

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB

7:00 PM

NOVEMBER 5TH, 2025

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 12 Senators present.
 - b. Also present: Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student, and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 29TH, 2025
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from October 29th, 2025: Lopez/Smith
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 5TH, 2025
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for November 5th, 2025: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Jen Steele, Vice President of Finances and University Planning, and Dr. Craig Chatriand, Vice President of Student Affairs – University Finance Updates and Discussion
 - i. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand discussed current budget priorities and the role of students in university operations as the university faces significant budget cuts. They emphasized that the institution seeks to hire students in positions that do not require benefits, providing both valuable work experience and potential pathways to full-time employment after graduation. Adjustments in staffing may be necessary, but these changes are evaluated carefully to ensure alignment with university principles, mission, and priorities. The discussion included the criteria used to decide whether positions should be removed. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand explained that decisions are guided by alignment with principles and strategic priorities, as well as long-term planning. Staffing reductions may occur in some areas, such as finance, where AI and improved systems allow certain positions to remain unfilled without disrupting operations. They also highlighted the Opportunity and Resourcing framework (OAR), which evaluates positions based on their ability to generate long-term value for the university. For example, hiring staff to convert textbooks into Braille for other institutions generates revenue while supporting campus initiatives, and academic advisor positions are assessed on their contribution to student services such as IU Navigate, new

student orientation, and class registration. There was discussion regarding whether budget considerations would affect students involved in research. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand clarified that students working on research or attending research-related travel will not be impacted by the university's internal budget balancing efforts. Only changes in federal funding, such as grants or FNA rates, would pose a risk to research activities. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand reaffirmed that the university intends to grow its research enterprise and expand opportunities for student participation. They also addressed software resources and textbook costs. The university is decentralized in its software usage, with multiple departments using different tools. To improve efficiency, a technology roadmap is being developed to strategically align software usage and leverage buying power. While implementation of systems such as Canvas involved one-time costs, the approach is more cost-effective and provides better tools for students. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand also emphasized the success of open educational resources, which have been widely adopted by faculty and make learning materials more affordable and accessible. Discussions regarding outsourcing explored both past experiences and future considerations. Dr. Chatriand explained that outsourcing custodial services in a pilot program was not cost-effective and resulted in worse outcomes. However, outsourcing through public-private partnerships is being used for student housing projects, while operations remain under university oversight. They expressed caution regarding outsourcing, citing concerns about quality control and user experience, particularly for student-facing services. The discussion included faculty use of alternative software, such as Top Hat, alongside Canvas. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand encouraged sharing experiences with academic affairs, as they oversee decisions about software adoption and instructional tools. They acknowledged limited direct knowledge of these tools but emphasized the value of feedback in guiding software decisions. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand discussed faculty presence and departmental support amidst budget reductions. Decisions are based on five-year planning, balancing tuition revenue, state funding, and research income. While the university cannot maintain ideal faculty-to-student ratios in all areas, it prioritizes general education courses and key faculty positions. Strategies such as pairing smaller academic departments with well-staffed departments are being used to ensure adequate administrative support. Student housing was identified as a high priority. Current residence halls are approximately 99% full, and demand continues to grow. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand outlined plans for a new 350-bed apartment-style housing complex, with approval from the State Board of Education expected in December and an RFQ release anticipated in early January. Construction is projected to be completed by Fall 2029, though Fall 2028 is a possibility. The expansion aims to support both in-state and out-of-state students, enhancing student success by providing accessible, on-campus housing. The discussion included the impact of transitioning to fully free online textbooks. They clarified that adoption of open educational resources has no direct effect on the university's internal budget because these services are managed through third-party contracts. The primary benefit of OER is increased affordability and accessibility for students, without altering core budget operations. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand discussed tuition and student fees, including the process for student fee

hearings. The university presents the maximum potential tuition increase, and adjustments are made based on feedback. For example, a proposed increase of 5.5% was reduced to approximately 3.3% last year. Jen Steele and Cr. Chatriand emphasized transparency and encouraged open communication, follow-ups, and participation in advisory committees. Updates regarding tuition and student fees will be provided in the early spring term. They also addressed strategic priorities, including software, faculty support, outsourcing, research, and housing. They emphasized the importance of balancing limited resources, planning for long-term institutional needs, and leveraging opportunities to generate revenue and improve student experiences. The university leadership encouraged ongoing engagement and feedback as part of these processes.

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter shared that he and Vice President Medema met with BioLogiQ to discuss plans for the Environmental Summit scheduled for the spring. He also met with Dr. Matt Daily and Dr. Craig Chatriand to review and discuss the ASISU reserve budget. Next week, he and Director Burrell will present these reserve budget ideas to the rest of ASISU.

IX. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith shared he met last week with the rest of the committee chairs to discuss some of the challenges facing committees and to develop plans for addressing them. Future meetings are planned to ensure that ASISU functions more effectively and continues to serve the student body. Additionally, he reminded senators to send club emails regarding incentive points that are due by November 14th.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Saunders
 - i. Senator Saunders shared that there were no funding request this week. He has however, reached out to clubs to reconcile funding that has been previously provided. He also informed members about the Idaho State Civic Symphony event on Friday, November 7th, encouraging attendance since the Civic Symphony is one of ASISU's line items. In addition, he reminded members about the First-Gen Dinner on Friday night, emphasizing that ASISU provided funding for the event and encouraging participation. He is also working on brainstorming some long-term goals for ASISU.
- c. Senate Rules and Appointments Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith shared that the committee met today to review Bill 624 before it is released from the Senate in order to get a head start on the work. No notable issues were identified during the review.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Senator shared that this week she focused on preparing for the upcoming tailgate and passing on setup duties to the Jungle. This committee along with Health Wellness and Sustainability committee are also discussing a collaborative event to be held after winter break.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainably Committee, Senator Pandey and Senator Vargas Barvosa
 - i. Senator Pandey shared that this committee met last week to review upcoming projects. Theresa Brissette shared a list of initiatives to focus on, and the committee discussed prioritizing several of

them. Planned events include “Paint a Pot” in collaboration with the campus greenhouse to encourage student involvement, and volunteering with Rake A Difference to support the local community.

1. Senator Van Metre inquired if the rest of the Senate could assist, and Senator Pandey confirmed they could, sharing the flyer and volunteer opportunities with the entire Senate.

X. OLD BUSINESS

a. Bill 624

- i. Vice President Medema shared that Bill 624, sponsored by Silas Smith from the College of Education, Charlie Medema, Vice President of ASISU, CJ Lopez from the College of Business, Denis Vargas Barvosa from the College of Arts and Letters, and Saugat Acharya from the College of Science and Engineering, serves the purpose of amending the Senate Rule Book through a complete and comprehensive reworking of Article VI.

1. Motion to move to committee for 30 minutes: Smith/Saunders
2. Unanimous
3. Motion: **CARRIED**
4. Motion to extend committee by 15 minutes: Lopez/Smith
5. Unanimous
6. Motion: **CARRIED**
7. Motion to extend committee by 1 hour: Van Metre/Smith
8. Unanimous
9. Motion: **CARRIED**
10. Motion to move out of committee: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa
11. Unanimous
12. Motion: **CARRIED**

- a. Motion to table Bill 625 until November 12th, 2025: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa

i. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

CJ LOPEZ – YES

DIYA PANDEY – YES

ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

- ii. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Bill 625

- i. Vice President Medema shared that Bill 625, sponsored by Silas Smith from the College of Education and sponsored by CJ Lopez from the College of Business, aims to build coherence within the Bylaws regarding club assignments to Senators from the Senate Pro-Temp.

1. Motion to move to committee for 10 minutes: Smith/Lopez
2. Unanimous
3. Motion: **CARRIED**
4. Motion to move out of committee: Smith/Vargas Barvosa
5. Unanimous
6. Motion: **CARRIED**

XII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER

XIII. OTHER

a. Senate Pro Temp Vote of Confidence – November

- i. Senator Vargas Barvosa was voted in as the Senate Pro Temp for the month of November.

b. Swearing in of 2025-2026 Members

- i. Director of Student Affairs, Juliet Lumu
- ii. Graduate Studies Senator, Anna Reside

1. Juliet Lumu and Anna Reside were sworn into their respective positions for the 2025-2026 academic year.

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 12 Senators present.
- b. Also present: Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON