

Associated Student Government Student Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 30, 2026 | 7:01-7:42 p.m. | UC 222

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 7:01 p.m. in UC 222.

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	

Seven senators were present and three were excused. Quorum was established.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Action: The 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.

VI. Executive Reports

House Speaker Jayden Alonzo-Estrada

- Reported that the first biennial hearing had taken place September 29, with substantive discussion and feedback being collected to explain House decisions.
- Offered to explain the House's handling of Expenditure Bill 27-05 during consideration of the bill.

Press Secretary Brooklyn Lee

- No report was given.

Chief of Staff Caleb Bishop

- Planned to make the biennial presentations available with the meeting minutes on the ASG website so students could review the material.

Supreme Court Justice Jachin Glassman

- Reported that the Supreme Court had reviewed the proposed RNCF funding for Expenditure Bill 27-05. Glassman explained that the House standing rules required winning or an invitation based on academic prowess and that the club's current-year invitation had not yet been provided for the review.
- Advised that the bill, as written, was unconstitutional and recommended amending the funding source to SCRF and Transportation.

Director of External Affairs Sophia Tassinari

- Requested assistance with Grill Night on Thursday, October 1. Setup was scheduled for 3:30 p.m., with the event beginning at 4:15 p.m.
- Requested help setting up and taking down the tailgate on Saturday, October 3, and asked members to RSVP for volunteer shifts.

President Elijah Lorica

- Asked senators to review his presidential message and Dr. Montoya's email about the biennial process. He encouraged senators to attend at least part of the House's Tuesday hearings and provide feedback because the funding decisions would also come before the Senate in December.
- Requested help grilling and with setup and teardown at the upcoming events.

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos

- Encouraged senators to attend the biennial hearings and reminded members to ask necessary questions respectfully, recognizing that presenters were students and advisors and drawing on CMU's core values.

VII. Branch Leader Reports

The Senate proceeded to New Business without a separate branch leader report.

VIII. New Business

A. Expenditure Bill 27-05 - Radiology Club

Senator Darius C. Washington presented and read the bill's event details and appropriation. The bill requested \$2,000 from the Regional and National Competition Fund (RNCF) for 19 Radiology Club students attending the ACERT conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, February 3–5, 2027. No questions on wording were raised before content discussion.

Action: Senator Connor G. Webb moved to change the funding source from RNCF to the Student Controlled Reserve Fund (SCRF) and Transportation Fund. Senator Washington then moved to specify \$1,440 from SCRF and \$560 from Transportation; that motion was seconded. The Senate continued with the club's presentation and later adopted the funding amounts recorded below.

Presentation

Radiology Club presenters described the competitive radiologic technology program and the conference's educational and professional value. They reported a 98 percent exam pass rate as of 2025, 100 percent job placement, and 100 percent program completion. The conference included a student bowl competition, professional lectures, networking, and registry-exam preparation. Students would also volunteer at the conference.

Presenters supplied a current-year invitation that had not been available at the House meeting. They later explained that it was a courtesy invitation associated with the club's ACERT membership, rather than an invitation earned through a performance threshold.

The presentation estimated conference-trip expenses at \$6,539, including nine paid registrations after ten complimentary registrations, six hotel rooms for three nights, transportation in seven student-owned vehicles, and conference shirts. Students would cover meals, personal travel expenses, and the Real Bodies exhibit. Separate club expenses included \$665 for ASRT memberships and a \$400 annual leadership-scholarship contribution.

The club described fundraising through the Desert Rats race, Candle Kitchen sales, drink punch cards, Beer Fest, and a MavFunder campaign, and reported a \$500 Community Hospital donation. Presenters explained that losing Country Jam as a fundraising opportunity required finding additional revenue sources. The \$2,000 request was for the current cohort's trip; continued fundraising would also help leave funds for the following cohort's early registration.

Questions and Responses

- Senator Washington asked about a typical day in the program and time available for fundraising. Presenters described hospital clinical rotations, in-person and online coursework, employment, and, for some students, out-of-town rotations. Fundraising was limited to a few hours each week, with first-year schedules becoming more demanding when clinicals began.
- Senator Webb and the House Speaker requested review of the invitation. House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada asked whether it reflected academic achievement or a courtesy invitation; presenters described it as a membership courtesy.
- Senator Raven R. Kopko asked about program length and the difference between the bill's \$7,118 total trip cost and the presentation's \$6,539. Presenters explained that the professional program lasted two years within a bachelor's degree and confirmed that 19 students would attend.

Action: Senator Kopko moved to amend the bill's total trip cost to reflect the presentation's \$6,539. Senator Webb seconded the motion, and the amendment was approved.

- Senator Ben D. Himes asked whether the \$665 membership expense formed part of the trip cost. Presenters clarified that it was a separate club expense.
- Supreme Court Justice Jachin Glassman asked about competition requirements and the share of the conference devoted to competition. Presenters said student bowl participation was expected, although not strictly required, and estimated that competition accounted for approximately one-third of the event. The competition offered recognition rather than a monetary prize.

- Senator Kopko asked whether the request included a reserve for next year. Presenters clarified that the \$2,000 was needed for the current students, while any funds remaining for the next cohort would come from continued fundraising.

Senate Discussion and Amendments

Senator Washington supported the request, citing the club's fundraising effort, demanding schedules, loss of Country Jam revenue, conference and networking opportunities, and assistance with his upcoming health-industry event. He described the request as approximately \$105 per student. Senators Webb and Kopko also supported funding the opportunity and recognized the club's effort.

President Lorica reviewed the original funding split of \$1,560 from SCRF and \$440 from Transportation. He also relayed Chief Financial Officer Guerin Smith's estimate of \$18,720 in anticipated requests across those funds, excluding two additional requests received that day.

In response to Senator Kopko's question about whether the invitation changed eligibility, Justice Glassman maintained that RNCF funding was inappropriate because the event was principally a conference with a competitive component, rather than explicitly a competition. President Lorica noted that a funding-source amendment was still needed.

Action: Senator Himes moved to amend the bill to allocate \$1,560 from SCRF and \$440 from Transportation. The amendment was adopted, retaining the \$2,000 fiscal impact.

House Speaker Alonzo-Estrada summarized the bill's prior versions: the original split between SCRF and Transportation, the full \$2,000 from RNCF, a proposed \$200 reduction based on additional student contributions, and a \$1,800 version using SCRF and Transportation. He also explained prior changes between the Real Bodies and shirt line items. These versions were reviewed as context for the Senate's amendments.

Senator Himes asked whether changing the listed total trip cost affected the allocation. President Lorica explained that the total helped members assess the expense breakdown, while the allocation was deposited into the club account, and supported correcting the total for accuracy.

Action: During final review, Senator Webb requested that the bill accurately reflect the trip total in the presentation and pointed out a funding-source typo. The motion to amend the total trip cost to match the presentation was seconded and approved. The allocation remained \$2,000.

Roll-Call Vote - Expenditure Bill 27-05 as Amended

The Senate voted on Expenditure Bill 27-05 as amended.

Voting Member	Yes	No	Abstain
Senator Kelbee Ammirati	X		
Senator Gabby D. Gallegos	X		
Senator Ben D. Himes	X		
Senator Raven R. Kopko	X		
Senator Ramon Rodelo	X		
Senator Darius C. Washington			X
Senator Connor G. Webb	X		
Result	6-0-1; passed		

Vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. Senators Dieterichs and Gonzalez and Senate Leader Wilson were excused and did not vote.

Action: Expenditure Bill 27-05 passed the Senate as amended. Vice President Gallegos announced that the bill would proceed to conference before final passage.

IX. Senate Discussion

- Senator Kopko followed up on a proposed Senate gathering and group chat. Vice President Gallegos reported that Senate Leader Wilson expected to complete the group chat by the end of the week.
- Vice President Gallegos announced Senator Washington's Health Industry Hour on October 26. Flyers were being prepared, and senators were asked to help publicize the event and support one another's initiatives. Senator Washington planned to provide further details at the next meeting and invited members to contact him with questions.

X. Announcements

No additional announcements were made.

XI. Adjournment

Vice President Jessalyn Gallegos adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Submitted by Caleb Bishop, Chief of Staff