

Associated Student Government Student Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 | UC 222 | 7:02 p.m. to approximately 8:53 p.m.

Presiding: Senate Leader Logan Wilson, Acting Chair | Minutes: Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff

I. Call to Order

Acting Chair Senate Leader Logan Wilson called the Associated Student Government Student Senate meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He presided in the absence of Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Senator	Present	Excused	Unexcused
Kelbee Ammirati - Art & Design Senator	X		
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		

Nine senators were present, and quorum was established. Senator Darius C. Washington was excused and did not participate in the votes.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Action: The October 14 agenda was approved without objection.

IV. Approval of the Previous Minutes

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

V. Public Input

No public input was offered during the designated period.

VI. Executive Reports

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

- Thanked senators for attending the House meeting and biennial hearing. He previewed five organizations at the next hearing and six at the following hearing and encouraged members to prepare for the longer sessions.

Senate Leader Logan Wilson

- Reported attending the House meeting and biennial hearing and recognized the House's work. He noted that Vice President Gallegos and Director of External Affairs Sophia Tassinari were absent, offered assistance with office hours and committees, and anticipated beginning the Historical Documents Committee's work following the chair appointment.

Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith

- Reported his return after two weeks away and asked senators to contact him with any problems or questions concerning the budget report.

Press Secretary Brooklyn Lee

- Requested biographies and headshots for senators' website profiles by email. Members needing photographs could contact her or attend her office hours.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

- Invited members to report questions or concerns about the minutes and referred to the recent website updates.

President Elijah Jaden Lorica

- Requested help with the Homecoming tailgate on Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., including wristband duties. He thanked senators for supporting the House and encouraged attendance at a remaining biennial hearing.
- Reminded members to question presenters respectfully and recognize the time organizations devoted to funding requests.

VII. Branch Leader Reports

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada and Senate Leader Wilson presented their reports with the executive reports. No additional branch leader report was given.

VIII. New Business

A. Appointment of Kelbee Ammirati as Chair of the Historical Documents Committee

Senator Kelbee Ammirati expressed interest in chairing the committee and reviewing historical organizational records and spreadsheets. No questions were offered. The committee planned to meet Friday, October 16.

Senator Ammirati did not vote on her own appointment. Senator Washington was excused.

Roll-call vote - Historical Documents Committee Chair

Voting Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Senator Paul R. Dieterichs	X		
Senator Gabby D. Gallegos	X		
Senator Alyssa Yee Gonzalez	X		
Senator Ben D. Himes	X		
Senator Raven R. Kopko	X		
Senator Ramon Rodelo	X		
Senator Connor G. Webb	X		
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	X		

Action: The appointment was approved: 8 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

B. Expenditure Bill 27-11 - Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

Senator Raven R. Kopko read Expenditure Bill 27-11, requesting \$3,700 for thirteen students attending the SHPE National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 27-November 1, 2026: \$2,700 from SCRF and \$1,000 from the Transportation Budget. No questions were raised about the bill's wording or content.

SHPE representatives described the convention's career fair, workshops, competitions, networking, and opportunities for internships, employment, and graduate school. CMU alumni had obtained jobs and internships through the event. Presenters reported a \$10,377 trip budget, compared lodging and travel costs, and selected an Airbnb to reduce expenses. The club planned to use \$4,500 in existing funds and described a revised contribution of approximately \$200 per traveler, additional sponsorship requests, and fundraising through campus events, MavRides, business partnerships, and other activities.

Questions and Responses

- House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada asked about two free registrations. Presenters said members had applied for them in exchange for volunteer hours at the convention. They estimated savings of \$750 using the \$375 early-registration rate, or approximately \$1,000 at regular pricing.
- Senator Webb asked whether the additional \$100 per student imposed by the House would prevent participation. Presenters said payment could be spread over time and that pending sponsorships might reduce the amount members ultimately paid. They intended to help members facing difficulty meeting the contribution.

Senate Discussion

Senators Kopko, Himes, Dieterichs, Ammirati, and Gonzalez supported the request, citing the club's fundraising, campus service, preparation, responsiveness to House questions, and professional opportunities. Wilson reviewed the House's reduction from \$5,000 to \$3,700 and the increased student contribution. Wilson and Dieterichs said a timely application should be evaluated on its merits even when submitted near the deadline.

Action: Expenditure Bill 27-11 passed unanimously by voice vote as written, allocating \$2,700 from SCRF and \$1,000 from the Transportation Budget.

C. Expenditure Bill 27-12 - CMU Accounting Club

Senate Leader Logan Wilson read Expenditure Bill 27-12, requesting \$800 for twenty-one students traveling to Denver, Colorado, October 21-23, 2026: \$500 from SCRF and \$300 from the Transportation Budget. No questions were raised about the bill's wording or content.

Accounting Club representatives described visits to accounting firms, the state budget office, and the IRS Criminal Investigation office to explore careers and build professional relationships. Prior trips had led to internships and employment. Twenty-one students and two professors would attend. Presenters reported \$3,111.80 in listed expenses and said transportation had been finalized using three Tahoes. Each student had contributed \$75, with \$25 reserved for a group meal and \$50 applied to the listed expenses.

The club described its Krispy Kreme fundraiser, with approximately \$400 raised so far toward a goal exceeding \$1,000. Orders were due Monday, October 19. Club funds and fundraising would cover remaining costs; Meet the Firms sponsorships also supported campus activities.

Questions and Responses

- Senator Himes asked whether the club still sought its original \$1,000 request. Presenters said they would appreciate either amount and were still determining how fundraising and club funds would cover the revised budget.
- Senator Ammirati asked about the class standing of participants. Presenters estimated ten to fifteen upperclassmen, with many expecting to remain through the current and following academic years.

Senate Discussion and Amendment

Wilson recognized the club's recurring trips, fundraising, tax preparation services, and accounting assistance to students. Kopko supported restoring the original request, citing the club's fundraising record and the size of the request. Wilson explained that the House had reduced funding by \$200 after comparing the student contribution with SHPE's contribution.

Action: Senator Kopko moved to restore the bill to its originally presented version, allocating \$1,000: \$700 from SCRF and \$300 from the Transportation Budget. Senator Connor G. Webb seconded the motion.

Action: Senator Kopko's motion for three minutes of crosstalk with executives was seconded and adopted without objection at 7:36 p.m. A motion to extend crosstalk by ninety seconds was seconded and adopted.

During crosstalk, members debated whether student contributions should be standardized across different trips, the club's fundraising and professional benefits, and the value of restoring \$200. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada described the House's concerns. Members reviewed how a Senate amendment would lead to conference committee consideration, while some senators preferred to hear the House's reasoning before taking a firm position.

Action: A motion to end crosstalk, seconded by Senator Kopko, was adopted without objection at 7:40 p.m. The Senate returned to discussion of the amendment.

Roll-call vote - Restore the Accounting Club request to \$1,000

Voting Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	X		
Senator Paul R. Dieterichs	X		
Senator Gabby D. Gallegos	X		
Senator Alyssa Yee Gonzalez	X		
Senator Ben D. Himes			X
Senator Raven R. Kopko	X		
Senator Ramon Rodelo			X
Senator Connor G. Webb	X		
Senate Leader Logan Wilson			X

Action: The amendment passed: 6 yes, 0 no, and 3 abstentions.

Action: Expenditure Bill 27-12, restored to its originally presented version, passed by voice vote with two abstentions and no opposition recorded, allocating \$700 from SCRF and \$300 from the Transportation Budget.

D. Expenditure Bill 27-14 - CNAfME

Senator Ben D. Himes read Expenditure Bill 27-14, sponsored by Senator Paul R. Dieterichs, requesting \$2,164 for forty-five students attending the Colorado Music Educators Association conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado, January 27-30, 2027: \$1,632 from SCRF and \$532 from the Transportation Budget. No questions were raised about the bill's wording or content.

CNAfME representatives described professional development, educator panels, concerts, exhibitions, leadership opportunities, and networking with teachers and graduate programs.

Conference activities could help students fulfill observation and concert-attendance requirements. Presenters also described how past CMU ensemble performances had supported recruitment and how professional contacts had led to employment opportunities.

The listed trip budget was \$9,053. Presenters said students would pay \$105 in registration plus meals, bringing their broader personal expenses to approximately \$200. The club planned bake sales, raffles, other fundraisers, and MavRides participation. Cost controls included carpooling, lodging at a less expensive hotel near the Broadmoor, sharing rooms, and obtaining a group rate. No questions were offered for the presenters.

Senate Discussion

Dieterichs supported the request based on the club's long history, preparation, professional development value, and benefit to forty-five students. Gonzalez emphasized the potential recruiting effect of performances seen by younger students and the impact of similar experiences on students entering music programs.

Action: Expenditure Bill 27-14 passed by voice vote as written, with Senator Dieterichs abstaining and no opposition recorded. The bill allocated \$1,632 from SCRF and \$532 from the Transportation Budget.

IX. Senate Discussion

Senator Ammirati announced arts activities on Thursday, October 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Delta Field near the art building. Activities included free student-printed T-shirts, stencils, spray painting, and button making, with a T-shirt slingshot at 1:00 p.m.

Senator Himes apologized for his intervention during the October 12 House meeting and said disagreements with the House should be addressed respectfully. Dieterichs raised further concerns about House conduct.

Action: Senator Kopko moved to enter crosstalk with executives indefinitely. Senator Gabby D. Gallegos seconded the motion, which was adopted without objection at 7:58 p.m.

Members discussed communication between the House and Senate, differing approaches to funding, and the role of conference committees. Kopko proposed bringing the bodies together for a joint discussion or informal gathering so members could understand one another's priorities. Members considered scheduling around existing House meetings, providing food, and creating opportunities for personal introductions.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada said he could propose a joint-discussion agenda item, subject to the House's agreement, and emphasized the value of meeting organization leaders and reviewing biennial materials on the ASG website. Members encouraged attendance at House meetings and broader relationships with campus organizations. No specific gathering or date was adopted during the public discussion.

An initial proposal to enter executive session was withdrawn before crosstalk ended.

Action: A motion to end crosstalk, seconded by Senator Gallegos, was adopted without objection at 8:16 p.m. The Senate returned to formal discussion.

Executive Session

Senator Ben D. Himes moved to enter executive session. Senator Paul R. Dieterichs seconded the motion.

Roll-call vote - Enter Executive Session

Voting Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	X		
Senator Paul R. Dieterichs	X		
Senator Gabby D. Gallegos	X		
Senator Alyssa Yee Gonzalez	X		
Senator Ben D. Himes	X		
Senator Raven R. Kopko	X		
Senator Ramon Rodelo	X		
Senator Connor G. Webb	X		
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	X		

Action: The motion passed: 9 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions. The Senate entered executive session at approximately 8:17 p.m.

X. Announcements

The following announcements were made before the Senate entered executive session:

- President Lorica anticipated further conference committee work and urged senators to respond promptly to assignments and participate in the process.
- Supreme Court Justice Jachin Glassman reported warning House members about attentiveness and phone use. In response to questions, he explained that any court action would require a grievance, a decision to hear the matter, and consideration by the court.

XI. Adjournment

Acting Chair Senate Leader Logan Wilson adjourned the meeting during executive session at approximately 8:53 p.m.