items.

3:18

VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. DISCUSSION ITEM - [Honorary Membership Policy Revisions](#)

The ASI Board of Directors will be discussing revising the Honorary membership policy.

N. Calara presents information regarding the Honorary Membership policy for the Board of Directors reference. He clarifies that each year, the BOD typically elects one or two



individuals as honorary members. These honorary members have the privilege to attend ASI-sponsored events and petition the BOD. Currently, the eligibility criteria for honorary membership include being a university president, an ASI student government officer, or an individual in good standing with the university or alumni. Additionally, professional staff, student employees, or members of the greater community who have partnered with ASI are also eligible. He notes that the honorary membership positions have not been filled for the past year, with the last individuals appointed as honorary members being **Kabir** and **A.J. DeLeon**, two years ago.

N. Calara proposes revisions to the Honorary Membership policy. He suggests changing the requirement from being a graduate to simply "no longer a BOD member in ASI," to eliminate potential bias. Additionally, he introduces a provision for inviting newly selected honorary members to the end-of-year banquet. He also recommends expanding the selection committee from five to six members to six to seven members, to be chaired by the Vice President, preferably the Executive Vice President. The committee would include three to four ASI board members, the ASI Executive Director, a professional staff designee, and at least one ASI alumnus or current honorary member. He suggests enhancing the selection process by using a spreadsheet to document potential nominees and their significant initiatives. The committee could choose not to recommend any nominees if no significant impacts were made in the previous year.

L. Deguzman inquires about the reasoning behind increasing the committee size from five to six or seven members.

N. Calara explains that the adjustment aims to improve transparency and ensure broader representation within the committee. He clarifies that the language is updated to specifically include **J. Carroll**, our current Executive Director, and an ASI professional staff designee, such as **Ashley Depappa** or, if unavailable, **S. Sharma**, **L. Brown-Parker**, or **D. Lagasca**. Additionally, the committee composition is refined to include three to four ASI Board Members, ensuring clear eligibility criteria for participation in the committee. **N. Calara** emphasizes that these changes are intended to provide greater clarity and fairness in the selection process. He then opens the floor to additional questions from the BOD.

J. Carroll raises concerns about the proposed changes to the committee size and the clarity of transparency within the selection process. He emphasizes that transparency should primarily occur during public board meetings. **J. Carroll** cautions that increasing the committee size to seven members or more could make it more challenging to manage. He urges the board to keep this in mind when considering the size of the committee. He also brings up the importance of clarifying the language around the graduation requirement. He explains that in the context of honorary memberships, the original language likely specified



"graduating" because all currently enrolled students are members of ASI and receive the associated benefits, such as free events. Honorary memberships, by contrast, are typically granted to individuals who have made significant contributions but are not paying members of ASI. **J. Carroll** suggests that the Board carefully consider how they word this requirement to ensure clarity, especially since the distinction between paying members and honorary members is crucial.

N. Calara acknowledges **J. Carroll** for his input and noted that, due to time constraints, the discussion on this item would need to conclude.

11:18

B. **DISCUSSION ITEM** - [Resolution on Student Representation on University Search and Review Committees](#)

The ASI Board of Directors will be discussing Resolution on Student Representation on University Search and Review Committees.

N. Calara explains that he and **E. Loredo** created a resolution as part of this year's policy agenda, aiming to ensure student involvement in university decisions. After reviewing policies and discussing with the Academic Senate, they notice a lack of student representation on search committees, such as those for the chief of police, deans, and the provost. Although student lunches are held for some searches, **N. Calara** believes there should be more student representation, particularly from ASI. He then invites **E. Loredo** to discuss the resolved clauses of the resolution.

E. Loredo begins by agreeing with **N. Calara's** points and states that the resolution primarily aims to enhance collaborative efforts between the administration and ASI, particularly regarding student representation in selecting administrative officers. He highlights the need for more student input in filling key positions, such as the VP of Academic Affairs and Provost, especially for the 2024-2025 academic year. He emphasizes that this resolution will increase ASI's effectiveness in representing the student voice, particularly in significant administrative searches.

N. Calara explains that ASI has made its own suggestions to the policy, and if the resolution passes, they hope these suggestions can be discussed by the Academic Senate. He points out that while the policy currently specifies that a student selected by ASI serves on committees such as Academic Affairs, there are other positions, like Associate Provost for Academic Programs, where ASI input is not specifically requested. He also mentions that he suggested in the policy that every position should have at least one student selected by ASI or that ASI's input should be solicited. He notes that he changed some of the wording from "students" to "ASI" because ASI represents the voice of the students. Additionally, **N.**

Calara adds a request for the Academic Senate to include new positions, such as the University Diversity Officer, in their policy, given that it is a cabinet-level position that should be reflected in the search committees. He asks if there are any further questions about the policy or ASI's suggestions.

J. Carroll expresses that the resolution is off to a strong start in ensuring that the student voice is included in shared governance, which is the purpose of ASI's involvement. He encourages the Board to consider broadening the language before voting to ensure flexibility in how student representation is integrated into the search process. He points out that while it may be important for an ASI member to be physically present on a search committee, such involvement could demand a significant time commitment. He suggests that the Board think about other ways to ensure student participation, such as requiring a student panel during candidate interviews or ensuring students receive direct invitations to open forums for candidate presentations. He emphasizes the importance of maintaining the student voice in the process without necessarily locking ASI into commitments that may be difficult to fulfill.

N. Calara responds by affirming that the changes he proposes are intended to ensure that all positions specified in the policy will solicit input from ASI. This approach allows ASI to provide feedback even if they cannot serve directly on the committee.

M. Scharberg acknowledges that the suggestions are good and states she will take them back to the Senate leadership. She emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the student voice is heard and appreciates the suggestions provided. She notes the significant workload and tight timelines associated with search committees but recognizes the need for student input. She also mentions that the document in question is outdated, with some positions no longer existing, and notes that revisions to the document will be needed soon.

20:10

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. CSUnity Recap

L. Deguzman reports on attending the CSUnity for the CSSA (California State Student Association) meeting on August 10. The delegation includes members from their team, including a member of Commerce Time as the President Nikhil Hunter. He mentions the tentative yet nearly confirmed merger between Cal Maritime and Cal Polytechnic San Luis Obispo, noting concerns about the potential loss of autonomy for the Maritime campus as it becomes a satellite campus. However, he acknowledges the fiscal responsibility of the merger, which could fund and expand programs, especially given the campus's small student population of 712. **L. Deguzman** also discusses the Time, Place, and Manner policy at the CSU level, highlighting its impact on protests and free speech, including restrictions like



prohibiting overnight camping and loitering, which were used in past protests such as those for Palestine and Gaza. In addition, he discusses financial aid issues, noting that last year, many students experienced delays or reductions in funding. The FAFSA and CADAA are scheduled for release on October 1, with full availability for all students expected by December 1. Changes to the financial aid process now require SSN (social security number). However, for families with mixed immigration status, where one or both parents are not U.S. citizens, there is an option to waive the SSN requirement. The goal is to streamline this process and make it easier for affected families. The filing deadline for these applications is March 2, 2025. He reports on the partner panel, mentioning that Chancellor **Mildred Garcia**, Chair **Jack B Clark Jr.**, **Elizabeth Boyd**, a CSU Academic Senate, and **Jeremy Addis-Mills**, a prospective alumnus, were invited. During the panel, the speaker asked **M. Garcia** about plans to aid under-enrolled campuses, but **M. Garcia** deflected the question, stating that it is the responsibility of university presidents to address the under-enrollment crisis. And **Jeremy Addis-Mills** discussed an alumni connection program he is developing across the CSU system to help students explore career paths from graduates. **L. Deguzman** highlights that as of Fall 2023, the census showed 13,500 students, but the campus is considered under-enrolled and has been missing target rates. In a CSUnity workshop, the enrollment crisis was discussed, citing factors such as lower birth rates and the high cost of living in California as contributing to the steady decline in enrollment across the CSU system. He reiterates **M. Garcia's** statement that addressing under-enrollment is up to each university president, expressing disagreement with her position but acknowledging the need to move forward.

N. Calara states that the chair would like a Board of Directors to suggest a five-minute increase in time for the current item and asks if any Board Member would like to make a motion.

Motion to increase the time by five minutes for CSUnity Recap, by **J. Trujillo**, seconded by **S. Dela Cruz**, motion **CARRIED**.

N. Calara reports on his experience at CSUnity, highlighting key workshops he attended. He emphasizes the workshop on restorative leadership, where he learned about the importance of caring for the vulnerable, including marginalized individuals, and ensuring everyone's needs are met within the education system. He also discusses community cultural wealth, defined as the array of knowledge, skills, abilities, and contacts possessed by communities of color to survive and resist micro forms of oppression. He engages in discussions with other CSU leaders on how to incorporate restorative leadership into student government. Additionally, **N. Calara** addresses the California enrollment cliffs, citing insights from a professor or administrator at Sonoma State. He notes factors contributing to



the enrollment crisis, such as declining birth rates, particularly following the Great Recession, and decreased interest in higher education among high school graduates. He references a map showing population declines in the Bay Area and LA region, with growth only in the Central Valley. Nolan proposes a restructuring of regions within the CSSA discussions, suggesting a Coastal California region, which would include East Bay, Humboldt, and San Luis Obispo, and a Central Valley region, which would encompass Chico, Sacramento, Stanislaus, Fresno, and Bakersfield, to better address the unique challenges faced by these areas. He concludes by inviting other CSUnity members to share their insights from the event.

S. Dela Cruz reports on her experience at CSUnity, describing it as an amazing opportunity to connect with other seniors and students. She shares her insights from attending a workshop on intersectionality as a student leader. She explains that intersectionality refers to the social roles that define a person and also emphasizes that regardless of these roles, one can still be a good leader. She reflects on how the workshop and interactions with well-spoken and outstanding individuals have inspired her to become a better leader.

E. Loreda reports on the CSUnity event, giving a shout out to the team, noting that **L. Deguzman** did an excellent job representing CSSA, **Y. Avhad** was highly effective in networking, and **S. Dela Cruz** was particularly active in making connections. He highlights the value of attending such conferences, mentioning upcoming opportunities like the CHESS conference in March. He encourages the Board of Directors to participate in these events to network with other ASI members from all 23 campuses, learn about their initiatives, and explore ways to bring new ideas and strategies back to East Bay. **Y. Avhad** reports on her experience at CSUnity, highlighting her successful networking with many people and gaining new perspectives from individuals of diverse backgrounds. She notes her increased awareness of various issues and expresses her commitment to contributing solutions, specifically mentioning her involvement with Bill AB2586, which aims to allow undocumented students to work on campus with fewer documentation requirements. She emphasizes the importance of this bill in preventing exploitation of undocumented students working outside of campus. She concludes that the event was an amazing experience, providing her with valuable insights and opportunities to contribute her voice to important issues.

33:56

IX. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

J. Carroll provides a recognition of the team as Week 1 of classes begins. He extends special kudos to **A. Depappa** for her contributions since joining in January, noting her value added to the team



despite the challenges of being short-staffed. James appreciates the efforts of **N. Calara** and **E. Loreda**, as well as everyone who helped with the housing movement. He commends the team for addressing items on their policy agenda and successfully implementing innovative ideas that build school spirit and campus engagement. He acknowledges the positive impact of these efforts and expresses excitement for the year ahead, noting the progress made and the successful transition to in-person activities.

A. Depappa expresses her happiness at seeing everyone in person and thanks the team for their support. She acknowledges that her work is driven by their passion and encourages everyone to take care of themselves as the semester begins. She invites team members to visit her office as needed and emphasizes the importance of maintaining momentum throughout the semester and into the spring. She advises seeking support from each other, herself, **J. Carroll**, or others in the office if feeling burned out. **A. Depappa** mentions that she will send an email to schedule one-on-one meetings and is open to adjusting times as needed.

N. Calara opens by congratulating everyone on holding their first in-person Board of Directors meeting. He notes that, unlike previous meetings where VPs were seated at the front, this time everyone is scattered around the table as per **S. Sharma**'s request to encourage mingling. He asks members not to move their name plate as the seating arrangement will help **S. Sharma**'s team keep track of placements for future meetings. He also commends those who tabled at the East Bay Roundup and encourages everyone to visit the ASI table, even if not actively tabling for ASI.

He introduces that throughout the year, the Board of Directors meetings will feature different themes and the next theme will be brown and green for fall. He requests that Board Members dress in brown and green or, if not possible, wear semi-professional attire such as an ASI or regular polo. **N. Calara** emphasizes that the theme should not be overly extravagant and also reminds Board Members to respond to agenda calls and submit events for the September agenda. Lastly, he shares a quote from Priyanka Chopra: "Any transition is easier if you believe in yourself and your talent," as requested by **S. Sharma**. Nolan concludes by inviting everyone to take a group picture after the meeting.

A. Depappa mentions that she forgot to address a few more items. First, for tabling sign-ups, if you have not yet signed up, please contact **D. Bhimanapati**, who has created a spreadsheet for this purpose. Make sure to either sign up for a time slot or inform her if you are unavailable, so we don't need to follow up with you about your availability. Additionally, this Friday is the Pioneer Street Fair from 3 PM to 7 PM. If you are available to assist, please notify her or **J. Carroll** to ensure we have your participation documented. Any Board Member presence is appreciated. **A. Depappa** also highlights the upcoming Al Fresco event on August 29th and encourages prioritizing attendance at key events such as the Pioneer Street Fair and Al Fresco. While understanding that school is now in session and you may have class commitments, it is important to maintain visibility at these events to increase student awareness of the Board's presence.



D. Bhimanapati mentions that four or five Board Members have already signed up for the event, but since it is a very large event, she would appreciate it if more people could sign up. Additionally, if you wish to support ASI Present, you can do so in other ways beyond being at the ASI table.


41:15

X. ADJOURNMENT at **12:45 PM**

Minutes reviewed by:

President/Chair of the Board

Nolan Calara


Nolan Calara (Sep 4, 2024 15:07 PDT)

Minutes approved on

09/04/2024

Date:








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Final Audit Report

2024-09-04

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