House of Representatives Biennial Budget Hearing Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | 6:00-10:33 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 budget hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. in UC 213.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Representative	*Present*	*Excused*	*Unexcused*
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	
Rogers, Triston - Student Athletes	X		
Ruehmann, James - At Large	X		
House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada	X		

Seven members were present, and quorum was established. Representative Zaira Garcia participated online. Representative Nathan McWilliams was excused.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Action: The agenda was amended through a seconded motion to move Little Adventures first, add Club Sports, and correct the final biennial meeting to Monday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m. The amended agenda was approved without objection. Club Sports was heard immediately after Little Adventures.

IV. Executive Reports

Senate Leader Logan Wilson: No report.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith: No report.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop: Reported that biennial feedback forms would be posted to the ASG website by the end of the week and grouped by hearing.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos: No report.

President Elijah Jaden Lorica: Apologized for missing the previous House meeting, encouraged respectful feedback and recesses as needed, and requested help with the Saturday, October 31, tailgate at 11:00 a.m.

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada: Thanked members for their work and urged them to resolve remaining questions with organizations before Monday. Offered to provide contacts.

V. Public Input

No public input was recorded during the designated period.

VI. Biennial Budget Presentations

a. Little Adventures Childcare Center

Presentation and request: Requested $84,924, a $10,000 reduction from the current $94,924 budget. The proposal includes $55,257 for student assistance and $29,667 in professional service fees supporting childcare tuition credits. Other operating costs would move to Auxiliary Services. Presenters described the center as both an on-campus childcare resource and a lab school providing hands-on experience and credentials for student workers.

Student perspective: A student parent and teacher described how work-study employment, practical training, and childcare tuition assistance supported her return to college and progress toward teaching credentials.

The Speaker: Asked how work at the center supports teacher credentials. Presenters explained that supervised experience and training, including infant CPR and classroom-management instruction, help workers obtain industry credentials, advance in responsibility, and improve future employment opportunities.

Clark-Scott: Asked about the change from Little Mavs to Little Adventures and raised reported inspection concerns involving records, staffing ratios, and safety. Presenters explained that the former board-run nonprofit contracted with Access Early Education Foundation after leadership turnover and compliance problems. They acknowledged legitimate past failures, said some allegations were unfounded, and described the new operator as providing regulatory expertise and prompt correction of remaining administrative issues.

Clark-Scott: Also requested staffing and pay details. Presenters said student employees start at minimum wage, approximately 22-26 work at the center at a given time, and approximately 45-50 are employed over a year. Scheduling is flexible around classes and students' educational needs.

Senate Leader Wilson: Asked about student contact with children, screening, parent feedback, the transfer of operating expenses, and university oversight. Presenters said student workers undergo the same screening and background checks as other staff, and described mandatory and anonymous reporting channels. They reported varied parent feedback and a Colorado Shines rating of three, improved from two. Auxiliary Services would cover the transferred operating costs, and Jeff Piper, Assistant Vice President of Auxiliary Services, manages the operating contract and facility-related needs.

Ruehmann: Asked about a state childcare inspection or report. The presenter could not identify the specific report and offered to follow up. The Speaker agreed to connect the House with the presenter.

Martinez: Asked about professional service fees, enrollment, and satellite locations. Presenters explained that student fees reimburse a 25% childcare tuition discount for student families. Enrollment varies seasonally from approximately 60 to 80 children, with about 60 full-time; there are no satellite centers at Montrose or CMU Tech.

President Lorica: Asked about tuition costs, community enrollment, eligibility for student employment, and other funding. Presenters described rates ranging from approximately $600 per month for part-time care of an older child to more than $1,200 for full-time infant care. Community families may enroll, but student families receive priority. Work-study students from any major may apply, with related programs receiving additional consideration. The center is otherwise essentially self-funded.

CFO Smith: Clarified that the enrollment figure included all children, with approximately 22 student families and a similar number of faculty and staff families. The remaining families are community members. Presenters confirmed that the separate 10% faculty/staff discount is absorbed operationally.

House discussion: Rogers recognized the value for student parents while emphasizing the seriousness of the reported safety concerns and requesting clearer staffing information. Clark-Scott acknowledged corrective steps but sought further clarification. Wilson did not propose a budget amendment. Smith explained that the request directly benefits student employees and student families, rather than providing unrestricted support to the contracted operator, and noted the administrative value of specialized childcare expertise.

Follow-up: The Speaker emailed the House a connection to Jeff Piper for inspection and operational questions. Smith noted that the separate paid-position feedback request was directed primarily toward stipend positions.

b. Club Sports

Presentation and request: Requested $62,000: $22,000 for regional/national championship travel, $30,000 for club allocations, and $10,000 supporting the rodeo-associated student concert. The presenter described a reduced request, removal of university-paid athletic-trainer costs now covered through Community Hospital, and consolidation of supplies and event expenses into allocations.

Program scope: Distinguished NCAA programs, intercollegiate sports outside the NCAA, and student-run activities managed through Student Life. The accompanying ledger listed 299 athletes across 12 intercollegiate programs and $161,500 in club dues. The presenter reviewed postseason participation and championship results and described tuition support, dues, fundraising, and student-fee support as separate funding sources.

Senate Leader Wilson: Asked whether the $22,000 travel allocation was the teams' only support and how the rodeo allocation is used. The presenter said teams receive differing tuition-support amounts and cover regular-season costs through dues and fundraising. The championship-travel allocation is available only after qualification and is distributed with athlete numbers in mind. The rodeo allocation helps provide a free student concert in conjunction with the rodeo; the event aims to break even.

CFO Smith: Asked how dues are established, how fundraising responsibilities differ, and why some teams fall under Club Sports while others fall under Student Life. The presenter said

dues and fundraising address the gap between operating expenses and other support. Management assignments are reviewed annually, considering paid coaches, league obligations, athletic-training requirements, facilities, and mandatory home/away competition.

President Lorica: Asked about the teams transferred to Student Life. The presenter identified seven and distinguished their student-run participation model from the league-based intercollegiate programs. CAB's presentation later addressed the resulting responsibilities and support needs.

House discussion: Ruehmann and Clark-Scott welcomed the decrease. Rogers supported the rodeo/concert allocation as a valuable student event and recognized the cost of animal care and event operations. Wilson sought clarification on the relationship between breaking even, fundraising, and student-fee support. Smith questioned the inference that a reduced request implied an operating loss.

Action: On Ruehmann's seconded motion, the House entered five minutes of crosstalk with executives and the presenter at 7:04 p.m. A ten-minute extension was granted at 7:09 p.m. Crosstalk ended by motion at 7:16 p.m.

Crosstalk summary: Participants clarified that the rodeo coach raises community support for the rodeo, while the $10,000 student-fee component supports the associated concert. The $30,000 allocation also supports regular-season needs such as uniforms, facilities, and student events; the $22,000 championship-travel component is separate. Members discussed variable event expenses, the aim of breaking even, dues, and how transferred sports would affect CAB's request. Smith distinguished the reduction in requested revenue from the change in expected expenditures.

Action: On Livengood's seconded motion, the House recessed at 7:17 p.m. and resumed at 7:27 p.m.

c. Cultural Inclusion Council

Presentation and request: Requested $178,956, including $89,760 for student stipends, $40,000 for professional service fees, $21,000 for alliance allocations, and $15,000 for general official functions. Presenters described support for seven cultural alliances, campus events, cultural education, and community-building. Accountability measures include monthly check-ins, office-hour and event records, improvement plans, withholding stipends for unmet responsibilities, and removal when problems persist.

Budget changes: Proposed transitioning from the capacity-limited fashion show to Unity Underground, an EDM concert intended to reach more students. The professional service fee request includes a $30,000 increase. Presenters also explained reallocating travel funds to supplies, moving graduation-stole costs into printing, and increasing stipends to recognize documented office and duty hours.

Martinez: Asked about prior overspending, alliance allocations, ticketing, participation, and a highlighted stipend discrepancy. Presenters attributed the small prior overspend to support for alliance events. Each alliance receives $2,000, with an additional shared pool available through a request process requiring fundraising, event plans, and budget details. They estimated 500-1,000 students involved across the alliances. Student admission to the fashion

show is free; other attendees are charged. The highlighted worksheet question was subsequently resolved during discussion.

Rogers: Asked about stipend comparisons, allocation requirements, and merchandise. Presenters said coordinators had previously been compensated using six office hours although their work averaged ten hours when duties were included; the proposal accounts for that additional work. They described a Microsoft Forms funding request, a ten-fundraiser annual expectation with progress and planned activity considered, and staff uniforms as the merchandise expense.

President Lorica: Asked about the concert's recurring cost, reserve support, student demand, and the definition of duty hours. Presenters said the first concert would use a less costly DJ, while future funding would allow a better-known performer. Without the requested increase, they would retain a smaller event. Duty hours cover meetings, preparation, marketing, shopping, rehearsals, and wider CIC activities, varying across the year. They cited new-student events, homecoming, the carnival, s'mores nights, collaborations, and alliance heritage programming.

CFO Smith: Asked about two coordinators per alliance, differing workloads, and the combined twenty compensated hours per alliance. Presenters confirmed fourteen coordinators across seven alliances and explained differences in programming and volunteer support. Alliances hold at least two events per month and four during their heritage month. CIC leadership manages coordinators and organizes the council's major events.

House discussion: Rogers questioned whether the concert would represent all alliances; presenters said the initial Latin/Hispanic focus could change in future years and other cultural components would be included. Ruehmann urged close review of the substantial increase. Martinez raised potential audience saturation from multiple organizations' concerts; Ruehmann agreed, and the Speaker relayed Garcia's agreement through Teams.

Further discussion: Smith distinguished the audiences and purposes of different concerts but questioned the additional value of replacing the fashion show and sought clearer workload support. Lorica questioned planning future concert spending before budget approval and distinguished CIC leadership from alliance coordinators. Student Trustee Danica Kremidas questioned whether event advertising adequately reflected the reported frequency of programming. Presenters reported approximately 500 fashion-show attendees and 70 participating student models, with ballroom capacity limiting expansion.

Compensation review: Vice President Gallegos said requests above the communicated $10 comparison rate needed clear justification. Trey Downey cautioned against treating stipends solely as hourly wages and encouraged evaluating the responsibilities and value of each position. Ruehmann supported using hours as context while reviewing the overall stipend amount. The Speaker deferred broader compensation standards to House Discussion.

Action: The House recessed on a motion at 8:07 p.m. Rogers' seconded motion extended the recess by ten minutes at 8:10 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

d. Sustainability Council

Presentation and request: Requested $33,200, a decrease. The proposal maintains four leadership positions, funds meetings and events, provides $2,000 for New Way Refillery, and

includes $2,000 to purchase and maintain bicycles for GJ Bike Night. The presenter described weekly student programs, recycling improvements, Bee Campus work, and community sustainability partnerships. The proposal removes the composting-facility manager position and associated fees because of underuse.

Budget clarification: Ruehmann identified a mismatch between the presented request and the shared worksheet. Smith and the presenter reviewed how the proposed expenses should map to stipend, supplies, and other accounts so the worksheet could reflect the $33,200 request.

Livengood: Asked about purchasing rather than renting bicycles, the Bike Night schedule, and the refillery's services and usage. The presenter said bicycles are currently rented from the Outdoor Program, and Bike Night runs Fridays from mid-March through October. The refillery offers soap and detergent; exact participation figures had not been received, but the semester allocation is generally used or nearly exhausted.

Martinez: Asked about prior-year unspent funds. The presenter was new to the council and could not explain earlier surpluses, but offered to investigate.

House discussion: Ruehmann supported the reduced request. The Speaker clarified that the House approves dollar amounts rather than a per-credit-hour figure. Lorica asked why the council had funded Student Life equipment, including a dunk tank and event fencing. Downey explained that the purchases supported shared needs and that reusable fencing replaced recurring construction-fence costs during a period of limited council activity.

Reserves: Rogers asked members to consider approximately $76,000 in reserves and the organization's spending history. Lorica asked whether earlier facility considerations limited use of those reserves. Staff recalled possible facility upgrades. The presenter had focused on the operating proposal and had not prepared a specific reserve-use plan.

e. Rowdy Wranglers

Presentation and request: Requested $101,318: $58,218 in stipends, $24,000 in supplies, $8,000 for the land-use agreement, $6,000 in rentals, $4,000 in repairs, $800 in professional fees, and $150 each for advertising and non-capital computer equipment. Presenters described year-round care of Rowdy, transportation, event planning, safety training, and growing campus/community participation. They attributed prior overspending to lost uniform sponsorship and the unbudgeted transfer of full-time mascot care and facility responsibilities.

Positions: Explained weekly responsibilities for five wranglers, a lead wrangler, vice president, and president, with additional event hours beyond the constitutional care/office-hour expectations. The proposal includes summer care and higher stipends reflecting workload and the hazards of handling the live mascot.

Rogers: Asked about feed, local suppliers, members' personal costs, and whether vehicle rentals are necessary. Presenters described drought-related supply limits and purchasing hay from Murdoch's. Members supply boots, belts, and related personal uniform items. Truck or trailer rentals are needed when suitable university equipment is unavailable or requires repair.

Ruehmann: Asked about increased feed costs, the transfer of round-the-clock care, and hazardous work. Presenters said the former arrangement could not accommodate both mascots and the rodeo facility lacked space. The $8,000 land-use agreement with Butch Downey covers land, water, equipment use, and upkeep. They described past injury concerns and emergency evaluations and requested protective vests for the entire team.

The Speaker: Asked about continuity, recruitment, and Rowdy's enclosure. Presenters described officer applications, advisor involvement, interviews, hands-on assessment, and training future leaders while current officers remain available. They cited approximately thirty applicants per hiring cycle, improved fencing, planned barn repairs, and confidence in continued access to the current property.

President Lorica: Asked whether the amended constitution and proposed stipends reflected revised hours and the communicated comparison rate. Presenters said the hours were based on actual care responsibilities and did not include all event time; they understood the requested increase would not apply immediately to the current year. They described the additional compensation for hazardous conditions as recognition of the work rather than coverage of injury expenses.

House discussion: No further discussion was offered.

Action: On a seconded motion, the House recessed at 9:17 p.m. and resumed at 9:22 p.m.

f. Club Advisory Board

Presentation and request: Requested $171,972, including $78,600 for club allocations, $44,464 for software maintenance, $24,012 for stipends, $11,500 for supplies, and $10,000 for professional service fees. Presenters described support for more than 160 clubs, constitutions and account records, leadership transitions, events, volunteer fundraising, and the seven sports newly assigned to CAB. They explained that prior spending included $30,680 toward the shared passenger van available for club travel.

Rogers: Asked for paid-position information. Presenters supplied a separate breakdown of office hours and work outside the office.

Martinez: Asked about athletic trainers and allocation procedures. Presenters said the newly assigned student clubs do not receive the same Community Hospital coverage as the intercollegiate sports, requiring CAB to plan for safety personnel and trainers. Clubs sign up for paid volunteer opportunities through weekly communications and forms; one example paid $50 per person for three-hour Beer Fest/Parents Weekend shifts. The large account balance discussed was $498,108.96 held across club accounts managed by CAB.

President Lorica: Asked about the MavLife contract, prior sports involvement, travel support, and club dues. Presenters said the software had already been acquired and would require funding through some university source. CAB had already supported esports and other student sports clubs. New responsibilities include travel and competition costs; teams continue paying dues. The transfer was communicated over the summer, and CAB was adapting its support arrangements.

CFO Smith: Praised the annual workload breakdown and asked about the apparent attendance decline. Presenters described limitations in the former Presence tracking system

and said MavLife provided more reliable engagement records, easier communications and forms, and integrations with campus systems. Selection followed software review, with Purchasing and IT making the final decision.

House discussion: Rogers recognized the expanded workload and the value of direct club support. Lorica questioned how the sports responsibilities had been assigned. Downey declined to discuss confidential administrative conversations, explained why the student-run teams fit within CAB, and said a separate long-term sports coordination structure could merit consideration.

Further discussion: Ruehmann recognized the large increase but said the new responsibilities and contractual obligations gave it context. The Speaker supported the emphasis on club allocations and reviewed the rationale for staffing, event quality, and software costs. Rogers encouraged programming suited to CMU's own community.

VII. House Discussion

Final meeting procedures: Ruehmann asked how the final budget legislation, attachments, and line-item amendments would be presented. The Speaker proposed distributing the budget worksheet with the agenda, discussing changes before approval, and proceeding in presentation order. A yes vote on a contested motion would support the motion; a no vote would leave it unapproved.

Voting and records: Martinez asked about verified electronic voting and immediate results. The Speaker described Microsoft Forms as one option using university accounts and said he would coordinate recordkeeping with Chief of Staff Bishop. CAB offered MavLife as an alternative. Smith suggested recording specific options and incorporating approved changes into the final bill. Ruehmann preferred a format that allowed clear line references and amendments without multiple separate forms.

Action: The House entered ten minutes of crosstalk with executives at 10:07 p.m. Crosstalk was extended indefinitely at 10:16 p.m. and ended by motion at 10:32 p.m.

Crosstalk summary: Members compared voting on each budget total, considering disputed line items individually, and using a shared workbook to record each representative's proposed amounts and explanations. They discussed retaining the approved workbook as an official record and exporting the result for publication. Staff noted that an organization's overall allocation remains important even when actual expenses must be reallocated among categories.

Follow-up: The Speaker proposed adding representative-specific entries to the budget workbook so differences could be identified before Monday's meeting. Smith was asked to ensure each organization's requested total was accurate, including Sustainability Council; he reported the corrections were complete. The Speaker would provide a filled example by Friday and coordinate the final format with Smith, Bishop, CAB, and Student Life staff, with meeting materials prepared for Sunday distribution.

Stipend review: Members considered workload, responsibility, risk, and the value of each position when reviewing stipends. The Speaker described hourly comparisons as useful supporting metrics rather than the sole basis for decisions and suggested closer review of

annual stipend requests above $4,000. Rogers emphasized what each position does before comparing hours. Downey encouraged a holistic assessment. The discussion did not establish a uniform stipend award or approve any organization's funding.

Access and questions: Ruehmann reiterated the outstanding childcare inspection question. The Speaker showed members where ASG's biennial agendas, minutes, and presentations are available through MavZone and the ASG website.

VIII. Announcements

Biennial rubrics are due to the Speaker on Friday, October 30. The final biennial meeting is Monday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m. in UC 222.

Martinez encouraged members to meet with organizations to resolve outstanding questions and shared an invitation to the Criterion's editors' meeting on Monday, November 2, at 5:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada adjourned the hearing at 10:33 p.m.