

House of Representatives General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2026 | 6:10-8:24 p.m.

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 meeting to order at 6:10 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 - 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		

Seven of the ten representatives were present at the opening roll call, and quorum was established. Representatives Bragg and Clark-Scott arrived at approximately 6:16 p.m.; Representative Ruehmann arrived at approximately 6:20 p.m. Motions to add them to the roll were adopted during Expenditure Bill 27-07. All ten representatives were present for the funding votes.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Action: The October 5, 2026, agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Action: The previous meeting's minutes were approved without objection.

V. Public Input

A public participant asked about the Speech and Debate Team's presentation. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada confirmed that the team was scheduled under new business. No additional public input was offered during the opening period.

VI. Officer and Advisor Reports

President Elijah Jaden Lorica

- Thanked members who helped with the recent ASG grill night and tailgate, and reminded members of the upcoming biennial hearing.
- Urged the House to weigh the three large funding requests against the needs of clubs seeking support later in the year. Reminded representatives to arrive on time and notify House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada of lateness or absence. Said members unable to fulfill their responsibilities should discuss the matter with House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada, and that continued attendance problems could lead to grievances.
- Departed after his report for Residence Life duty, and offered to answer executive questions by phone through House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith

- Reported that the number and size of funding requests had not slowed and were expected to continue through the semester. Urged prudent allocation of the remaining funds.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

- Reported that the biennial minutes posted on the ASG website included the presentations shown at the hearings, allowing members and attendees to review the materials.

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

- Acknowledged representatives' attendance and contributions at both regular House meetings and biennial hearings.

VII. New Business

A. Expenditure Bill 27-07 - Colorado Mesa University Free Speech, Civil Discourse, and Debate Team

Presentation and Questions

Sponsoring Representative Andre Martinez read the filed bill, which requested \$4,220: \$3,670 from the Student Controlled Reserve Fund (SCRF) and \$550 from the Transportation Fund. The filed request covered 12 students attending a January 15-17, 2027, tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The team presented a reduced request of approximately \$961 for eight students. The tournament would be the revived team's first in-person competition, following a separately funded online tournament. The presenter emphasized face-to-face debate, public-speaking practice, and preparation for future competitions. Cost reductions included fewer travelers, removal of a per diem, and lower van and fuel estimates.

Action: Representative Meyer moved to add Representatives Bragg and Clark-Scott to the roll. The motion was seconded and adopted. Representative Rogers later moved to add Representative Ruehmann to the roll; that motion was also seconded and adopted.

Representative Meyer asked about Airbnb lodging and use of student-owned vehicles. The presenter agreed to explore lodging alternatives but said the students' vehicles were

unreliable for the trip. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada recommended consulting Student Life staff member Gabe Simon for lodging arrangements and possible savings.

Representatives Livengood and Rogers asked about fundraising, student contributions, fees, and the reduction in travelers. The presenter reported approximately \$200 in student contributions awaiting deposit and potential hospital, bingo-hall, and restaurant fundraising. These arrangements were not yet finalized. Four students were not ready to compete, reducing the group to eight; the original entry-and-judge fee line would be handled separately.

Representatives Rogers and Martinez and House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada asked whether the invitation was based on prior competitive performance. The presenter said no qualifying prerequisites had been required and agreed to provide a copy of the invitation. CFO Smith identified an open registration link for the Great Salt Lake Invitational and advised against using the Regional and National Competition Fund (RNCF).

Amendment and House Discussion

Action: Representative Martinez moved to amend the bill to the updated version circulated by CFO Smith. The amendment was adopted.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada favored allowing time for a meeting with Gabe Simon. Representatives Rogers and Ruehmann considered the revised \$900 lodging estimate reasonable and supported moving forward without delaying the booking. Members discussed obtaining further booking assistance and maintaining access to the quoted rates.

Action: Representative Ruehmann moved for five minutes of cross-talk with executive officers. The motion was seconded and adopted, and cross-talk began at 6:35 p.m. A motion to exit cross-talk was seconded and adopted at 6:37 p.m.

Expenditure Bill 27-07 - Final Roll-Call Vote

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Representative Jamal Bragg	X		
Representative Jess Clark-Scott	X		
Representative Zaira Garcia	X		
Representative Cory Livengood	X		
Representative Andre Martinez	X		
Representative Nathan McWilliams	X		
Representative Devin Meyer	X		
Representative Triston Rogers	X		

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Representative James Ruehmann	X		
House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada	X		

Vote totals: 10 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Action: Expenditure Bill 27-07 passed the House 10-0, as amended.

B. Expenditure Bill 27-08 - Chemistry Club

Presentation and Questions

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada read the filed bill requesting \$5,500 for 13 Chemistry Club students to attend the American Chemical Society convention in New Orleans, Louisiana: \$3,100 from SCRF and \$2,400 from the Transportation Fund. The filed budget listed \$11,643 in total expenses.

Presenters described research presentations, publication of abstracts, graduate-school and employment networking, and access to current chemistry research. The convention was scheduled for March 21-25, 2027, with planned travel March 20-26. Participants had to complete at least 1.5 years of research by the trip, present at the Student Showcase, participate in at least five fundraisers, and seek donations from personal contacts.

Attendance was capped at 13 qualified students.

The club reported approximately \$6,300-\$6,900 in available fundraising proceeds, pending confirmation from the CMU Foundation. Fundraising included MavRides, bake sales, goggle sales, donations, and planned additional events. Students would pay their own ACS memberships, meals, and personal expenses, and would cover any remaining trip costs if ASG did not provide the full request. Presenters said the trip would proceed regardless of ASG funding.

CFO Smith questioned the slide's budget arithmetic and the difference between the \$5,420 shown in the presentation and the \$5,500 filed request. Presenters acknowledged the calculation error and confirmed that they sought \$5,500. The corrected supporting bill listed \$11,658 in costs and \$6,158 in club contributions.

Representatives McWilliams, Rogers, Bragg, and Martinez asked about airfare, travel dates, group rates, driving, and round-trip costs. Presenters said the Airbnb was already booked within walking distance of the convention, while flights were not yet purchased. They planned to contact Gabe Simon the next day for group fares. Driving was estimated at approximately \$3,000, but the club chose flying for safety, travel time, and class schedules. Members recommended checking alternate fares and allowing for flight delays.

Representative Meyer asked about the conference's purpose, invitation status, and limiting attendance. Presenters said they had not been invited and had already restricted the trip to experienced upperclassmen. In response to House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada's questions about previous attendance, they described research feedback, technical presentations, graduate-

school information, and professional networking, with at least half the participants expected to graduate in the spring.

Representative Ruehmann encouraged community and business fundraising. The club had not yet sought the proposed hospital donations; its advisor described limited success with previous internship outreach but agreed that funding opportunities could be explored.

House Discussion and Postponement

Representative Garcia supported the educational value of the trip. CFO Smith reported that the request represented approximately 9.71 percent of remaining SCRF funds and 17.36 percent of remaining Transportation funds. Representative Ruehmann and House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada expressed concern about preserving funding for later applicants. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada proposed a reduction to \$2,900 through additional student contributions and fundraising; no funding amendment was adopted at that amount. Representatives Livengood, Ruehmann, and Rogers favored further fundraising and a later return. Ruehmann suggested seeking an additional \$1,000-\$1,500; presenters cautioned that some earlier donations could not be repeated. Representative Garcia offered assistance with a merchandise fundraiser. Representative Clark-Scott supported rejecting the current request and hearing another bill later in the year. In response to the club's comparison with an earlier larger award, Clark-Scott and CFO Smith described increased scrutiny and the unusually high volume of requests.

A nonbinding straw poll unanimously supported the approach of declining the current request and having the club return later. CFO Smith then questioned whether a club could seek additional funding for the same event, prompting the House to seek clarification before deciding the bill.

Action: Representative Ruehmann moved for a five-minute recess. The motion was seconded and adopted, and the recess began at 7:18 p.m. At 7:25 p.m., Representative Martinez moved for an additional recess; a five-minute extension was seconded and adopted. House discussion resumed after the recesses.

Action: Representative Clark-Scott moved to table Expenditure Bill 27-08 until October 12. A straw poll unanimously supported postponement. After presenters explained the time needed to meet with Gabe Simon and obtain group fares, Clark-Scott amended the return date to October 19. The amendment was seconded and adopted, and House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada declared the bill tabled until October 19, 2026. No funding roll-call vote was taken.

C. Expenditure Bill 27-09 - CMU Percussion Society

Presentation and Questions

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada read the filed bill requesting \$4,000 for 17 students to attend the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 11-14, 2026: \$1,500 from SCRF and \$2,500 from the Transportation Fund. The filed budget listed \$13,216 in total costs.

Presenters described competing against other colleges, receiving professional feedback, attending master classes and performances, networking, and promoting CMU. Students

accompanying the performers would also help move and set up the many instruments required for the ensemble. Presenters described previous professional connections and a graduate assistantship arising from the prior convention.

The club had purchased group airfare through Southwest from Montrose and booked five hotel rooms near the convention. Students had each contributed \$100 toward registration and paid a separate \$50 society membership. The club reported bake-sale proceeds, online donations, a \$5,000 donation, and planned restaurant fundraisers, including MOD Pizza on October 27.

Representative Martinez asked about differences between the filed costs and presentation. Presenters said the advisor paid for his own airfare, reducing the student travel estimate. Representative Rogers asked about airfare comparisons and purchase timing; the club said it reviewed several airlines with Gabe Simon and purchased tickets in September before prices increased further.

Representatives McWilliams, Livengood, and Ruehmann questioned the use of ASG transportation funds after tickets and lodging had already been purchased. Presenters said the club temporarily overdrafted its account while awaiting expected donations, but those donations had since arrived and the overdraft was resolved. CFO Smith explained that he selected the proposed fund split based on the trip's overall cost distribution. Members discussed whether the request amounted to reimbursement and what expenses remained.

Representative Martinez asked about ground-transport alternatives. Presenters said baggage made public transit impractical and rental-car age requirements limited options.

Representative Rogers encouraged paid performances and other fundraising that used the club's musical skills; presenters said they were exploring public performances and busking alongside further bake sales and restaurant events.

Representative Ruehmann questioned the \$3,400 food and mallet allowance and university equipment availability. Presenters described \$50 per student per day for meals and supplies and varying personal equipment needs. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada cited Joint Resolution 27-01 in opposing ASG food funding. Presenters said competition required no invitation but could lead to future performance invitations.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada asked whether students could cover an additional \$100 each through fundraising or personal payment. Presenters initially suggested \$50-\$75 as more manageable.

Initial Vote

Action: A motion to close presenter questioning was adopted. Representative Clark-Scott then moved immediately to close House discussion. That motion was seconded and adopted following a straw poll, and the House proceeded directly to the roll-call vote on the bill as written.

Expenditure Bill 27-09 - Initial Roll-Call Vote

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Representative Jamal Bragg		X	
Representative Jess Clark-Scott		X	
Representative Zaira Garcia		X	
Representative Cory Livengood		X	
Representative Andre Martinez			X
Representative Nathan McWilliams		X	
Representative Devin Meyer		X	
Representative Triston Rogers		X	
Representative James Ruehmann			X
House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada			X

Vote totals: 0 Yes; 7 No; 3 Abstain.

Action: Expenditure Bill 27-09 initially failed, with 0 Yes, 7 No, and 3 Abstain. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada advised the club that it could work with CFO Smith on a revised request.

VIII. House Discussion**Reopening Expenditure Bill 27-09**

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada, CFO Smith, and Chief of Staff Bishop expressed disappointment that discussion was closed immediately, without substantive deliberation before the initial vote.

Representative Ruehmann favored partial funding; Clark-Scott cited limited fundraising time before November. Martinez proposed \$2,300, and Garcia questioned the initial outcome.

Percussion Society asked about reopening the bill that evening. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada explained the motion process and advised consulting CFO Smith.

Action: A motion for ten minutes of cross-talk with executives was adopted at 8:10 p.m. A further ten-minute extension was adopted, but cross-talk ended by motion at 8:20 p.m.

Members discussed contributions, paid travel, remaining expenses, and reserves. CFO Smith referred them to the biennial spreadsheet; House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada urged restraint. The club confirmed another \$100 per student was feasible.

Action: A motion to reopen Bill 27-09 without rereading was seconded and adopted. Representative Martinez then moved for five-minute cross-talk with executives at 8:20 p.m.; a motion ended it at 8:23 p.m.

Action: The House adopted an amendment reducing Bill 27-09 to \$2,300: \$1,150 from SCRF and \$1,150 from Transportation. The amended budget totaled \$12,988, including \$3,400 in student contributions.

Expenditure Bill 27-09 - Final Roll-Call Vote After Amendment

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Representative Jamal Bragg	X		
Representative Jess Clark-Scott	X		
Representative Zaira Garcia	X		
Representative Cory Livengood	X		
Representative Andre Martinez	X		
Representative Nathan McWilliams	X		
Representative Devin Meyer	X		
Representative Triston Rogers	X		
Representative James Ruehmann	X		
House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada	X		

Vote totals: 10 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Action: Expenditure Bill 27-09 passed the House 10-0, as amended.

IX. Announcements

Next biennial hearing: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., UC 222.

X. Adjournment

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff