

Associated Student Government Student Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 | 7:04-10:03 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 7:04 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		
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		
Kelbee Ammirati - Art & Design Senator*	X		

Quorum was established with eight voting senators present. Senator Rodelo was excused. Kari Karth had resigned as Graduate Senator for personal health reasons and was not counted as a member. *Kelbee Ammirati was appointed, sworn in, seated, and added to the roll during New Business, increasing the number of voting senators present to nine.

III. Approval of the Agenda

The Vice President asked whether there were any objections to the September 9 agenda. No objections were raised.

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

IV. Approval of the Previous Minutes

The Vice President asked whether there were any objections to the September 2, 2026, Senate minutes. No objections were raised.

Action: The September 2, 2026, Senate minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

V. Public Input

Stephanie Rubinstein - Title IX Coordinator

Stephanie Rubinstein requested student volunteers for CMU's Title IX student conduct board. The board used for a Title IX hearing consists of two students, two faculty members, and two staff

members. Volunteers would complete approximately one hour of training and, if selected for a case after a conflict check, should expect approximately a half-day commitment to review the investigative report and participate in the hearing. Interested students were asked to email Rubinstein within the next several weeks.

- Rubinstein explained that these hearings primarily concern sexual assault and sexual harassment. Other student-conduct matters are generally handled by Director of Student Safety Alex Zappe. Title IX investigations are completed by a neutral private investigator retained by the University before a matter reaches the board.
- During Rubinstein's six years in the role, approximately zero to two matters per year have reached a full hearing. More reports are received, but many do not proceed to a board hearing at the reporting party's request.
- Student Services randomly selects two students from an annually refreshed volunteer pool when a hearing is required. Rubinstein preferred a manageable pool of engaged students and did not plan a broad dormitory-flyer campaign at that time.
- Senator Dieterichs suggested creating a continuing ASG committee or Bylaws appointment to supply a trained student volunteer. Rubinstein supported exploring the idea, provided the pool remained large enough to address conflicts and every participant completed training.

No further public input was offered. Two attendees accepted informational flyers before Rubinstein left the floor.

VI. Executive Reports

Press Secretary Brooklyn Lee

- Reported that the ASG T-shirt and sticker designs were complete and that the next step was placing the orders.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

- No report was given.

Director of Events Sophia Tassinari

- Announced Pop and Pups for Tuesday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and invited senators to attend and assist.
- Requested strong ASG participation at Grill Night on October 1 so students could meet new and returning representatives.
- Reported that pink bracelets had been ordered for the October 3 pink-themed tailgate and requested assistance with setup and teardown.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith

- Confirmed that senators could access and understand the distributed September 9 budget report. The report showed \$34,923 remaining in the Student-Controlled Reserve Fund and \$15,822 remaining in the transportation budget before the evening's proposals.
- Asked senators to focus on dollar amounts, fund percentages, and the finite capacity to support requests over the full academic year rather than evaluating each proposal only in isolation.

President Elijah Lorica

- Reported receipt of the first biennial budget drafts from student-fee-funded organizations and encouraged senators to volunteer for the Title IX conduct board.
- Previewed an executive operational-budget bill for ASG polos, shirts, stickers, and pink wristbands.
- Addressed the recently approved Designers at Mesa funding request. He accepted responsibility for not communicating his concerns early enough to support a veto, but urged both chambers to conduct deeper review of budgets, prior spending, fundraising, organizational history, necessity, student impact, and year-long sustainability before approving future requests.
- Emphasized that the Senate has final authority over club-funding requests and substantial responsibility for student fees. He opposed using reserve transfers later to correct overly aggressive early-year spending and asked members to devote the time necessary to informed deliberation.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos

- Clarified that senators may approve a request in full, reduce it, or reject it. She recalled the training example of preserving roughly 40% of the Student-Controlled Reserve Fund for fall requests and 40% for spring requests so later organizations could still receive support, and encouraged repeated questions whenever clarification was needed.

VII. Branch Leader Reports

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

- Offered no substantive report and wished members a good remainder of the week.

Senate Leader Logan Wilson

- Reported that Senator Rodelo was excused because of illness and encouraged members to take appropriate health precautions.
- Reported Kari Karth's resignation as Graduate Senator for personal health reasons. He requested referrals for the graduate seat and all other vacant legislative seats.
- Reported continued scheduling work for the Judicial Committee and previewed the House-passed expenditure bills on the agenda.

VIII. New Business

A. Appointment of Kelbee Ammirati as Art & Design Senator

Kelbee Ammirati introduced herself as a junior graphic-design major with a business-administration minor. She described supervising staff and children's programming as the Colorado Maverick Aquatics swim-lesson coordinator and serving as the financial officer for Designers at Mesa. Ammirati said her work helping that organization recover from debt and move toward self-sustainability motivated her to seek the vacant Art & Design Senate seat and represent students in her department.

Senators Kopko, Webb, Wilson, and Gonzalez supported the appointment based on Ammirati's engagement, leadership, departmental representation, and willingness to join after observing ASG's funding process. Senator Himes asked whether Ammirati's Designers at Mesa position created a conflict after the organization's recent award. Senate Leader Wilson responded that senators are expected to disclose conflicts and recuse when an action would directly benefit them. President Lorica stated that he had no personal concern with Ammirati and supported a full Senate. Chief Financial Officer Smith noted that Ammirati would also see the budget consequences of prior allocations.

Roll-Call Vote - Appointment

<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 Raven Kopko	Yes
Senator Ramon Rodelo	Excused
Senator Darius Washington	Yes
Senator Connor Webb	Yes
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	Yes
Result	8-0; passed

Action: Kelbee Ammirati was confirmed 8-0 by roll call as Art & Design Senator; Senator Rodelo was excused.

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved that Ammirati be sworn in. The motion was seconded and adopted without objection. Chief Justice Ady Bautista administered the oath of office, after which a motion to add Ammirati to the roll was adopted. Ammirati took her seat and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

B. Expenditure Bill 27-02 - Student Nurses Association

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved to amend the organization's name in Expenditure Bill 27-02 to Student Nurses Association. The motion was seconded and adopted without objection.

Senator Darius Washington, the sponsor, read the bill's \$5,000 request: \$3,000 from the Student-Controlled Reserve Fund and \$2,000 from the transportation budget for 14 students traveling to Belize. The copy initially read contained stale dates and cost figures. During deliberation, the Chief Financial Officer identified those clerical errors and emailed two updated versions of the bill. The latest corrected copy lists November 14-20, 2026; \$42,000 in total costs overseen by Kambia; \$37,000 in student contributions; and no club, grant, or scholarship contributions. The only amendment specifically made on the floor corrected the organization's name; the requested ASG allocation did not change.

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved for a brief recess while the presenter completed setup. The motion was seconded and adopted, and the Senate resumed the presentation shortly afterward. A later nonbinding straw poll supported continuing the presentation.

Dana Dial presented the international population-health clinical opportunity. Fourteen final-semester nursing students planned to provide 40 hours of approved population-health clinical service in Belize through rural public-health clinics. Students would assist an interdisciplinary team with intake, triage, assessments, procedures, dental-health education, community teaching, and guided reflection; clinic patients would also have an opportunity to obtain prescription medications. Kambia, a nonprofit global-health partner, would coordinate travel, lodging, meals, clinics, supplies, local transportation, and safety.

- The trip cost approximately \$42,000, or \$3,000 per student. The presenter said the cohort hoped to reduce each participant's out-of-pocket cost to approximately \$1,500 through fundraising and the \$5,000 ASG request.
- Fundraising had begun in July and included a Texas Roadhouse event, a planned fun run, and a planned golf tournament. The presenter reported that the displayed total had already increased by at least \$150 after the prior evening's fundraiser. October 14 was the payment and fundraising deadline.
- At least ten participants were required for the international trip. Five of the fourteen students had expressed financial difficulty. If the cohort could not travel, faculty would still arrange the required population-health hours locally, but the presenter described that alternative as a substantial scheduling burden and a less distinctive learning experience.
- Faculty selected the international partner and location. The presenter stated that Kambia had received positive reviews from prior faculty participants, but Kambia had not yet supplied a granular line-item breakdown beyond the per-person package. The nursing department was sponsoring the participating faculty members.
- An optional final-day excursion had not yet been selected. Senator Kopko questioned whether student fees should support a recreational activity; the presenter agreed to ask Kambia whether that cost could be separated and argued that cultural and environmental activities may still have educational value.

Questions addressed prior ASG funding, club size, clinical requirements, student finances, fundraising, and the trip's educational necessity. The presenter stated that a spring 2025 cohort had received \$5,000; more than 40 students belonged to the organization; all 14 travelers were seniors;

participating students had one opportunity to take the international option; and local students otherwise completed the same population-health requirement through Grand Junction placements. A Kinesiology and Occupational Therapy faculty participant clarified that clinical placements must satisfy program and licensing requirements and that legal, regulatory, and site-capacity constraints can limit domestic alternatives.

Sponsor Washington strongly supported the request as direct service and an unusually consequential educational use of student funds. Senators Dieterichs and Webb also supported full funding. Senator Kopko respected the program but wanted more completed fundraising and a clearer cost breakdown before committing the full amount. Senator Himes supported the purpose but questioned the timing while major fundraisers remained pending. Senator Gonzalez weighed the budget concern against the benefit to students, the Belize communities served, and CMU's public representation.

Action: *Senate Leader Wilson moved to enter cross-talk indefinitely with executive officers as called upon. The motion was seconded and adopted, and cross-talk began at 8:27 p.m.*

During cross-talk, members debated whether the clinical experience was essential or elective, whether domestic service could provide comparable value, the effect on the broader nursing program, Kambia's cost transparency, and whether the bill should pass in full, be reduced, or be tabled. President Lorica recommended delaying action until after more fundraising and budget activity could be reviewed. Vice President Gallegos suggested partial funding as an alternative that would provide immediate certainty while allowing the cohort to return if necessary.

Senate Leader Wilson conducted a nonbinding straw poll: four senators favored passing the \$5,000 request as written, four favored changing the amount, none favored tabling, and none abstained. Discussion continued. A subsequent informal check on a possible \$2,500 allocation showed greater support for retaining the full \$5,000 request, so no reduction amendment was offered.

Action: *Senate Leader Wilson moved to end cross-talk. The motion was seconded and adopted, and cross-talk ended at 8:58 p.m. The Senate then proceeded to a roll-call vote on the full \$5,000 request.*

Roll-Call Vote - Expenditure Bill 27-02

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	Yes
Senator Paul Dieterichs	Yes
Senator Gabby Gallegos	Yes
Senator Alyssa Yee Gonzalez	No
Senator Ben Himes	Yes
Senator Raven Kopko	No
Senator Ramon Rodelo	Excused
Senator Darius Washington	Yes
Senator Connor Webb	Yes
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	No
Result	6-3; passed

Action: *Expenditure Bill 27-02, as amended to correct the organization's name, passed 6-3 by roll call, allocating \$3,000 from the Student-Controlled Reserve Fund and \$2,000 from the transportation budget to the Student Nurses Association; Senator Rodelo was excused.*

Action: *Senate Leader Wilson moved for a two-minute recess. The Senate recessed and returned to session at 9:07 p.m.*

C. Expenditure Bill 27-04 - Mock Trial

Senate Leader Wilson initially moved to amend the bill to name himself as the Senate sponsor. Senator Webb objected that Mock Trial falls within the Social Sciences seat. Wilson withdrew the motion, then moved to amend the bill to list Senator Webb as sponsor. The replacement motion was seconded and adopted without objection.

Senator Webb read the House-amended bill, requesting \$2,000 for nine students traveling to a Mock Trial invitational in Tucson, Arizona, from November 7-9, 2026: \$1,375 from the Student-Controlled Reserve Fund and \$625 from the transportation budget. The current cost schedule lists \$375 in registration fees, \$225 for gas, \$400 for a rental vehicle, and \$1,000 for lodging. No questions about the bill's wording or content were raised before the presentation.

Senator Gonzalez, who was participating remotely, stated that connection and audio-clarity problems prevented her from hearing every member. With the chamber's understanding, she was excused from the remainder of the meeting before the Mock Trial presentation and did not participate in the final vote.

Mock Trial President Gavin Peonio and Mock Trial Vice President Kira Smith described the club as CMU's principal opportunity for students to practice courtroom advocacy, public speaking, legal analysis, and competitive trial work while the University lacks a formal law program. The team prepares both sides of a nationally distributed case, competes in four approximately three-hour rounds, and has earned individual awards and recognition for professionalism against much larger institutions.

- The club had approximately 17 active members but sought to send one nine-person team. Four anticipated participants were returning students and five were first-year students. Members met twice weekly for two-hour practices, and active fundraising was required for tournament participation.
- The club reported \$1,850 raised through community donations, bank sponsorships, GoFundMe contributions, and outreach to legal professionals. Approximately \$1,200 had already been committed to organizational and tournament registration, leaving roughly \$600 available. The presenters described additional plans involving MavRides opportunities, legal-community sponsorships, shirt advertising, restaurant events, and broader Social and Behavioral Sciences fundraising.
- The presenters placed the Tucson trip's broader cost at approximately \$4,200. Students would cover professional attire and food, and fundraising or student contributions would cover any remaining gap. The \$2,000 ASG request represented approximately 47.6% of that broader cost.
- The team planned to use one rental vehicle and one personal vehicle because of liability, reliability, and safety concerns associated with a 12-hour drive. The presenters said lodging below the proposed range had been rejected by professional staff as unsafe. The current amended bill, rather than the earlier presentation slide, governs the final \$2,000 cost schedule.
- The House had tabled the separate spring regional-competition request until later in the semester so the organization could return with results from Tucson, demonstrated participation, and updated fundraising. Only the Tucson request in Expenditure Bill 27-04 was before the Senate.

Senator Webb supported the request as a significant legal and professional-development opportunity. Senator Kopko recognized the club's value but questioned whether the five first-year participants had sufficient time to demonstrate commitment and fundraising effort. Senator Dieterichs agreed that additional outside funding appeared attainable. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada explained that the House had reduced the bill from \$2,575 to \$2,000 by reducing the gas line and had delayed the spring request, while cautioning against discounting students solely because they were first-year students.

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved to enter cross-talk indefinitely with executive officers as called upon. The motion was adopted, and cross-talk began at 9:50 p.m.

During cross-talk, the presenters emphasized that the anticipated first-year participants had already attended approximately six or seven meetings and that the team could still field a roster if individual participants withdrew. Members discussed the remaining approximately \$1,600 gap, registration and lodging deadlines, the risk of losing the University's invitation if the team withdrew, possible use of the Regional and National Competition Fund, whether the bill required restructuring, and how much additional fundraising time should be allowed.

A nonbinding straw poll favored tabling the bill. A second straw poll on the return date favored September 23; two senators supported reconsideration the following week, and none supported September 30.

Action: *Senate Leader Wilson moved to end cross-talk. The motion was seconded and adopted, and cross-talk ended at 10:00 p.m.*

Action: *Senate Leader Wilson moved to table Expenditure Bill 27-04 until September 23, 2026. The motion was seconded, and the Vice President ordered a roll-call vote.*

Roll-Call Vote - Motion to Table Expenditure Bill 27-04

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	Yes
Senator Paul Dieterichs	Yes
Senator Gabby Gallegos	Abstain
Senator Alyssa Yee Gonzalez	Excused
Senator Ben Himes	Yes
Senator Raven Kopko	Yes
Senator Ramon Rodelo	Excused
Senator Darius Washington	Abstain
Senator Connor Webb	No
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	No
Result	4-2-2; passed

Action: *The motion passed with four votes in favor, two opposed, and two abstentions. Expenditure Bill 27-04 was tabled until September 23, 2026; Senators Gonzalez and Rodelo were excused.*

IX. Senate Discussion

No additional Senate discussion was offered.

X. Announcements

No announcements were offered.

XI. Adjournment

Vice President Gallegos adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

Submitted by Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff