

Associated Student Government Student Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 | 7:00-9:41 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

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		

Eight senators were present, and quorum was established. Senator Gonzalez was absent at the opening roll call and was subsequently excused by motion during New Business. Senator Kopko was unexcused. Neither absent senator participated in the votes.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Action: The October 7 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

- Reported that the House was continuing its work on expenditure bills and the biennial hearings and encouraged participation in Homecoming activities.

Senate Leader Logan Wilson

- Previewed the expenditure bills and revised Code of Conduct, explaining that the Internal Committee was updating older governing documents. He anticipated additional revisions in coming weeks.

- Requested volunteers for a historical documents committee to review prior club and organizational records. Senators interested in that work or in proposing initiatives were asked to contact him.
- Encouraged senators to support campus organizations and attend Homecoming events and the tailgate.

Press Secretary Brooklyn Lee

- No report was given.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

- Reported that biennial minutes and combined presentation PDFs were available on the ASG website. In response to Senator Washington, he explained that the Documents section also provided House and Senate agendas and minutes.

Director of External Affairs Sophia Tassinari

- Thanked volunteers for their work at the prior tailgate and requested help with wristband and ID checks at an upcoming tailgate. She previewed possible parade participation and free T-shirt distribution in the plaza and would provide further details as arrangements were confirmed.

President Elijah Lorica

- Thanked members who assisted with Grill Night and tailgates. Following reported concerns about treatment of presenters, he reminded members to ask respectful questions and conduct professional discussion.
- Emphasized that ASG had limited student-fee funding, could not fully fund every request, and was receiving an unusually high volume of expenditure bills. He opposed an immediate reserve withdrawal and urged consideration of the effect on later applicants.
- Encouraged senators to attend at least part of a Tuesday biennial hearing, beginning at 6:00 p.m., to inform their review of the House recommendations in December.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos

- Outlined the Internal Committee's work on House and Senate rules before proceeding to the Constitution and Bylaws. She thanked members for their assistance with campus events.

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

Senator Connor G. Webb read Expenditure Bill 27-07, requesting \$961.60 for eight students attending a debate tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 15-17, 2027: \$703.70 from SCRF and \$257.90 from the Transportation Budget. The filed cost schedule totaled \$2,323.20, with \$1,361.60 in club contributions. No questions about the bill's wording or content were raised before the presentation.

The team's president and vice president described rebuilding CMU's speech and debate program, developing public speaking and civil discourse skills, and preparing students for academic and professional opportunities. The Salt Lake City event would provide in-person novice competition after a self-funded online tournament in November. The presenters reported reducing lodging and transportation costs while retaining safe accommodations and a reliable rental vehicle.

Questions and Responses

- Senators Himes and Gallegos asked about completed fundraising, membership, and student contributions. The presenters reported eight current members, an eight-person travel limit, and several prospective fundraisers and donors, but no completed fundraising or confirmed sponsorship amounts. They intended to minimize student costs; any remaining shortfall could require student contributions.
- Senator Ammirati asked about experience and competition structure. The presenters described prior high-school experience and IPDA debate rounds, including limited preparation time, affirmative and negative arguments, and judging. The club was rebuilding an older campus program and expected trophies rather than cash awards.
- Senator Webb asked about the November event, travel safety, and the early funding request. The presenters described an online tournament with a \$50 fee, stated that revised travel arrangements remained safe, and explained that early approval would support fundraising and planning rather than last-minute arrangements.
- Senate Leader Wilson asked about recruitment, student composition, closer events, personal vehicles, alternative lodging, and fundraising estimates. The team was predominantly underclassmen and planned flyers, faculty referrals, bake sales, and social media outreach. Salt Lake City was selected over more distant options; unreliable personal vehicles and hotel pricing informed the travel plan.
- The presenters described prospective car washes, bake sales at CMU Tech, and outreach to businesses and Community Hospital. Senator Dieterichs suggested local law firms; Senator Washington suggested high-school partnerships. Senator Gallegos encouraged contact with local speech and debate competition organizers. The presenters agreed to explore these opportunities.

Senate Discussion

Senators Webb, Washington, and Gallegos supported restoring the program and its educational value. President Lorica supported the modest request and recognized the team's effort to reduce costs. Senate Leader Wilson supported the request, noting that it was under \$1,000 and approximately \$120 per participating student.

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved to proceed to voting. No objection was raised, and the Senate voted by voice. Expenditure Bill 27-07 passed with one abstention and no opposition, allocating \$703.70 from SCRF and \$257.90 from the Transportation Budget.

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved to excuse Senator Gonzalez from the roll. The motion was seconded and adopted.

B. Expenditure Bill 27-09 - CMU Percussion Society

Senator Paul R. Dieterichs presented Expenditure Bill 27-09, requesting \$2,300 for 17 students attending the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 11-14, 2026: \$1,150 from SCRF and \$1,150 from the Transportation Budget. The filed cost schedule totaled \$12,988 and listed \$2,288 in club contributions, \$3,400 in student contributions, and \$5,000 in scholarships or grants. No questions about the bill's wording or content were raised before the presentation.

The presenters described PASIC's master classes, clinics, performances, collegiate competition, equipment demonstrations, and professional networking. They explained that all 17 travelers had performance or logistics roles, including rapidly setting up and removing more than 30 instruments, and that rehearsals had begun in June. Discussing the goal of establishing CMU's presence among peer programs, a presenter said the students would "aura farm on them."

The club reported prior benefits including graduate-program contacts, an assistantship opportunity, composition advice, and performance connections. Fundraising included bake sales, MavFunder,

event volunteering, a faculty fundraiser, a planned MOD Pizza fundraiser, and busking. Presenters said changes to MavRides had reduced a fundraising opportunity used in the prior semester.

Questions and Responses

- Senator Dieterichs asked about music students' workloads and the House's \$1,700 reduction. Presenters described long days of classes, practice, rehearsals, and performances that limited fundraising and employment. They expected to continue fundraising but said additional student contributions might be necessary.
- Senator Ammirati asked about the schedule and instruments. Presenters described a Wednesday arrival, Thursday competition, and remaining time for clinics, performances, and equipment demonstrations. CMU would provide the large instruments; students owned many of their sticks and mallets.
- Senate Leader Wilson asked about competition eligibility, airfare, airport transportation, hotel reservations, and expenses paid directly by students. The competition was open to colleges that registered; the club had not received a qualifying invitation. Montrose offered the least expensive flights, and students would separately cover transportation to the airport. Presenters also distinguished individual PAS membership payments from the filed expense breakdown.
- Presenters said the hotel was booked through PASIC's block reservation process, within walking distance of the convention, after comparing hotels and alternative accommodations. They described reducing the food allowance from a higher advised rate to \$50 per student per day to control costs.
- Wilson asked about remaining fundraising and whether fewer students could travel. Presenters expected modest receipts from MOD Pizza and further bake sales, emphasized the value of professional networking, and said all 17 students were needed for performance logistics. Registration had already been paid, so reducing the roster would not solve the immediate shortfall.
- President Lorica asked about checked instruments and the accompanying advisor. Presenters said only instruments unavailable at the convention required checked baggage and that the advisor would pay his own expenses.

Senate Discussion and Amendment

Senator Dieterichs disclosed that he would attend the trip and would abstain from voting. He supported the request and expressed concern that portions of the House questioning had been accusatory and that the initial funding vote followed an immediate close of discussion. He argued that the \$1,700 reduction would place a disproportionate burden on students who had already paid registration and membership costs and proposed discussing restoration of half the reduction.

In response to Senator Washington, House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada explained that the House reduction reflected an additional \$100 contribution from each of the 17 students. Senate Leader Wilson reviewed prior support for the club, acknowledged its research and educational opportunities, and emphasized the need to consider unlisted costs, limited fundraising capacity, and ASG's remaining budget.

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved to enter cross-talk indefinitely without executive officers. The Senate entered cross-talk at 8:16 p.m.

During cross-talk, senators weighed the additional student burden against preserving funds for later requests. Members discussed increasing future controlled-budget allocations and the circumstances that might justify a reserve withdrawal. Senator Rodelo opposed increasing the request, citing the House's decision and the need to protect available funds. A nonbinding straw poll was taken on restoring \$850. Members noted that a Senate amendment would send the bill to conference.

Action: A motion to end cross-talk was seconded and adopted. Cross-talk ended at 8:25 p.m.

Action: Senator Dieterichs moved to increase the SCRF allocation to \$2,000, an increase of \$850, bringing the total fiscal impact to \$3,150. The motion was seconded, and the Senate proceeded to a roll-call vote on the bill as amended. The Transportation allocation remained \$1,150.

Roll-Call Vote - Expenditure Bill 27-09 as Amended

Voting Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	X		
Senator Paul R. Dieterichs			X
Senator Gabby D. Gallegos	X		
Senator Ben D. Himes			X
Senator Ramon Rodelo		X	
Senator Darius C. Washington	X		
Senator Connor G. Webb	X		
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	X		

Vote: 5 yes, 1 no, 2 abstentions.

Action: Expenditure Bill 27-09 passed as amended, 5-1-2, allocating \$2,000 from SCRF and \$1,150 from the Transportation Budget. The amended Senate version would proceed to conference with the House.

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved for a two-minute recess. The motion was seconded and adopted, and the Senate resumed at 8:30 p.m.

C. Vote and Discussion on the ASG Student Code of Conduct

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved to suspend the rules and read only the document's title. Senator Rodelo seconded the motion, and the Senate proceeded under that motion.

Senator Washington asked what had changed. Vice President Gallegos explained that the distributed draft corrected grammar and clarified the opening paragraph's application of the ASG Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and Maverick Student Guide. The draft also directed members to the current Maverick Student Guide for additional definitions and provisions. No further questions or substantive discussion were offered.

Roll-Call Vote - ASG Student Code of Conduct

Voting Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	X		
Senator Paul R. Dieterichs	X		
Senator Gabby D. Gallegos	X		
Senator Ben D. Himes	X		
Senator Ramon Rodelo	X		
Senator Darius C. Washington	X		
Senator Connor G. Webb	X		
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	X		

Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Action: The revised ASG Student Code of Conduct was approved 8-0 by roll call.

IX. Senate Discussion

Senator Washington announced the October 26 Health Industry Hour at 5:00 p.m., organized with Career Services. He requested help publicizing the event through student organizations and asked two or three senators to attend and represent their departments. He reported visiting a club with Senate Leader Wilson and encouraged additional outreach.

Executive Session Votes

Action: Senate Leader Wilson moved to enter executive session. The motion was seconded, and Chief of Staff Bishop conducted the roll-call vote.

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 Ben D. Himes	X		
Senator Ramon Rodelo	X		
Senator Darius C. Washington	X		
Senator Connor G. Webb		X	
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	X		

Vote: 6 yes, 2 no, 0 abstentions.

Action: The motion passed 6-2, and the Senate entered executive session.

Vote - Include House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

Voting Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	X		
Senator Paul R. Dieterichs	X		
Senator Gabby D. Gallegos	X		
Senator Ben D. Himes	X		
Senator Ramon Rodelo	X		
Senator Darius C. Washington	X		
Senator Connor G. Webb	X		
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	X		

Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Action: The Senate voted 8-0 to include House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada in the executive session.

Roll-Call Vote - End Executive Session

Voting Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	X		
Senator Paul R. Dieterichs	X		
Senator Gabby D. Gallegos	X		
Senator Ben D. Himes	X		
Senator Ramon Rodelo	X		
Senator Darius C. Washington	X		
Senator Connor G. Webb	X		
Senate Leader Logan Wilson	X		

Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Action: The motion to end executive session passed 8-0. Senate Leader Wilson conducted the roll-call vote, and the public meeting resumed under Vice President Gallegos.

Resumed Public Discussion

President Lorica returned to the question of reserve funding. He preferred waiting until the need was clearer because many current requests concerned later events and the pace of applications could change. He stated that senators could consider reallocating available RNCF money to SCRF or Transportation and invited further discussion of possible budget changes after the meeting. No budget transfer was adopted.

Senator Washington asked about increasing the biennial SCRF request to reflect inflation, enrollment, and demand. President Lorica described a possible biennial appeal and said prior utilization and the effect on student fees had informed the current request. Vice President Gallegos explained that anticipated club-sport requests also needed to be considered when preserving competition funding.

Vice President Gallegos thanked senators for respectful questions and offered to discuss updated budget breakdowns with CFO Smith. Senator Washington requested clearer documentation of the original bill and the changes adopted by the House so senators could identify amendments before deliberation.

X. Announcements

Vice President Gallegos encouraged attendance at Senator Washington's event and referred members to the ASG calendar. No other announcements were offered.

XI. Adjournment

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos adjourned the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Submitted by Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff