

House of Representatives Biennial Hearing Minutes

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 | 6:04-9:42 p.m.

University Center, Meeting Room 213 | Presiding: Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada | Minutes: Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff

I. Call to Order

Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada called the ASG House of Representatives biennial hearing to order at 6:04 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		
Holt, Juli - 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 - Speaker	X		

Ten members were present at the opening roll call. Representative Ruehmann arrived late and was subsequently recognized on the roll during MavMedia questioning, bringing attendance to eleven.

Attendance was sufficient for quorum. During MavMedia questioning, the Speaker briefly stepped away, appointed President Lorica as temporary chair, and resumed the chair before the 7:28 p.m. recess.

III. Approval of the Agenda

***Action:** A motion to add executive reports before public input was accepted without objection. The agenda was approved as amended.*

IV. Executive and Branch Leader Reports

President Elijah Jaden Lorica

Welcomed members to the first biennial hearing, referred them to his and Dr. Montoya's prior communication, and encouraged detailed questions about organization activities, spending, and compensated positions. He described the hearing process as a shared ASG responsibility and acknowledged that the new rubric and position breakdown process would need refinement.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos

Encouraged members to ask questions until they understood each proposal, work together in making decisions, and treat presenters and one another respectfully in keeping with CMU's values.

Director of External Affairs Sophia Tassinari

Announced Meet ASG Grill Night for Thursday, October 1, from 4:15-6:15 p.m., and requested member participation. Requested assistance for the Saturday, October 3, Mavs Go Pink tailgate: setup from 1:45-3:00 p.m., the event from 3:00-5:45 p.m., and takedown beginning at 5:45 p.m.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith

Apologized for his late arrival and urged representatives to ask questions, give their input, and make decisions reflecting the students they represent without being intimidated by the audience.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

Explained that questions requiring additional information would receive follow-up after the hearing if they could not be answered immediately.

Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

Confirmed access to the consolidated spreadsheet and reminded each representative to submit a completed rubric for each of the four organizations heard that evening by Friday, October 2. Encouraged thorough questioning of the proposals.

V. Public Input

No public input was offered during the designated opening period.

VI. Biennial Budget Presentations

The House heard MavMedia, Outdoor Program, CMU Bands, and Associated Student Government in that order following an agenda amendment. The Speaker stated that this was a hearing and that organization budget votes were scheduled for November 3.

A. MavMedia

Presentation

MavMedia presenters described a new student organization carrying forward the work of KMSA and CMU TV through streaming, live sports, podcasts, studio productions, and digital media. They described hands-on training open to students across academic programs, weekly production opportunities, and 23 attendees at the first major member meeting, with volunteers returning for later productions.

Presenters requested an annual budget of \$86,020: \$46,000 for ten paid student positions, \$21,000 for non-capital production and computer equipment, \$11,670 for software and

maintenance contracts, and \$7,350 for supplies and student recognition. They compared the request with combined FY27 CMU TV and KMSA expenditure budgets of \$102,445 and described it as approximately 16 percent lower. They distinguished those budget allocations from actual historical expenditures, which they did not have available.

Questions and Responses

Representative Rogers: “How much does that pay each student?”

MavMedia answer: MavMedia presenters described annual stipends by role, including \$5,000 for the program director and \$4,500 for other listed positions. President Lorica’s questions clarified that the \$18,000 increase over the CMU TV stipend line included three former KMSA roles and a sponsorship role.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos: Asked why sponsorship work required a separate paid position rather than being assigned to an existing manager or director, and whether it would continue beyond the transition.

MavMedia answer: Presenters said existing staff already handled substantial production responsibilities. The proposed sponsorship director would contact businesses, develop packages, and ensure sponsors received the promised services. They envisioned an ongoing position with sponsorship arrangements renewed each semester; revenue projections and the detailed role were still being developed.

Representatives Martinez, Bragg, and CFO Smith: Asked about compensation differences, required hours and working weeks, and whether specialized director roles required different skills.

MavMedia answer: MavMedia presenters said the listed eight or ten hours were minimum expectations, actual production work could reach twenty to twenty-five hours, and the inherited descriptions needed revision. The presenters could not supply an hourly calculation or a complete prior-year stipend comparison. Presenters described shared training across production roles. The Speaker cited House Resolution 27-02’s \$10-per-hour, ten-hour-per-week baseline and requested additional justification for compensation above it; MavMedia presenters and the Speaker agreed to discuss the breakdown afterward.

Representative Ruehmann: “Do you have metrics on how many students are interacting with your content on social media and the website?”

MavMedia answer: Presenters said analytics were available, but the website was still in beta and had limited audience data. During the exchange, social-media figures of about 1,400 followers and more than 16,000 views in a month were provided. A campus launch and marketing effort were planned. President Lorica also asked for audience measurements and sponsorship plans.

Representatives Martinez and Garcia: Asked about dues and memberships, a \$2,250 supplies increase, advertising, and prizes and awards.

MavMedia answer: Presenters attributed the service costs to Wowza, web hosting, and website maintenance; described supplies such as shirts and media storage for an expanded volunteer group; and said awards recognized both staff and unpaid volunteers. Recruitment used flyers and social media produced internally.

Representatives Meyer, Rogers, and Ruehmann and the Speaker: Questioned the cost and necessity of Wowza when YouTube was available, how archives worked, and whether ad revenue could support the organization.

MavMedia answer: Presenters described a roughly \$10,000 starting cost for Wowza, varying with use, and said videos would move to YouTube for long-term archiving after about a year while remaining accessible through the website. They cited creative flexibility and concern about copyright flags interrupting live streams. They said there was no YouTube monetization, sponsorships were the intended revenue source, and Wowza had been chosen before the current manager's appointment. Asked which terms-of-service provision applied, MavMedia presenters responded, "I couldn't tell you." They offered to research the issue and provide additional information.

Representative Rogers and President Lorica: Asked about equipment replacement and why accumulated reserves were not being used for the requested purchases.

MavMedia answer: MavMedia presenters described studio equipment more than twelve years old, including cameras originally costing approximately \$100,000 each before accessories. They said production kits would be built over time and major replacements would eventually draw on reserves. They could not account fully for the FY26 deficit without historical expenditure records. Representative Holt's questions established that coverage focused on sports such as hockey and rugby and other events outside RMAC coverage; paid openings were filled through submitted resumes and interviews.

In response to Representative Livengood's question, CMU Budget Director Spencer Rockwell explained that the administrative service recharge allocated university support costs such as HR, payroll, and IT to auxiliary operations. He said the recharge had been removed from individual student-fee-funded organization budgets going forward.

Procedural Actions and House Discussion

***Action:** Representative Ruehmann was added to the roll during questioning. A motion to recognize Student Life Director Trey Downey was seconded, and Downey addressed the House.*

Downey encouraged members to focus on requested funding and its use, note platform questions for follow-up, and allow time for the remaining presentations.

The Speaker proposed limiting further questions to three minutes and one round per member. President Lorica advised that a House motion was required and recommended allowing continued questions. No motion was offered, and the proposed restriction was not adopted.

***Action:** While President Lorica temporarily chaired, a motion was made, seconded, and accepted without objection. MavMedia questioning continued.*

***Action:** Representative Clark-Scott moved for a five-minute recess. The House recessed at 7:28 p.m. and reconvened at 7:34 p.m.*

***Action:** After reconvening, a motion to end MavMedia questioning was accepted without objection, and the House entered discussion.*

***Action:** Representative Clark-Scott moved to amend the agenda to hear Outdoor Program and CMU Bands before ASG. The amendment was adopted.*

Representative Clark-Scott expressed concern about student stipends, the dues and memberships increase, transferred KMSA positions, and unanswered questions. He said the

information provided did not sufficiently justify the requested increases. These were comments during deliberation; no budget determination was made.

***Action:** Representative Ruehmann moved to end discussion of MavMedia and proceed. The motion was seconded and adopted. A two-minute setup recess was requested and seconded; the House recessed at 7:37 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.*

B. Outdoor Program

Presentation

Outdoor Program presenters described a student-led leadership program offering trips, free local outings, equipment rentals, bike and ski services, safety courses, and support for academic programs. They reported 1,639 participants across 179 programs in the previous year, about double FY24 participation, with approximately 75 percent of programming free and most activities beginner friendly. They highlighted community and university partnerships, free bike labor, and independently funded course scholarships.

The program requested a \$42,831 increase in student-fee support, for a total of \$296,008. Presenters attributed revenue shortfalls to poor snow and river conditions and lower boat rentals, while spending increased with programming, paid student training, and staffing. They proposed more conservative rental and gear-sale revenue estimates, supply reductions reflecting actual spending, a 20 percent equipment increase attributed to higher costs, and a tracked equipment replacement and resale schedule.

Office and rental work was paid hourly, with the base rate presented as \$15.16, while field work used daily or half-day stipends, generally starting at \$25-\$75 per day with relevant certifications affecting the rate. Other requested costs covered outfitter permits, vehicle use, professional development for three coordinators, and expanded external marketing. An \$8,000 employee out-of-state travel request would cover coordinator travel to help restore international trips, which had not operated since 2018, and reduce costs passed to students.

Questions and Responses

Representative Ruehmann: Asked how many students participated across Outdoor Program events during the year.

Outdoor Program answer: Presenters referred to the reported 1,639 participants. They did not provide a percentage of the entire student body.

Representative Martinez: “I do see you guys went over your budget by \$13,000 and \$16,000. Do you guys just have any insights into that?”

Outdoor Program answer: Outdoor Program presenters described limited access to budget information before the previous biennial, the lead coordinator’s earlier period working alone, and later spending above budget primarily to expand student programming. They said the team had gained budgeting experience and linked the expenditures to increased participation.

President Lorica and Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos: Asked about outside income, summer operations, MavWorks participation, staff pay, and how participation and survey data were collected.

Outdoor Program answer: Outdoor Program presenters identified equipment rentals, paid courses, trip charges, and gear sales as revenue sources, with much revenue earned during summer. Staff were required to apply for MavWorks but could remain employed without it. If MavWorks support ran out, the program would continue hourly pay from its own budget. An

Outdoor Program presenter explained, “The trip business is entirely stipended.” Trip stipends were calculated by role, relevant certifications, and days in the field. Participation was tracked for each trip and feedback collected through post-trip surveys.

Representative Meyer: “So you guys are only asking for \$8,000?”

Outdoor Program answer: The request covered required coordinator travel, rather than the entire cost of student international travel. Students would still pay their own portion; funding coordinator travel would reduce the premium otherwise charged to them.

Representative Holt: Asked how the additional marketing allocation would be used.

Outdoor Program answer: Outdoor Program presenters described expanding beyond campus publicity through external advertising and merchandise to increase awareness and rental revenue. The rental program was open to the public as well as the university community.

House Discussion

Representative Rogers described the program as a strong recruitment talking point for campus tours. CFO Smith said the field responsibilities and time involved could justify the stipend structure despite its difference from a weekly office-hours model. Representative Ruehmann supported the value of the program’s marketing and student opportunities in the region and considered the increases reasonable.

Action: A five-minute recess was moved and seconded before CMU Bands. The House recessed at 8:14 p.m. and reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

C. CMU Bands

Presentation

Presenters asked that the organization listed as Pep Bands be identified as CMU Bands. CMU Bands presenters described three academic classes and six performing ensembles, including the Maverick Stampede, pep bands, and Rowdy and Mesa Brass Bands. They emphasized campus spirit, student leadership, and recruitment through performances across Colorado, including major high-school audiences and touring ensembles.

The request was \$0.09 per credit hour, described as a 41.4 percent increase. The principal increase was \$20,000 for marching-band scholarships, with general-member scholarships intended to rise from \$250 to \$500 for the fall semester. The proposal included \$35,000 in brass-band stipends and \$28,000 in institutional scholarships, supplemented by a \$25,000 Tim Foster scholarship fund. Presenters proposed using departmental support for more supplies and employee travel, improving equipment repair and maintenance, and providing meals during lengthy game obligations.

Presenters explained that students were required to register and pay for a one-credit course despite substantial rehearsal and performance hours, that time commitments could limit outside employment, and that higher scholarships were intended to improve participation and recruitment.

Questions and Responses

Representative Martinez: Asked how student stipends and scholarships worked.

CMU Bands answer: A CMU Bands presenter explained the two brass ensembles would receive monthly stipends: “And that way, if a student decides to not continue to participate, I can stop paying.” Marching-band students would remain on fall scholarships because of the

group's size. The proposed \$35,000 stipend line supported the brass ensembles, while marching-band support remained in the scholarship category.

President Lorica and Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos: Asked about other funding sources and whether student fees covered scholarships and stipends beyond the Tim Foster Fund.

CMU Bands answer: Presenters identified the \$25,000 Tim Foster scholarship fund and explained that the requested \$28,000 scholarship line would bring those scholarship resources to \$53,000. Other departmental support covered shared staffing and supplies, so they could not isolate every athletic-band cost. They offered to review the departmental budgets for a fuller funding breakdown.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos: Asked how many members participated across the bands.

CMU Bands answer: Presenters reported approximately 150 members and discussed a goal of 200-250 with stronger financial support.

House Discussion

Representative Garcia emphasized recruitment from the Montrose area. Representative Rogers described the bands' frequent presence and positive effect at campus events. The Speaker drew on his prior marching-band experience to support the presenters' description of limited funding and the feasibility of their growth goals.

***Action:** A five-minute recess was taken before ASG. The House recessed at 8:48 p.m. and reconvened at 8:54 p.m.*

D. Associated Student Government

Presentation

ASG presenters described the organization's student advocacy, outreach, events, administrative meetings, and responsibility to maintain accessible, accountable student representation. They explained the separate Operational, Regional and National Competition Fund (RNCF), Student Controlled Reserve Fund (SCRF), Transportation, and MESA budgets. The club-allocation funds supported different eligible expenses, Transportation also funded Grand Valley Transit passes, and MESA primarily supported Fuel for Finals.

Presenters outlined requests for each of the five budgets, including \$41,463 for SCRF, \$15,822 for Transportation, and \$1,000 for MESA. They described most requests as similar to or below prior amounts.

Presenters reviewed duties for the president, vice president, CFO, Chief of Staff, Director of External Affairs, press secretary, student trustee, Speaker, and Senate Leader. They distinguished required office hours from meetings, events, minutes preparation, club consultations, and other work beyond those hours. They reviewed proposed compensation for the positions.

Questions and Responses

Representative Ruehmann: Asked for Grand Valley Transit usage metrics and a breakdown of Transportation Fund spending on passes.

Student Life Director Trey Downey answer: Student Life Director Trey Downey said ASG had moved from a flat \$20,000 campus-wide arrangement back to payment for actual pass users because utilization was low. He reported a cost of approximately \$5,000 in the previous year, with quarterly billing and usage data and the next report expected in October. Ruehmann requested the data before the final budget meeting.

Representative Clark-Scott and CFO Smith: Asked that the budget spreadsheet be updated and the operational increase justified.

ASG answer: ASG presenters acknowledged that the spreadsheet was not current. Later, in response to Representative Martinez's question about the \$3,954 increase, they said the increase was assigned to supplies for events and organizational needs, allowing more flexibility than the prizes and awards line.

CFO Smith and the Speaker: Asked why ASG used five budgets and whether separate restrictions governed their use.

ASG answer: Presenters said distinct budgets and definitions made eligibility clearer, supported consistent funding decisions, and kept both ASG and applicant clubs accountable. The Speaker clarified the distinction between restricted fund uses and general advice, and the presenters referred to definitions in governing documents.

CFO Smith: "How do you justify the increase for the president and the vice president?" Smith also questioned reliance on office hours rather than compensated duty hours under House Resolution 27-02.

ASG answer: An ASG presenter said, "Basically, we're only paying for the work that we do in the office." Presenters described meetings, events, initiatives, and work preparing the biennial process as additional responsibilities. They cited active work throughout office hours and work beyond those hours as justification for the rates above the \$10 baseline.

Representative Ruehmann: Asked whether incoming freshmen were being discouraged from bringing cars and how that affected the need for transit support.

ASG answer: ASG presenters described conversations about parking and cars that did not move for long periods. A recognized public participant said first-year students were discouraged from bringing cars. Representative Rogers confirmed that admissions tours discouraged bringing cars but did not describe a prohibition. Ruehmann said reduced car use could change his view of the transit allocation.

Representative Martinez: Asked about the vehicle and telephone lines and the governing documents supporting the compensation request.

ASG answer: Presenters said the telephone line supported the ASG office phone and vehicle rentals could support meetings at other campuses. Members requested documentation supporting the compensation rates.

House Discussion and Follow-Up

Representative Ruehmann: "If that hasn't been passed yet, why are we using it for the budget request?"

ASG answer: An ASG presenter responded, "I'll get back to you on that." The Speaker and President agreed to locate the governing documents and prior approval records. Ruehmann requested prior minutes supporting the compensation rates.

***Action:** Representative Ruehmann moved to end biennial discussion and enter general House discussion. The motion was accepted.*

VII. House Discussion

Representative Ruehmann said at least four representatives could not attend the November 3 budget vote and asked about changing the date, suggesting Thursday, November 5, as a

possible alternative. He expressed concern that members unable to attend would lose the opportunity to represent their constituents in the vote.

The Speaker said quorum would still be available on November 3, but any scheduling change required internal discussion and coordination with the organizations because the schedule had been distributed in August. He agreed to bring the issue to the next regular House discussion. No date change was adopted.

VIII. Announcements

Each representative's biennial rubrics for the four organizations heard were due to the Speaker Friday, October 2. The agenda listed the next biennial hearing for Tuesday, October 6, at 6:00 p.m. in UC 222. Members were reminded of the Thursday grill event, beginning at 4:15 p.m. in the plaza.

IX. Adjournment

Speaker Alonzo-Estrada adjourned the hearing at **9:42 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff

