

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB

7:00 PM

OCTOBER 1ST, 2025

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 11 senators were present.
 - b. Absent: Senator Lopez.
 - c. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, Val Davids, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Coordinator and, Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2025
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from September 24th, 2025: Vargas Barvosa/Van Metre
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARREID**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 1ST, 2025
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for October 1st, 2025: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Introductions and Updates, President Robert Wagner
 - i. President Robert Wagner expressed how pleased he was to attend the Senate meeting, sharing that any day he spends with students is a great one. He thanked all ASISU members for their service and dedication to fellow students and commended the important work being done at Idaho State University. He also shared his hope to return later in the semester to attend another meeting, with the goal of meeting senators individually and hearing their stories, which he said are what truly inspire university growth. President Wagner used his time to address questions submitted in advance, as well as those raised during the meeting.
 1. Are there plans to improve the book bundle?
 - a. In response to this President Wagner explained that a Request for Proposals (RFP) process is currently underway. Whenever the university contracts with outside entities, vendors submit bids, and the one that best meets the criteria is selected. The Book Bundle contract is currently in that process, with proposals being collected and reviewed. Student representation is included on

the review committee. Proposals will be scored based on their ability to meet student and faculty needs, and the contract will be awarded accordingly. This process is expected to conclude by January. President Wagner acknowledged concerns with the current program, particularly issues around opting in versus opting out, as well as faculty pressure and student frustration. He encouraged students to continue voicing opinions during this time, as their feedback can still influence the outcome.

2. Thoughts on a parking garage on campus to solve parking issues?
 - a. When asked about this potential parking garage to ease on-campus parking, he explained that the university has recently completed a 25-year campus master plan for the Pocatello, Idaho Falls, and Meridian campuses. A parking garage is included in this plan, as well as additional on-campus housing. While the garage is part of the long-term vision, ground is not expected to break for at least five more years. He encouraged students to review the campus master plan to understand the future of ISU's development.
3. How has the reputation of ISU going to continue to grow over the next 10 years?
 - a. When asked how ISU's reputation is expected to grow and change over the next decade. President Wagner shared that he believes ISU's reputation is already growing, with a clear indicator being the 500 additional students enrolled this fall compared to last. He emphasized the university's outreach efforts, including promoting ISU on high school campuses. He then turned the question to senators, asking for their perspective.
 - i. Senators responded by expressing that they have seen significant positive changes on campus and feel that Idaho State is continuing to improve.
4. What are you excited or for the future of Idaho State?
 - a. President Wagner shared his excitement about the future of Idaho State University. He emphasized that great things are happening; enrollment is up, faculty are doing strong research and teaching, and staff are deeply committed to student success. The campus community is growing and energetic, and he believes something special is taking place. He called this "Idaho State's time" to rise and continue spreading awareness of the institution. He acknowledged the challenges ahead, such as budget cuts, restructuring, and changes to university operations, but stressed that all decisions will be made with student success and academic quality in mind. He said he is excited about the opportunities for students, the communities ISU serves, and the growth in Idaho Falls and collaborations with medical schools. He believes ISU will come through these changes even stronger. He also encouraged students to attend the upcoming game and tailgate, where there

will be a "Dunk the President" event to collect supplies for Benny's Pantry. He urged everyone to stay engaged by attending other campus events, including sports, theater, and symphony performances.

- b. The floor was then opened for senator to ask the president any other questions.
 - i. Senator Smith asked how long the RFP (Request for Proposals) process would last.
 - 1. President Wagner responded that the process is expected to conclude by January 2026.
 - ii. Senator King asked how his experiences as a university president have helped shape his leadership.
 - 1. President Wagner shared that in his 21 months at ISU, he has been intentional about engaging with the campus community. Getting to know the people who make up Idaho State has been the most valuable part of his experience, helping him honor the university's culture, traditions, and history.
 - iii. Senator Smith then asked how ISU is planning for the loss of state funding and the upcoming budget cuts.
 - 1. President Wagner explained that decisions about cuts will be made this fall. The university is conducting listening sessions with each college to explore cost savings and organizational changes. He said most of the final budget announcements will likely come in mid-spring.
 - iv. Senator Smith also asked how these cuts might impact the university's master plan.
 - 1. President Wagner responded that while the state funds most campus maintenance, funding for buildings is rare. To address this, ISU is planning a major fundraising campaign to launch in 2027, in connection with the university's 125th anniversary in 2026. The goal is to raise funds through grants and public-private partnerships using a three-prong strategy: ask more, expect more, and get more.
 - v. Senator Vargas Barvosa asked how much money ISU has lost this year due to budget cuts.
 - 1. President Wagner said there was a one-time 3% cut, which became continuing, totaling \$3.. In addition, the university will no longer receive its enhancements budget, only a

maintenance budget, meaning ISU is facing a \$7 to \$8 million shortfall going into fiscal year 2027.

- vi. Senator Little raised a question about housing availability for incoming students, especially as ISU continues to grow.

- 1. President Wagner outlined a plan for a public-private partnership where developers would build new residence halls on university land, collecting rent under a low-cost lease. This approach would allow ISU to control pricing and increase capacity with a 300-bed residence hall. The goal is to break ground on the first project in 2027. Once completed, this would also allow for the renovation of older residence halls, which has not been possible due to bed availability. A second housing project would follow shortly after, all within walking distance of campus.

- vii. Senator Smith asked if refurbishments could be done over the summer.

- 1. President Wagner explained that while small projects are sometimes possible, most residence hall upgrades would require more time and coordination. He noted that incoming students are prioritized for housing because they typically have no existing support system in Pocatello. On-campus housing supports both retention and academic success, especially in the first year, which is why this approach is necessary, even if it means tradeoffs for continuing students.

- viii. The conversation closed with President Wagner thanking everyone for their time and expressing his interest in returning. He shared that he looks forward to getting to know each senator better.

- b. Threads of Kindness – Bella Edwin, New Club; Val Davids, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Coordinator

- i. Val Davids introduced the Thread of Kindness Club, describing it as a fun and unique addition to campus life, noting that no other club currently offers what they do. The club has already gained 23 members.

- 1. Bella Edwin shared that October activities will begin with simpler crafts such as spider web ornaments, followed by games to foster connection among members. They are also planning to make felt garlands as part of a small fundraising effort, with hopes to fund a future event that may include dinner and a movie. Currently, only October events are planned.

- a. Senator King asked if the club is working in conjunction with the Craft Shop.

- i. Bella Edwin added that their crafts are hobby-based and there's potential for future workshop collaborations with the Craft Shop.
- b. Senator Vargas Barvosa asked if this club would be a good club for beginner crafters or for more skilled crafters.
 - i. Bella Edwin shared that this club is open to any ISU student who wants to participate in crafting, regardless of their skill level!
- c. Val Davids confirmed that the club has completed all the necessary trainings to be able to qualify for funding.
 - i. Motion to approve the Threads of Kindness to become an official ASISU approved club: Smith/Vargas Barvosa

- 1. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - AIDAN HALL – YES
 - RAKESH ITANI – YES
 - BRYSON KING – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - DIYA PANDEY – YES
 - ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
 - PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
 - SILAS SMITH – YES
 - HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
 - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

- 2. Motion: **CARRIED**

VIII. PRESIDENTS REPORT

- a. President Halter shared that the Bengal Watch Party Tailgate last Saturday lasted about three and a half hours and drew approximately 80 attendees. The event was a collaboration with the Football Alumni Team, and the Bengals won the game. Another tailgate is scheduled for this coming Saturday. Those helping with setup should meet at the practice field at 3:00 PM, and those just attending can arrive around 3:30 PM. He reminded everyone about the Student Leader Social happening at 7:00 PM and encouraged members to wear their ASISU polos. He also shared that the first ISU Theatre play of the year, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," is also beginning this week. The theater provides with free student tickets available thanks to ASISU funding. Members were encouraged to attend and represent ASISU at campus events. President Halter closed by reminding everyone to stay cool and stay involved on campus.

IX. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senator Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Vargas Barvosa
 - i. Senator Vargas Barvosa shared that he met with the Senate Pro Tempore Committee and thanked the chairs for their attendance. They reflected on what was working well and what could be improved. There are plans to improve communication with committee members and to better distribute workloads. He also confirmed that ASISU will no longer be collaborating with HALO for

the Hispanic Heritage Month event, as HALO is not yet a registered club. Hot chocolate for the event has been ordered through Chartwells. He is also exploring the possibility of acquiring an ASISU golf cart and organizing an ASISU homecoming float to increase ASISU visibility.

- b. Finance Committee, Senator Saunders
 - i. Senator Saunders reported for the Finance Committee. They met with the SAGA club, which proposed a drag show event. The funding request was tabled, as more documentation is needed, including a detailed run of show. There was also a suggestion to reschedule the event, since it currently conflicts with the Abyss event. During the recent Memorandum of Understanding meeting, past miscommunications were addressed to ensure clearer communication moving forward. A shared spreadsheet is being created to track how much Benny's Funding is available, so all senators are informed when making funding decisions.
- c. Senate Rules and Appointments Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith reported for the Senate Rules and Appointments Committee. The committee is releasing Resolution 633 for Senate approval. They spent time reviewing bylaws and past changes and are considering future ideas such as expanding scholarship amounts based on the workload carried by members.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senaotr Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre shared that the Student Involvement Committee is preparing for this weekend's tailgate, including planning speakers, coordinating with The Jungle for pancakes, and working with Alpha Zeta to provide face painting. A photo booth and social media countdown are also being organized to build excitement. While Greek life typically assists with setup, help is especially needed for teardown. Members were asked to respond to the poll in the Google Chat if they are able to assist.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Committee, Senator Pandey and Senator Vargas Barvosa
 - i. Senators Pandey and Vargas Barvosa reported that the committee has reached out to Melissa Caudle, the former Wellness Center Director, in an effort to connect with the new director. Senator Vargas Barvosa also contacted Lowell Richards, the Executive Director of the Student Union Director's Office, to gather more information about the transition in leadership

X. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 633
 - i. Motion to approve Resolution 633 633: Smith/King
 - 1. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - AIDAN HALL – YES
 - RAKESH ITANI – YES
 - BRYSON KING – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - DIYA PANDEY – YES
 - ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

2. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Bill 623

i. Motion to send Bill 623 to Rules and Appointments Committee: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa

1. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

RAKESH ITANI – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

DIYA PANDEY – YES

ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

2. Motion: **CARRIED**

c. Benny's Funding Request

i. Chem Club, \$700

1. Motion to approve the Benny's Funding Request for the Chem Club for \$700: Vargas Barvosa/Van Metre

a. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

RAKESH ITANI – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

DIYA PANDEY – YES

ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

d. Internal Funding Request

i. Student Leader Social, \$500

1. Motion to approve the Internal Funding Request for the Student Leader Social for \$500; Saunders/Van Metre

- a. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

RAKESH ITANI – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

DIYA PANDEY – YES

ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

- b. Motion: **CARRIED**

- ii. Hispanic Heritage Month Event, \$750

1. Motion to approve the Internal Funding Request for the Hispanic Heritage Month Event for the amount of \$750: Vargas Barvosa/Little

- a. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

RAKESH ITANI – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

DIYA PANDEY – YES

ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

- b. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER

XIII. OTHER

- a. Pro Temp Vote of Confidence, October

- i. Senator Silas Smith was voted in as the Senate Pro Temp for October.

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

XVI. ROLL CALL

- a. 11 senators were present.
- b. Absent: Senator Lopez.
- c. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, Val Davids, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Coordinator and, Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.