

House of Representatives Biennial Hearing Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 | 6:00-8:51 p.m.

*Colorado Mesa University | Presiding: House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada | Minutes: Caleb Bishop,
Chief of Staff*

I. Call to Order

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada called the ASG House of Representatives biennial hearing 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>
Bragg, Jamal - Minority Students	X		
Clark-Scott, Jess - At Large	X		
Garcia, Zaira - At Large	X		
Livengood, Cory - Disabled Students	X		
Martinez, Andre - Student Safety and Mental Health	X		
McWilliams, Nathan - Transfer and International Students	X		
Meyer, Devin - Student Ideologies	X		
Rogers, Triston - Student Athletes	X		
Ruehmann, James - At Large	X		
Alonzo-Estrada, Jayden - House Speaker	X		

Ten representatives were present at the opening roll call. Attendance was sufficient for quorum.

III. Approval of the Agenda

No objections were raised to the agenda, and the House proceeded with it as presented.

IV. Executive Reports

President Elijah Jaden Lorica

Distributed evaluation rubrics and instructed representatives to provide legible, respectful, specific feedback because the organizations would receive the evaluations. Asked members to keep questions relevant to the evaluation criteria, remain engaged, and ask presenters about missing information before criticizing its omission on a rubric.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos

Encouraged representatives to review budgets and proposals before each hearing so they could arrive prepared and ask focused questions.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith

Commended members' questioning and encouraged continued improvement. Advised that he would need to leave at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

Explained that the biennial presentations received were available alongside the minutes on the ASG website, combined into a PDF with an introductory page and blank pages separating presentations.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada

Welcomed members and encouraged a productive discussion of the proposals.

V. Public Input

No public input was offered during the designated opening period.

VI. Biennial Budget Presentations

The House reviewed annual funding proposals for FY28 and FY29 from Horizon Magazine, Campus Design Studio, and 437CO Art Gallery, in that order. No organization budget was adopted during the hearing.

A. Horizon Magazine

Presentation

Horizon Magazine presenters described two full-color editions each year, participation open to students of any major, and distribution throughout academic buildings and to sponsoring businesses. Staff writers had increased from 10 to 25 between spring and fall 2026. They described adherence to the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics, recognition for the magazine, and professional experience that had supported alumni careers.

Presenters reported FY26 revenue of \$43,561, expenditures of \$38,410, and a \$5,151 surplus. They presented proposed annual expenditures of \$43,550: \$22,400 for student stipends, \$16,000 for printing and reproduction, \$2,000 for supplies, \$3,000 for travel, and \$150 for non-capital computer equipment. The expenditure proposal was \$4,000 above the displayed FY27 budget of \$39,550.

The printing request addressed rising costs for two 800-copy editions. The fall 2026 quote was \$6,087.50 for 52 pages plus cover. Supplies would support launch parties and photography equipment. The new travel line would support conferences and professional development, with funds reallocated from the eliminated student position and staff and faculty wages. Five paid student positions would retain monthly stipends of \$400 or \$480.

Questions and Responses

Representative Martinez: How many copies are printed, how are they distributed, and what distribution metrics are available?

Horizon Magazine answer: The print run had been reduced from 1,000 to 800 copies to match distribution and control costs. Copies were distributed at launch parties and in academic

buildings, generally within 24 hours afterward. Historical distribution records were not maintained; the organization intended to improve tracking.

Representative Clark-Scott: Why does the staffing information show six positions when only five are paid?

Horizon Magazine answer: The social media position had been eliminated, and the remaining paid staff shared its responsibilities.

Representative Rogers: How long does producing an edition take, and what does the annual printing request cover?

Horizon Magazine answer: Each edition took a semester, with writing and editing followed by photography, design, and printing. Staff described overlapping deadlines and additional work on branding. The \$16,000 printing request covered two editions each year.

Representative Livengood: Is advertising space sold, and what revenue does it generate?

Horizon Magazine answer: Advertising space was sold at rates based on placement size. The presenters could provide an advertising contract and described approximately \$300 in advertising revenue per semester.

Representative Martinez and Representative Clark-Scott: Where is the proposed travel expense reflected in the shared workbook?

CFO Smith answer: The proposed \$3,000 travel expense was represented under the software line in the workbook and needed to be identified as travel.

President Lorica: How was the travel request developed, will conference attendance continue, and how widely is the magazine distributed?

Horizon Magazine answer: The estimate was based on a planned November conference trip for two staff members, with conference participation intended to continue. Copies also went to Montrose and sponsoring businesses, which could request additional copies. The organization planned more diligent distribution and leftover-copy tracking.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada: What growth and other distribution methods are planned for the next two years?

Horizon Magazine answer: Presenters wanted to expand community distribution and seek bids from local printers if needed to control costs. They did not operate a current website; the Language, Literature and Mass Communication department also distributed printed copies to incoming students. In response to Representative Meyer, they clarified that an older online magazine was no longer under the current team's control.

President Lorica and CFO Smith: Why does the Editor-in-Chief report more hours, and are duty hours additional to office hours?

Horizon Magazine answer: The Editor-in-Chief's office availability and responsibilities resulted in more reported hours, but she was willing to retain the \$480 monthly stipend. Duty hours were additional to office hours. The supplies request also included a camera so the staff would not have to rely entirely on checked-out equipment.

House Discussion

CFO Smith and the House Speaker clarified that the House would review requested student-fee revenue as a dollar amount; university budgeting staff would calculate the credit-hour fee using enrollment. Representative Clark-Scott requested that the workbook distinguish travel from software. Representative Rogers emphasized the workload and low compensation reported by

Horizon. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada supported the organization's efforts to control costs while expanding distribution, and Representative Ruehmann commended its fiscal restraint. President Lorica recalled a prior reserve request associated with increased production.

B. Campus Design Studio

Presentation

Lead Designer Elisabeth Christoff presented Campus Design Studio's design services, including logos, posters, shirts, stickers, the Stall Street Journal, the new Stall Street Social, and Homecoming concepts and assets. The printed journal had 16 annual volumes and 240 advertisement slots. The Instagram counterpart expanded advertising capacity and reach. CDS described collaborative review, task assignment, archived assets, and oversight by Student Life Advisor Gabriel Simon and university marketing staff.

CDS reported 48 unique graphics in FY26 and a \$2,777 surplus after a designer left and the position was not refilled. The surplus and the current \$600 computer-equipment allocation were intended to fund two replacement computers during FY27. The presenter described aging machines that could no longer run required design software and staff reliance on personal computers.

The proposed annual budget was \$26,780: \$25,780 for one Lead Designer and three Junior Designers, \$800 for non-capital computer equipment, and \$200 for supplies. This was \$3,300 above the displayed current total of \$23,480. The stipend request restored funding for the full four-person team at existing monthly rates of \$682 for the Lead Designer and \$632 for each Junior Designer, rather than increasing individual stipends. Supplies and equipment increases would support adapters, storage, and a seven-year computer-replacement goal.

Questions and Responses

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada: What events and collaborations does CDS support, and how could its role expand?

CDS answer: The studio mainly supported events through requested designs and stickers, with smaller collaborations with Horizon and The Criterion. It wanted to offer design workshops and strengthen its presence in Student Life and the art community. Services were free to Student Life and Student Services; other departments could be charged for materials or advertisements.

Representative Ruehmann and Representative McWilliams: Are the stipends monthly, how is the team structured, and who pays for printed posters?

CDS answer: Stipends were monthly for one Lead Designer and three Junior Designers. CDS designed the Stall Street Journal; CAB handled printing and club distribution. The CDS supplies line covered in-office materials and equipment rather than mass printing.

Representative Clark-Scott, Representative Martinez, and Representative Meyer: What work and qualifications justify the stipend levels?

CDS answer: Designers required substantial experience, portfolio review, proficiency with industry software, and the ability to meet university brand standards and client deadlines. Each project could require critique and multiple revisions. CDS reported at least two years of relevant experience for applicants and discussed the specialized skills needed to recruit qualified designers.

President Lorica and Representative Clark-Scott: How long do projects take, and how much submitted material is already usable?

CDS answer: Logos could take weeks to two months depending on revisions; stickers could take about six hours; individual journal advertisements could require three to five hours. Approximately 40–50 percent of submitted advertisements could be used without redesign. Other requests required substantial reformatting, original design, or later changes. CAB and participating clubs handled physical distribution.

Representative Rogers: What accounts for prior overspending, and how will recurring costs be controlled?

CDS and Gabriel Simon answer: Computer purchases were periodic equipment costs. Staff explained that the prior biennial appropriation had not fully funded all four constitution-based stipends, while individual compensation had continued at the established rates. Simon also described increased computer costs and emphasized that the earlier budgeting issue predated the current team.

Student Trustee Danica Kremidas and CFO Smith: Where do charges to outside departments appear, and should that revenue be included in the budget?

CDS and Gabriel Simon answer: The studio generally charged \$15 for print materials or advertisements and \$50 for a logo outside Student Life and Student Services. Those payments were organizational revenue and did not directly increase individual stipends. Simon explained that revenue and spending were accessed separately in Banner and were easier to review together in Workday. Historical billing timing and distribution problems had affected recorded revenue.

Representative McWilliams and Representative Rogers: What hours are required, and is time spent waiting for assignments?

CDS answer: Designers reported eight self-scheduled office hours and two additional office hours each week. They sometimes worked beyond those hours to complete projects. Additional work was not listed as a fixed duty-hour requirement, and there was a continuing queue of requests.

President Lorica, Representative Clark-Scott, Representative Ruchmann, and CFO Smith: What software costs do designers pay personally, and can group licensing reduce them?

CDS answer: Designers used personal computers and paid for individual Adobe Creative Cloud access, reported at approximately \$70 per month before available student discounts. No other large subscription was mandatory. Gabriel Simon said the university's educational licensing arrangement could not simply be extended to personal computers. CDS said student discounts did not always apply correctly.

House Discussion and Crosstalk

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada supported replacement equipment and workshops while questioning the reported compensation comparisons. Representatives Rogers and Clark-Scott advocated closer examination of stipends and possible redirection of funds toward equipment or software. Representative McWilliams raised a similar possibility. Representative Meyer favored compensation above the lowest comparison rates because of the value of the work. President Lorica emphasized designers' experience and the services they provided to other

organizations, while Representative Martinez supported better equipment and further review of compensation.

Representative Clark-Scott moved to enter crosstalk with the executives for an indefinite period. The motion was seconded and passed. Crosstalk began at 7:34 p.m.

Members discussed consistency in stipend comparisons across organizations, the value of specialized work, and the need to account for required hours, additional work, and personal software expenses. During crosstalk, CDS clarified its reported ten weekly office hours as eight self-scheduled hours and two shared hours; the Lead Designer estimated about 15 hours of total work per week.

Trey Downey advised members to evaluate the total work performed under a stipend system, using hourly calculations as a comparison rather than treating the stipend as hourly wages. He cautioned that new office- and duty-hour reporting expectations had been introduced after organizations began preparing proposals. Other participants emphasized project output and work performed at home, while CFO Smith urged use of a consistent comparison metric. Members and executives acknowledged the need for clearer documentation and standards.

The House Speaker indicated that compensation standards and scheduling would be revisited at the next Monday House meeting. Crosstalk ended at 7:52 p.m.

Recess

A seconded motion began a ten-minute recess at 7:52 p.m. A seconded motion ended the recess, and House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada resumed the hearing at 8:02 p.m.

CFO Smith departed at 7:56 p.m., during the recess.

C. 437CO Art Gallery

Presentation

Faculty Gallery Director Julia Crocetto described 437CO as a free, public, student-run teaching gallery at 437 Colorado Avenue in downtown Grand Junction. The gallery exhibited student work and national and international artists, provided curatorial and installation experience, and supported Art and Design clubs through paid exhibition assistance. Student attendants operated the gallery through hourly work-study positions; club members assisted with installation and removal of exhibitions.

The gallery described printed postcards, campus and community advertising, student-run social media, First Friday receptions, artist talks, workshops, and class visits. It reported professional partnerships and student career benefits. The director described staff training, professional operating standards, and collaboration with clubs to revise the 2021 constitution.

Budget figures were corrected and discussed during the meeting. The proposed annual budget was \$45,292. Major proposed lines included \$14,292 for student assistance, \$12,000 for professional service fees, and \$6,000 for club allocations. The director described about \$12,000 in available work-study funding against annual staffing needs for 30 opening hours per week across 51 weeks. The student-assistance increase would cover summer wages and a growing work-study shortfall.

Professional service fees covered visiting-artist travel, shipping, lodging, and related costs. The gallery reported \$6,834 recorded in FY26 plus \$3,000 shifted to FY27, for \$9,834 associated with the FY26 exhibitions. The director anticipated using reserves to cover FY27 costs, including the carried-over expense. The gallery proposed resuming juried exhibitions, with an

estimated \$4,000 in entry-fee revenue every other year, averaged to \$2,000 annually. Other increases addressed ordinary operating costs and equipment contingencies.

Questions and Responses

Representative Ruehmann: How should the fee figures be interpreted, and what other university support does the gallery receive?

Student Life staff explained that the House would consider a dollar revenue allocation and that university budgeting staff would derive the final credit-hour fee using updated enrollment. Staff identified \$0.19 as the current credit-hour fee; the shared worksheet showed \$0.23 proposed. Crocetto said the university covered rent and custodial support. She also requested clarification on how art and alcohol sales were reflected in revenue.

Representative Rogers and other participants: What generates miscellaneous income, and what visitation information is available?

Art Gallery answer: Miscellaneous income primarily came from fees for juried exhibitions, which the gallery intended to resume. Historic attendance information was difficult to recover. A clicker system now tracked entries and exits and monitored the 99-person occupancy limit. First Friday events were busy, while weekday visits were more gradual.

Members: How much is requested for club allocations, and is it part of student assistance?

Art Gallery answer: Club allocations were a separate category. The director clarified \$4,800 as the current allocation and \$6,000 as the proposal. Art and Design clubs rotated through skilled exhibition work, including installation, packing artwork, wall preparation, and maintenance; the payments supported the participating clubs.

Representative Clark-Scott: What supports the increases in professional fees and other operating lines?

Art Gallery answer: The FY26 professional-fee comparison needed to include the \$3,000 carried into FY27. The proposed \$450 dues and membership line supported the Call for Entry platform. Student-related functions reflected more accurate categorization and increased costs. Prizes and awards supported juried student shows, with \$1,100 described for award categories. A \$900 other-cost line provided an equipment contingency.

Representative McWilliams and House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada: Do the increases address operating costs or expansion?

Art Gallery answer: Supplies covered materials, repairs, display vinyl, and equipment replacement, while postage and other expenses were estimated using recent increases. The director sought to restore programming after reduced activity and to expand club and public involvement within the existing exhibition schedule.

Representative Rogers, Representative Livengood, and Representative Ruehmann: Is admission charged, and could fundraising or use of the space generate additional income?

Art Gallery answer: Admission remained free. Crocetto said she was exploring event partnerships and possible use of the space after seeking clarification about prior restrictions. Members suggested a fundraising event and discussed donations and other revenue opportunities; no event or revenue policy was approved.

House Discussion

Representative Rogers supported the gallery's educational and community role and encouraged greater university support. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada, Representative Ruehmann, and

Representative McWilliams expressed support for the proposal's explanation of costs and staffing needs. Ruehmann suggested examining whether a different university funding structure would be appropriate in the future. President Lorica urged members to consider student awareness, participation, and the value of student-fee support; Representative Clark-Scott agreed that reach and final numbers warranted further discussion.

With the House Speaker's permission, Representative Rogers invited the director to discuss growth. Crocetto said historical information was not readily accessible following the financial-system transition, but described continuing community interest, regular visitors, and the value of social media. Members emphasized the benefit of free public access.

VII. House Discussion

Representative Ruehmann requested access to current governing documents, noting that the House rules were not on the public website. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada said he believed the posted Constitution and bylaws were the current ratified versions and identified MavLife and the shared R drive as sources for the House rules. He offered to provide the document.

Ruehmann requested reconsideration of the November 3 final biennial budget meeting because at least four representatives expected conflicts; Representative Meyer also questioned his availability. President Lorica explained that the date had been communicated to organizations and connected to appeals and room reservations, while agreeing that it could be revisited. The date was not changed during this meeting.

***Follow-up:** The House Speaker identified three items for the next Monday House agenda: stipend standards and scheduling, updated Art Gallery figures, and reconsideration of the November 3 final biennial meeting date.*

VIII. Announcements

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada reminded representatives to submit biennial rubrics to him by Friday, October 9, and announced the next biennial hearing for the following week. The agenda scheduled that hearing for Tuesday, October 13, at 6:00 p.m. in UC 222.

President Lorica asked members to return completed paper rubrics for scanning and emphasized specific, constructive feedback. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada relayed that an organization from the prior hearing had requested more useful written comments. Lorica also reminded members to obtain WAVE punch cards from him.

Student Trustee Kremidas introduced her role as a liaison to the Board of Trustees, reporting student concerns and campus updates, and said she intended to attend biennial meetings despite conflicts with other ASG meeting times. President Lorica described the biennial recommendation process through the House, Senate, executive approval, and Board of Trustees consideration.

IX. Adjournment

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada adjourned the hearing at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff