

House of Representatives Biennial Hearing Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | 6:00–7:50 p.m. | UC 213

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

The opening roll call was recorded as follows:

<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 - Students with Disabilities	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		

All ten representatives were present, and quorum was established.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Action: A motion to add the Food Pantry to the biennial presentations was seconded and adopted without objection. The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

IV. Executive Reports

Senate Leader Logan Wilson: Wilson encouraged members to be mindful of the organizations presenting and thanked them for their due diligence.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop: Bishop explained that weekly presentation materials were included with the biennial minutes on the ASG website as combined PDFs for public review.

President Elijah Jaden Lorica: Lorica encouraged continued respectful questioning and attention to presenters. He asked members to review Director of External Affairs Sophia Tassinari's email about helping with the upcoming Saturday tailgate.

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada: Alonzo-Estrada thanked attendees and reminded representatives to remain engaged and respectful. Members wishing to yield to another person were to return the floor to the chair, who would recognize the next speaker.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith, Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos, and Student Trustee Danica Kremidas had no reports.

V. Public Input

No public input was offered.

VI. Biennial Budget Presentations

a. Criterion

Presentation: Editor-in-Chief Julia Wildman and Managing Editor Dana Dial presented Criterion's role as the student newspaper and a historical record of CMU. Founded in 1931, the organization publishes sixteen editions annually across News, Art & Life, Sports, and Opinions. It provides paid reporting, photography, design, and editing experience and follows Society of Professional Journalists standards.

Presenters reported forty-eight student contributors during 2025–2026 and thirty-four contributors across the first four editions of 2026–2027. The prior year included 344 articles and seventeen letters to the editor. They described local reporting, editor evaluations, anonymous tips, community newspaper relationships, alumni employment, and national and regional awards. Engagement figures included 1,919 social media followers, approximately 200,000 views in thirty days, and 177,017 website visitors over the prior year. They also reported increased newspaper pickup and described how reporting supports accountability and CMU's values.

Budget proposal: Criterion requested \$71,322 for each of fiscal years 2028 and 2029, compared with current student-fee funding of \$68,088: an increase of \$3,234, or 4.7%. Proposed expenditures included \$50,000 in student stipends, \$7,500 in printing, \$3,000 in out-of-state travel, \$1,800 in supplies, \$1,500 in computer replacement funding, \$850 in website hosting, and \$300 in dues and memberships.

Presenters explained the retained \$5,000 advisor wage and \$1,172 benefit provision, the latter retained as a precaution despite questions about its applicability. They described missing or differently classified historical entries for benefits, travel, software, and memberships. Delayed printing invoices associated with a vendor transition and Workday complications had reduced recorded prior-year printing expenses. The printing increase would support longer editions and inflation.

The proposed editorial positions totaled \$39,650. Changes included removing the second Sports Editor position, adding two General Assignment Reporters at \$100 per month, and adjusting other stipends. Each reporter would attend pitch meetings and write four articles monthly at \$25 per article; the presentation listed four office hours and twelve duty hours monthly. A graduated payment scale compensated other writers, photographers, designers,

and comic artists. Projected contributor payments for the current year were \$8,240, reflecting increased participation and larger editions.

Questions and Responses

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada: Asked whether the archives were accessible to students. Presenters said digital records were available through the library's Special Collections and Archives, which also maintained physical copies.

President Lorica: Asked about the printing volume and proposed increase. Presenters clarified that they printed 800 copies per edition and sought more pages per copy rather than a larger print run. The existing printing allowance assumed eight pages, while recent editions regularly contained ten or more.

Representative Clark-Scott: Asked how the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor duties differed. Wildman described final editorial responsibility and external relationships with printers and local media. Dial managed internal staff coordination, pitch meetings, finances, and contributor stipend calculations. Both reviewed every word published.

Representative Clark-Scott: Asked Smith about the difference between the \$39,650 position schedule and the \$50,000 stipend request. Smith and the presenters explained that the position schedule excluded other paid contributors and that the larger request allowed for their work, participation growth, and the newly introduced graduated payment scale. Clark-Scott said the explanation satisfied his question.

Senate Leader Wilson: Asked about the \$600 supplies increase and funding eleven replacement Macs at approximately \$2,000 each in 2028. Presenters said the supplies request reflected prior spending while remaining conservative. The \$1,500 annual computer provision had accumulated in reserves over several biennials for the replacement cycle.

CFO Smith: Requested an advertising revenue projection. Presenters explained the difficulty of maintaining advertiser relationships as student positions turned over and reported \$360 in sales so far that year. Smith suggested considering \$700; the presenters agreed to return with a projection.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada: Asked about the \$850 website expense and services purchased. Presenters identified WordPress hosting and said they did not purchase additional services.

House Discussion and Follow-up

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada supported the organization's financial management and growth. Representatives Martinez and McWilliams praised the justifications, organized position information, and presentation. Bragg appreciated the paper materials and considered the increase reasonable. Wilson and Smith commended the preparation while seeking clarification of particular historical entries and replacement planning.

Follow-up: Criterion representatives would provide Smith with a projected advertising revenue amount for the budget worksheet.

Action: A motion for a seven-minute recess was seconded and adopted without objection at 6:31 p.m. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada reconvened the hearing at 6:38 p.m.

b. Monfort Family Human Performance Lab

Presentation: Lab technicians Spencer Olson, Sydney Baxter, and Delaney Forbes described physiological and biomechanical testing, undergraduate research, and hands-on experience with specialized equipment. Services included body composition, resting metabolic rate, and VO₂ max testing, with student testing generally provided free and community testing available at reduced rates. They reported 364 free body composition tests in 2025. Outreach included social media, prospective-student tours, campus classes, community events, and the related Exercise Physiology Research Club.

Budget proposal: The lab requested \$26,360 for each of fiscal years 2028 and 2029: \$14,550 in student assist, \$4,910 in supplies, \$520 in software, \$1,120 in equipment repair and maintenance, \$1,030 in maintenance supplies, \$1,630 in insurance, and \$2,600 in non-capital equipment. Student employment was the principal increase, reflecting wage costs and difficulty obtaining MavWorks funding. Four student employees would work 7.5 hours weekly for thirty-two weeks, using a stated rate of \$15.16 per hour.

The presentation listed eight of the ten student employees supported by MavWorks. The lab sought at least two employees during weekday hours of 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. to support simultaneous testing, tours, and participant comfort. The written non-capital equipment justification identified heart-rate monitors, lactate analyzers, watches, and similar equipment.

Other proposed costs supported calibration gases, testing strips, gloves, cleaning supplies, software, insurance, and repairs. Presenters described aging equipment and an \$11,231 replacement of failed force-plate amplifiers. The multi-year equipment and software plan totaled \$114,000, including treadmills, a metabolic cart, motion analysis equipment, and annual force-plate software. They cited approximately \$80,000 in reserves and said Kinesiology Department contributions could help finance equipment and conference costs.

Questions and Responses

Representative Clark-Scott: Questioned the \$4,910 supplies request relative to prior reported spending, an expense-card entry, and insurance costs. Presenters could not fully explain the supplies amount and believed the card had supported departmental travel or lab purchases. A clarification during questioning explained that the expense-card entry represented transactions not yet assigned to expense categories. Presenters believed the insurance related to a replacement force-plate component.

Representative McWilliams: Asked how planned equipment purchases would be financed and whether the supplies request was intended to build replacement funds. Presenters said some requested funds and existing reserves could support equipment needs, with reserves also protecting class operations when major equipment failed.

CFO Smith: Asked how the lab would cover approximately \$115,000 in contemplated equipment costs and what other funding was available. Presenters said the Kinesiology Department sometimes matched or shared costs, but did not provide a fixed contribution amount.

CFO Smith: Asked for actual testing revenue. Presenters clarified that the displayed \$27,300 valuation of 364 student body composition tests represented the value of free services at an illustrative \$75 rate. Community members paid for testing, with approximately \$40 cited for

an individual test. Presenters did not provide annual community-testing receipts in response and agreed to supply them by email.

CFO Smith: Asked about additional outreach and the \$2,600 non-capital equipment request. Presenters described local gym connections, flyers, fundraising, alumni referrals, graduate program participation, and an engineering research project. They said older computers attached to lab equipment remained functional, while the requested funds could accumulate toward eventual replacement.

Representative Clark-Scott: Asked for annual usage figures. Presenters described four regular classes of approximately twenty to thirty students meeting once or twice weekly, additional class visits, wellness referrals, and athletic testing before, during, and after seasons. They could not provide a complete annual count because usage varied by course and team schedules.

Vice President Gallegos: Asked how much Athletics and Kinesiology contributed and how many students outside those programs used the lab. Presenters said student wages were supported by employment-program funding and the student-assist budget; departmental assistance varied and generally supported other activities. Fundraising and competition awards also helped offset conference travel. They estimated only a few independent users outside athletics and classes so far that year and described efforts to broaden access.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada: Asked about the Monfort family's relationship to the lab, the possible combination of supplies with expense-card transactions, and prospective-student tours. Presenters attributed the lab's name to a substantial founding contribution, without providing an amount. They considered combined transaction classifications a possible explanation for the supplies figure. Student technicians generally led lab tours and hoped to have all prospective-student tours visit, beyond those specifically interested in exercise science.

House Discussion and Follow-up

Rogers emphasized the educational value of undergraduate access to specialized equipment and the lab's service to multiple programs. Clark-Scott requested more supporting detail on certain budget lines. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada and Smith sought explanations for supplies, insurance, and other entries. Ruehmann requested stronger attendance metrics as they became available and recognized the lab's value to CMU.

Wilson distinguished the related Exercise Physiology Research Club's funding from the lab budget and described its history of small travel requests. He raised compatibility concerns when replacing computers connected to older specialized equipment. Smith clarified that his question concerned whether the \$2,600 computer provision reflected average replacement needs.

Lorica requested concrete departmental contribution figures, the uses of those funds, broader student participation data, and an account of how lab time was divided among research, classes, and teams before budget decisions. He also suggested examining Athletics' financial contribution. Student Trustee Kremidas noted that the technicians were at a disadvantage answering administrative purchasing questions without the director present.

Follow-up: House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada would circulate an email including the lab director and House members to obtain explanations of the supplies and expense-card entries, insurance, replacement planning, departmental contributions, and usage metrics. Lab representatives agreed to provide actual community testing revenue.

Action: Representative Ruehmann's motion for a ten-minute recess was seconded and adopted without objection at 7:16 p.m. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada reconvened the hearing at 7:26 p.m.

c. Food Pantry

Presentation: Trey Downey presented the Pantry's work to address food insecurity and provide free food to all CMU students. The program was administered by Isabel Manzanares, Executive Assistant to the Senior Vice President of Student Services. Access did not require full-time enrollment or a demonstration of need. Students could select items in person or request prepared food bags.

The main Pantry was in Lowell Heiny Hall, Room 141, with satellite locations at Tomlinson Library and the Hamilton Recreation Center lobby. Services also operated through Student Services in Kayenta Hall at CMU Tech and the Branscome Student Center, Room 112, in Montrose. One satellite location had been moved to improve access.

Downey described outreach through the resource website, IRIS, Residence Life, Sodexo, the Wellness Center, employees, and signs. Partnerships with Food Bank of the Rockies, City Market, the CMU Foundation, Sodexo, local media, and HygienePalooza supplied approximately \$30,000 in in-kind support. Sodexo helped offset meal-swipe costs through Swipe Out Hunger. Plans to collect day-old Panera bakery goods were still being arranged, including a distribution location.

Budget proposal: The requested budget remained \$21,631: \$18,000 for supplies, \$631 for advertising, \$1,800 for equipment repair and maintenance, and \$1,200 for non-capital equipment. Downey explained food and hygiene purchases, reusable signs, maintenance contingencies, and equipment such as a freezer. The request continued existing services and partnerships without an increase.

Questions and Responses

Senate Leader Wilson: Asked how usage was measured following the location change. Downey explained that earlier swipe-in tracking had discouraged use. The Pantry instead monitored inventory and food turnover to preserve accessible service. Usage had increased, although unique-user counts were not maintained. He was exploring a passive counting method with IT.

Senate Leader Wilson: Asked how the unchanged request would address grocery inflation and accommodate food allergies. Downey cited recurring donations, careful purchasing of nutritious food, and partnerships that expanded the program's reach. Students could use an online request form to communicate dietary needs and arrange a discreet prepared bag.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada: Asked whether the request was sufficient to sustain the program. Downey said the current amount remained adequate with partnership support and reported approximately \$37,000 in reserves for contingencies.

Representative Ruehmann: Asked why the Pantry was funded through student fees instead of another university budget. Downey explained that the service directly supported students. Ruehmann expressed strong support based on his experience using the Pantry and its importance as a basic resource.

President Lorica: Asked about a staff and faculty benefits entry appearing in the shared worksheet. Downey clarified that the Pantry had only the four expense categories presented. Smith explained that a Sustainability Council format had been used while copying the Pantry budget and corrected the affected labels and expenditure cells. The House was directed to the Pantry tab.

Student Trustee Kremidas: Asked how students learned about the discreet request form. Downey believed a posted QR code led to the campus resource page containing the form, but had not checked the destination himself.

House Discussion

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada emphasized the Pantry's role in meeting basic needs and praised the leadership and community partnerships. McWilliams described the service's value based on personal experience and suggested considering additional support. In response to his worksheet question, Smith confirmed that the corrected Pantry tab contained the relevant budget.

VII. House Discussion

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada said he was drafting the Performance Lab follow-up email for House members and the director. He announced that Little Mavs would be added to October 27, bringing that hearing to six organizations and the next two hearings to eleven organizations total. He encouraged members to prepare for the longer sessions.

Clark-Scott asked about mandatory safety training. Vice President Gallegos clarified that it was scheduled for October 28, rather than the next day, for organization members working in Student Life. She described the need for emergency and evacuation awareness and said she would try to shorten that week's Senate agenda. Clark-Scott noted a conflicting meeting; Gallegos would follow up on the scheduling issue.

VIII. Announcements

Biennial evaluation rubrics were due to House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada on Friday, October 16. The next biennial hearing was announced for Tuesday, October 20, at 6:00 p.m. in UC 222.

Bragg asked whether the larger room could be obtained for the next two hearings. Vice President Gallegos explained that UC 213 had limited availability, would ask again, and would notify members if a larger room became available.

IX. Adjournment

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada adjourned the hearing at 7:50 p.m.