

Associated Student Government Student Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 | 7:00-7:40 p.m.

Presiding: Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos | Minutes: Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff

I. Call to Order

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos called the Associated Student Government Student Senate meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

<i>Senator</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Excused</i>	<i>Unexcused</i>
Paul R. Dieterichs - Music Senator	X		
Gabby D. Gallegos - Language, Literature & Mass Communications Senator	X		
Alyssa Yee Gonzalez - Montrose Senator	X		
Ben D. Himes - Mathematics & Statistics Senator	X		
Kari A. Karth - Graduate Senator		X	
Raven R. Kopko - Computer Science & Engineering Senator	X		
Ramon Rodelo - Biological Science Senator	X		
Darius C. Washington - Health Science Senator	X		
Connor G. Webb - Social & Behavioral Sciences Senator	X		
Logan Wilson - Senate Leader	X		

Quorum was established with nine voting senators present. Senator Karth was excused.

III. Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes

Action: The agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Senator Connor Webb requested that the August 26 minutes identify his seat as Social & Behavioral Sciences Senator rather than Political Science Senator, noting that the seat represents several majors.

IV. Public Input

No public input was offered.

V. Executive Reports

Press Secretary Brooklyn Lee

- Requested short member biographies for the ASG website and offered to take headshots during office hours or at another mutually available time.
- Reported work on new ASG T-shirt and sticker designs and invited member feedback.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

- Reported continued work on meeting minutes and the ASG website and invited members to report corrections or questions so the posted record can remain accurate.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith

- Presented a budget spreadsheet showing current balances, proposed expenditure bills, the dollar and percentage impact of each proposal, and an aggregate total. The Mesa Fund was

omitted from the display because its comparatively small balance made the other figures harder to read.

- Invited senators to recommend changes to the spreadsheet format after the meeting.

President Elijah Lorica

- Asked senators to consider both the students served by each funding request and the need to preserve available funds through the end of the academic year.
- Reported that first biennial drafts from student-fee-funded organizations were due to ASG by midnight on Friday, September 4.
- Encouraged senators to join the Judicial Committee so the remaining Student Supreme Court vacancy could be filled and urged members to recruit applicants for the House, which then had five members including the Speaker. He expressed concern that so few representatives would oversee approximately \$1.3 million in student fees during the biennial process.
- Previewed Senate Bill 27-01, concerning wristbands for the October 3 tailgate.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos

- Announced that the Internal Committee would meet Wednesday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. to review House and Senate schedules and begin longer-term work on the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Reminded senators that the Constitution requires committee service. Name tags had been submitted for production, polos had been ordered, and T-shirt ordering would follow completion of the redesign.
- Asked senators to begin developing initiatives they would like to pursue for the student body.

VI. Branch Leader Reports

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

- Reported that the House had passed Expenditure Bill 27-01 for Designers at Mesa and that the presenters would appear before the Senate that evening.
- Reported that questions from student-organization leaders at the prior Cabinet meeting had prompted work on clarifying language related to House Resolution 27-01.
- Asked members to refer prospective applicants for the House's remaining vacancies.

Senate Leader Logan Wilson

- Reported that future agendas should include Zoom links for members who cannot attend in person because of travel, illness, or similar circumstances.
- Reminded senators that office-hour requirements began that week and invited members needing accommodations to contact him.
- Previewed Joint Resolution 27-01 as a measure establishing consistent expectations for clubs seeking funds.
- Requested one additional senator for the Judicial Committee so the committee could meet and consider the final Student Supreme Court appointment before the next Senate meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Expenditure Bill 27-01 - Designers at Mesa

Before consideration, the Chief Financial Officer identified that the supporting copy did not reflect the cost corrections adopted by the House. Senate Leader Wilson moved to amend the bill so that he was listed as its Senate sponsor and to conform the supporting figures to the House-adopted version: plane tickets and student contributions were each listed at \$12,720, and total project costs were listed at \$19,115. The motion was seconded and approved without objection. The requested ASG allocation remained \$6,540.

Senate Leader Wilson then read Expenditure Bill 27-01, requesting \$6,540 from the Student-Controlled Reserve Fund for Designers at Mesa: \$875 for five officer conference tickets and \$5,665 for four nights of lodging, including taxes and fees. The bill identified 24 students as affected. No questions about the bill's wording or content were raised before the presentation.

Designers at Mesa officers proposed attending the Brand New graphic-design conference in Nashville, Tennessee, from September 16-20, 2026. The conference was scheduled for September 17-18, followed by an educational day on September 19. They emphasized professional networking, career exposure, seminars, and contact with designers and students from other institutions.

- Twenty-four students planned to attend. The requested allocation would cover lodging for the full group and conference admission for five officers, or approximately \$272 per attending student.
- Students would self-fund airfare, local transportation, most conference tickets, food, and design-related activities. The organization reported recovering from a negative balance through fundraising and reallocation while reserving funds for a spring 2027 educational trip.
- Senator Himes asked about the organization's focus; the presenters explained that it serves CMU graphic-design majors working in digital art, marketing, printmaking, apparel, and related fields.
- Senator Gabby Gallegos asked how many of the 24 travelers were seniors; the presenters estimated approximately half. Senator Gonzalez asked about prior attendance; the presenters stated that some seniors and two juniors had attended previously.
- A further membership question established that all CMU graphic-design majors are automatically included in Designers at Mesa and that the organization then had 47 members.

Senator Kopko supported the request based on the organization's consistent preparation, fundraising, and responsible use of prior awards. Senator Gonzalez emphasized the importance of professional connections in the design field. Senator Himes cited the presenters' initiative and expressed support for the arts. Senate Leader Wilson reviewed the organization's funding history, including prior requests generally in the \$2,000-\$3,000 range and a larger award in 2017, and supported passing the request in full. Participating remotely, Senator Gonzalez also noted the value of supporting student artists as artificial intelligence increasingly competes with creative work.

Action: *Expenditure Bill 27-01, as amended, passed unanimously by voice vote, allocating \$6,540 from the Student-Controlled Reserve Fund to Designers at Mesa. No senator present opposed or abstained; Senator Karth was excused.*

B. Joint Resolution 27-01 - Guidelines for Clubs and Organizations Requesting Funds

***Action:** Senate Leader Wilson moved to suspend the rules and read only the title of Joint Resolution 27-01. The motion was seconded and adopted without objection.*

Senator Webb asked whether the provision permitting a straw poll when the relevance of a presentation is questioned was new and whether requiring chamber input was necessary. Senate Leader Wilson explained that the clause followed a CMU Tech club presentation that lasted approximately 45 minutes because of repeated questions and answers. The chair retains authority over whether a presentation continues; the provision allows the chamber to identify repetitive or irrelevant discussion, move into questioning and deliberation, and protect the time of presenters and members. Senator Webb indicated that the explanation addressed his concern.

Senate Leader Wilson summarized the resolution's principal requirements:

- Requests may not exceed 50% of total anticipated costs and may not include food or non-academic personal expenses. Either chamber may suspend those limits by majority vote when an exception is justified.
- Requestors are advised to present for five to ten minutes and address dates, locations, lodging, equipment, budgets, contributions, sponsorships, academic value, and networking opportunities.
- Funding requests must be submitted through the ASG Funding Request Form at least four weeks before the event or trip so Student Life professional staff have adequate processing time.
- The measure applies through the 2026-2027 administration, directs distribution to prospective requestors, and refers interpretation questions to the Student Supreme Court.

Roll-Call Vote

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Senator Paul Dieterichs	Yes
Senator Gabby Gallegos	Yes
Senator Alyssa Yee Gonzalez	Yes
Senator Ben Himes	Yes
Senator Kari Karth	Excused
Senator Raven Kopko	Yes
Senator Ramon Rodelo	Yes
Senator Darius Washington	Yes
Senator Connor Webb	Yes
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	Yes
Result	9-0; passed

***Action:** Joint Resolution 27-01 passed 9-0 by roll call; Senator Karth was excused.*

C. Senate Bill 27-01 - Mavs Go Pink Tailgate Wristbands

President Lorica read Senate Bill 27-01, sponsored by President Lorica and Director of Events Sophia Tassinari. The bill requested \$230 from the ASG operational budget for wristbands to distribute at the October 3 Mavs Go Pink tailgate and identified all students as affected.

Senator Gonzalez asked what the wristbands were for. Vice President Gallegos explained that they would be distributed as pink-themed tailgate merchandise. President Lorica added that the October 3 campus activities were intended to promote breast-cancer awareness and were expected to include pink-themed volleyball, tailgate, and football activities.

Senator Kopko asked about the operational budget. After Senate Leader Wilson clarified the scope of the question, Chief Financial Officer Smith reported \$63,121 in operational funds and \$130,154 in total funds when the controlled budgets were included. President Lorica noted that stipends, ASG events, and Mav Awards also draw from the operational budget and described the wristbands as a modest awareness and outreach expense. Senator Kopko indicated that the response answered the question.

***Action:** Senate Bill 27-01 passed unanimously by voice vote, allocating \$230 from the ASG operational budget. No senator present opposed or abstained; Senator Karth was excused.*

VIII. Senate Discussion

Senator Kopko requested follow-up on prior-year funds approved for Engineers Without Borders after its trip was canceled and agreed to forward the email record. Chief Financial Officer Smith will investigate with the relevant budgeting personnel and anticipated convening a budget council meeting to determine the available options.

IX. Announcements

No announcements were offered.

X. Adjournment

Vice President Gallegos adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff