

House of Representatives General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 24, 2026 | 6:00-6:53 p.m.

University Center, Meeting Room 222 | Presiding: Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada | Minutes: Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff

I. Call to Order

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada called the meeting of the Associated Student Government House of Representatives to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Excused</i>	<i>Unexcused</i>
Alonzo-Estrada, Jayden - Speaker	X		
Clark-Scott, Jess - At Large	X		
Holt, Juli - At Large	X		
Cornelison, Izzy - Disabled Students*	X		
Ruehmann, James - At Large*	X		

* Representatives Cornelison and Ruehmann were appointed, sworn in, seated, and added to the roll later in the meeting.

Quorum was established with three voting members present at the initial roll call.

III. Approval of Agenda

The Speaker asked for amendments to the agenda. No amendments were offered.

Action: The agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

IV. Public Input

Mav Media General Manager

The Mav Media General Manager introduced Mav Media, a new campus media organization being formed as CMU TV and KMSA are dissolved. The organization will combine the students and functions of the two legacy organizations and transition campus media toward online streaming.

The speaker noted that the consolidation may reduce costs but will also require substantial infrastructure, logistics, and operational responsibility. The House was asked to consider those needs during future funding discussions. No questions were raised.

No additional public input was offered.

V. Officer and Advisor Reports

Speaker of the House Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

- Welcomed members to the first meeting of the 2026-2027 session and emphasized the House's responsibility to evaluate, audit, and make decisions affecting student-fee-funded organizations during the biennial process.

- Regular House meetings will be held Mondays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in University Center, Meeting Room 222. The first biennial presentation meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29.
- Reviewed the attendance standard of one unexcused absence and two excused absences per semester. Weekly office hours and committee membership are optional for representatives during the biennial year.

President Elijah Lorica

- Introduced himself to prospective members and affirmed that the executive branch will support the House's lawful decisions while maintaining ASG's checks and balances.
- Reiterated the administration's priorities of transparency, integrity, and inclusion. He acknowledged prior shortcomings in adherence to governing documents and asked members to hold the executive officers accountable, including through the grievance process when appropriate.
- Reported that the President, Vice President, organization advisor, and Speaker worked through the summer to improve the biennial process. He supported House Resolution 27-01 and described its goal as a more transparent, consistent, and understandable funding process.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos

- Thanked representatives for accepting the time and responsibility of their positions and stressed the importance of maintaining communication with the Speaker so members do not miss critical portions of the biennial process.
- Encouraged, but did not require, attendance at ASG and campus events. She invited members to contact her for assistance and noted that softball commitments may occasionally require changes to her posted office hours.
- Stressed that representatives will make decisions involving substantial student-fee funds and should make thoughtful, informed decisions. Volunteers for the internal committee will be requested in a future meeting.
- Relayed Director of External Affairs' announcements for a vision-board-and-ice-cream event the following day and Thursday tailgate wristband duty, with setup assistance requested.

Student Trustee Danica Kremidas

Not present; no report was given.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith

- Reported spending the summer and beginning of the semester learning the biennial and student-organization funding processes and expressed readiness to assist the House.
- Will remain informed about funding requests and biennial budgets and invited members to bring questions to the CFO during office hours.

Senate Leader Logan Wilson

- Introduced himself and expressed support for the direction of the ASG team. He intends to attend as many House meetings as possible and carry relevant biennial information back to the Senate.
- Offered himself as a resource based on nearly four years of ASG experience and invited members to contact him during office hours, by text, or by email.

Director of Student Life and Advisor Trey Downey

Not present; no report was given.

VI. New Business

A. Confirmation of Appointed Representatives to Vacant Seats

The Speaker reported nine vacant House seats: Representative for Disabled Students; Representative for Minority Students; Representative for Non-Traditional Students; Representative for Student Athletes; Representative for Student Ideologies; Representative for Student Safety and Mental Health; Representative for Transfer and International Students; and two Representative At Large seats. He explained that each candidate would address the House, leave the room during deliberation, and require a two-thirds affirmative vote of quorum for appointment to a seat assigned by the House.

Izzy Cornelison, a freshman transfer student and musical theatre major who uses they/them pronouns, sought appointment as Representative for Disabled Students. Cornelison described prior high-school student council experience and becoming disabled approximately nine months earlier. They emphasized that many disabilities are not outwardly visible and stated a goal of representing students with all types of disabilities, bringing their concerns to administrators and student leaders, and ensuring that disability perspectives inform campus decisions.

James Ruehmann sought appointment as a Representative At Large. Ruehmann described prior work with the Colorado House of Representatives on the Long Bill and expressed interest in applying that budget experience to the biennial process. He offered to assist wherever needed and invited questions from the House.

After the candidates left the room, Representative Clark-Scott stated that both candidates were well qualified for their respective roles and would be valuable during the biennial process. Representative Holt agreed and specifically noted Ruehmann's relevant government and budget experience. No questions were raised before voting.

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Seat</i>	<i>Roll-Call Result</i>
Izzy Cornelison	Representative for Disabled Students	3-0; appointed
James Ruehmann	Representative At Large	3-0; appointed

By approved motion, the House proceeded to the oath of office, administered by a Student Supreme Court Justice. The House then approved seating Representatives Cornelison and Ruehmann. A motion to amend the roll call to add both representatives was made, seconded, and approved. Both were sworn in, seated, and added to the roll.

B. Biennial Process Overview

The Speaker explained that the biennial occurs every two years and is the House's process for auditing and evaluating the budgets of student-fee-funded organizations. Organizations may request budget changes, and the House makes the initial approval or denial decision with Senate oversight and any required conference-committee review before final executive action.

- Organization leaders will receive the approved evaluation criteria, funding rubric, and standardized presentation PowerPoint template on Tuesday, August 25. Informational packets will be reviewed through the executive team before organizations present at special Tuesday meetings.
- Rough-draft budget proposals are due September 4. Advisory and budget-finalization meetings with the Director of Student Life or designee, CFO, and Speaker run September 4-25. Final

budget materials are due September 25, after which representatives will receive the organizations' informational packets.

- Biennial hearings begin Tuesday, September 29, at 6:00 p.m. in University Center, Meeting Room 222, and continue through October 27. The House is scheduled to finalize and ratify the budgets on November 3.
- Ratified or amended budgets must be distributed to organization leaders no later than November 4 at 11:59 p.m. Objections are due to the Speaker through the designated Microsoft Form by November 6 at 11:59 p.m. November 10 and November 17 are tentative dispute-hearing dates if needed.
- Each representative must read and understand every organization's informational packet, complete the assigned evaluation rubric, and return it by the Friday following that organization's Tuesday presentation.
- A representative with a conflict of interest in an organization must abstain from that organization's evaluation and vote.

C. Adoption of Biennial Evaluation Criteria and Weights

A motion to enter cross-talk with the floor, including executive officers, was made, seconded, and approved. Members reviewed the proposed evaluation rubric and discussed how the standardized criteria and presentation template would make organizations easier to compare and would create transparent, defensible reasons for House funding decisions.

The Speaker and Vice President reviewed the criteria. Each representative will score every criterion from 0 to 5; the adopted percentages produce a weighted total out of 100, and completed rubrics are retained with the meeting minutes as official records. Discussion clarified that the materials assess organizations during school year 2026-2027 while the biennial decisions establish funding for fiscal years 2028-2029. A motion to end cross-talk was seconded by Representative Ruehmann and approved.

<i>Evaluation Criterion</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Previous usage of funds	20%
Effectiveness of programming or activity	30%
Justification of future budgeted funds	30%
Ability to uphold the values and policies of Colorado Mesa University	15%
Representation of CMU in a positive manner	5%

Action: A motion to adopt the listed evaluation criteria and weights was seconded and adopted without objection. The weights, totaling 100%, were entered into the record.

D. House Resolution 27-01 - Fiscal Year 2028-2029 Biennial Process

The Speaker reviewed the biennial schedule and read House Resolution 27-01 into the record. The resolution was sponsored by House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada, President Elijah Lorica, and Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos. It establishes mandatory, standardized procedures for the FSY 2026-2027 biennial budget process that will determine fiscal year 2028-2029 allocations.

- Adopts the Biennial Evaluation Criteria & Weights Report - FSY 2026-2027, ASG Biennial Funding Rubric - FSY 2026-2027, and ASG Biennial Presentation PowerPoint Template - FSY 2026-2027 as mandatory process documents.
- Requires advance notice to organization leaders of the evaluation criteria, weights, expectations, and procedures and requires organizations to use the standardized presentation format unless an authorized exception applies.
- Requires House members to record comments and scores on the funding rubric, calculate weighted scores using the adopted criteria, and follow the mandatory procedures unless a lawful authority authorizes a deviation.
- Requires the adopted weights to total 100% and directs the Speaker to communicate them to applicable organization leaders. Any additional House-adopted criteria must also be incorporated and communicated. The resolution takes effect upon adoption and governs the FSY 2026-2027 biennial budget process.

No questions or concerns were raised after the reading.

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Representative Jess Clark-Scott	Yes
Representative Juli Holt	Yes
Representative Izzy Cornelison	Yes
Representative James Ruehmann	Yes
Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada	Yes

Action: On an approved motion, House Resolution 27-01 passed 5-0 by roll call.

The adopted resolution and its referenced documents will be provided to organization leaders at the cabinet meeting on Tuesday, August 25, at 6:00 p.m. in University Center, Room 213. The cabinet meeting was identified as closed.

VII. House Discussion

Meeting Norms and Parliamentary Procedure

- Members should request recognition by raising their name placard.
- No member should receive a second opportunity to speak in debate until all members who wish to speak have had a first opportunity; each member is limited to two speeches per motion. After an extended pause with no member seeking recognition, a prior speaker may be recognized again.
- The chair rules on points of order and requests for clarification. A ruling may be appealed from the floor and requires a two-thirds vote to overturn.
- Silence after the chair asks for further discussion constitutes unanimous consent to close debate. Otherwise, a motion, second, and simple majority are required to close debate.
- Any member may question quorum at any time. A roll call is taken without debate, and business stops if quorum is lost.
- The Speaker votes last in every roll-call vote.

Biennial Meeting Dates

Representative Ruehmann confirmed that the evaluation meetings are Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., beginning September 29 and continuing through November 3, with November 10 and November 17 reserved as tentative dispute dates. Ruehmann noted that he expects to be absent November 3; the Speaker stated that quorum should still be available and that the matter would be discussed after the meeting.

ASG Website Profiles and Headshots

President Lorica relayed a message from Press Secretary Brooklyn Lee regarding ASG staff profiles on the university website. Representatives may submit an existing headshot or have one taken the following week. Headshots will be available during the Press Secretary's office hours: Monday 5:00-6:00 p.m., Tuesday 1:00-3:00 p.m., and Wednesday 5:00-7:00 p.m. Members should also provide a brief introduction; their university email address will be included in the profile. The Speaker will send follow-up information by email.

VIII. Announcements

- The Senate General Assembly will meet Wednesday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting is open to the public, and House members were encouraged to attend.
- The first football tailgate is Thursday, August 27, at 5:00 p.m. The event will kick off CMU's new collaboration with Nike and has a 'Just Do It' theme. Volunteers were requested for wristband and setup duties.
- Pop and Pups will be held Tuesday, September 15, at 3:00 p.m.
- The ASG vision-board-and-ice-cream event will be held Tuesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m.; volunteers may assist with setup at 5:30 p.m.
- The next regular House meeting is Monday, August 31, at 6:00 p.m. in University Center, Meeting Room 222.
- The first biennial hearing is Tuesday, September 29, at 6:00 p.m. in University Center, Meeting Room 222.

No further remarks were offered.

IX. Adjournment

Speaker Alonzo-Estrada adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff