

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB

7:00PM

OCTOBER 30TH, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:01 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 14 Senators present.
 - b. Absent: Senator Burlakoti
 - c. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist, and Dr. Robert Wagner, Idaho State University President.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 30th, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from September 30th, 2026: Vaccarella/Burrell
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 7th, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for October 7th, 2026: Smith/Baughmann
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Anti-Gravity Club- New Organization: Breanne Hansen
 - i. Teresa Brissette introduced the Anti-Gravity Club, a new student organization seeking ASISU recognition. The purpose of the Anti-Gravity Club is to provide students with opportunities to learn aerial arts and performance skills, promote responsible aerial arts practices, and foster a supportive community.
 - ii. Hallie Mathews, representing the organization, explained that she has participated in aerial arts for approximately three to four years. She noted that aerial arts are often marketed toward younger children but can be applicable to students of all ages. The organization seeks to make aerial arts more accessible to college students. The club plans to primarily participate in aerial silks, with potential opportunities involving lyra, straps, static trapeze, and other aerial apparatuses. Possible future events include recitals and performances. The organization noted that an aerialist previously performed at the Gatsby event.
 1. Senator Smith asked about potential events
 2. Hallie Mathews discussed possible recitals, performances, and possible involvement in future on campus events
 3. Senator Hsieh asked about safety concerns and costs.

4. Hallie Mathews explained that the organization has an agreement with an instructor to rent a facility and that a trained instructor would be present. The facility has ceilings approximately 12–15 feet high, and crash mats would be used.
5. Senator Paine asked about the meeting location and funding.
6. Hallie Mathews stated that the organization is working to establish a rental agreement for an off-campus facility and does not currently have funding.
7. Senator Van Meter asked about the facility's location.
8. Hallie Mathews responded by noting that the facility is approximately 15–20 minutes from campus in Chubbuck.
9. Senator Leyva discussed the possibility of carpooling to make participation more accessible.
10. Hallie Mathews noted approximately 32–36 interested students and noted that additional students are being contacted. The organization has three additional officers assisting with its operations.
 - a. Motion to approve the Anti-Gravity Club as an ASISU recognized student organization: Smith/Baughmann
 - i. ROLL CALL
BRENDON BALL- YES
MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- YES
HANNAH BURRELL- YES
ERIC HSIEH- YES
JOVANY LEYVA- YES
PAIGE LITTLE- YES
ETHAN PAINE- YES
OLIVIA PICANCO- YES
PRAJAKTA SHARMA- YES
SILAS SMITH- YES
HEATHER SWARTZ- YES
JOHN TORRES-DROZD – YES
AJ VACCARELLA- YES
BRAYDEN WIGHT- YES
 - ii. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - b. Psychology Club- New Organization: Madelyn Shaw
 - i. Theresa Brissette introduced the Psychology Club, which is being re-established as an ASISU student organization. The organization had been inactive for approximately three or more years and therefore required Senate review and approval. The club's purpose is to facilitate student interest in psychology, provide exposure to different areas of psychology, support psychology majors, and provide professional development opportunities. The club representative explained that students previously had to seek out research opportunities, graduate school information, and professional development independently. The club intends to create a community where psychology students can share

information and opportunities. The club currently has at least 30 interested students and continues to recruit members.

1. Senator Leyva asked about potential events.
2. Madelyn Shaw stated that the club plans to hold social events, graduate school preparation activities, research colloquiums, and other activities based on student interests.
3. Senator Van Meter asked why the organization became inactive previously.
4. Madelyn Shaw explained that there was not enough continued undergraduate leadership to sustain the organization.
5. Senator Hsieh asked about potential costs.
6. Madelyn Shaw noted possible expenses as food for social events and travel to conferences, although there are no immediate funding requests.

- a. Motion to approve the Psychology Club as an ASISU recognized student organization: Smith/Little

- i. ROLL CALL

BRENDON BALL- YES

MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- YES

HANNAH BURRELL- YES

ERIC HSIEH- YES

JOVANY LEYVA- YES

PAIGE LITTLE- YES

ETHAN PAINE- YES

OLIVIA PICANCO- YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA- YES

SILAS SMITH- YES

HEATHER SWARTZ- YES

JOHN TORRES-DROZD – YES

AJ VACCARELLA- YES

BRAYDEN WIGHT- YES

- ii. Motion: **CARRIED**

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter President Halter reported that he met with Vice President Medema and Vice President Ostermann to discuss planning for upcoming initiatives that they have in mind for the rest of the semester. He also reported attending the Pocatello City Council meeting the previous Thursday to observe the signing of a joint effort between the City of Pocatello and Idaho State University. He noted that the partnership will strengthen collaboration between the city and university, highlighting the city councils Bengal pride as a highlight of the event. On Monday, President Halter met with President Wagner to provide an update on recent ASISU initiatives and challenges, while also discussing how to reduce student retention rates. He raised awareness to senators that continuing to keep students engaged and get them involved in on campus events will keep students on campus. President Halter, Director Hutchins, Senator Burl, and Senator Torres Droz

also held a planning meeting for the University's 125th Anniversary Dance. The event is tentatively planned for the week of December 1, pending approval from the 125th Anniversary Committee. The group also discussed the reserve fund and other initiatives for the upcoming months. President Halter also noted that he met with Director Saunders to discuss feedback from senators and other members and to plan future projects. He reported that much of the remainder of the week was dedicated to Homecoming, inviting senators to continue to participate in events for the remainder of the week. He lastly mentioned that Cesar Chavez Avenue was renamed to Gutierrez Avenue.

IX. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre reported that along with Senator Smith, Senator Ball, and Director Saunders, they are working on a detailed breakdown of the reserve fund to ensure that senators have a clear understanding of the available funds and current allocations. She also reported that club-related emails are still being finalized and will be distributed once completed. Senators will receive a message in the group chat when the information is available.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Ball
 - i. Senator Ball reported that the Nepalese Student Association and Crossroads Christian Fellowship presented a funding request for an upcoming event. No vote was taken because the request exceeded \$1,000. He then noted that Sigma Sigma Sigma requested funding for tailgate dirty sodas based on the success of its previous event. He reported that the request passed in Finance Committee. An internal funding request for an ASISU trip to Meridian was also discussed. The request exceeded \$1,000 and will be voted on at a future Finance Committee meeting. He also noted that the student giveaway purchase for the October 3 football game was executive discretionary spending.
- c. Rules and Appointment Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith reported that the committee met Thursday to discuss current projects. Additional research is still being conducted regarding judicial matters. The committee plans to submit the first portion of its proposal regarding the Merchant Colleges next week, primarily addressing bylaw changes. He also reported that Bills 628 and 629 were released by the Rules and Appointments committee.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre reported that athletics provided \$500 toward food for the Homecoming tailgate. The funding will allow the committee to expand food availability beyond students while continuing to prioritize students. The candy and other tailgate details are almost complete but final information regarding time, location, and attire will be sent to senators the day of the event on Saturday, October 10th. She also reported that the Student Activities Board will be handing out foam light sticks. She also noted club involvement for the tailgate, including PHPA, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Grace Club, TKE, and LED who will provide horchata. Senators were encouraged to attend both the tailgate and

football game to maintain school spirit. She also noted that the new JBL speakers purchased by ASISU have been delivered and are available for use.

e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Committee, Senator Swartz

- i. Senator Swartz reported that she and Senator Ball distributed self-care goodie bags. She also stated that Senator Picanco and Senator Burrell will distribute the remaining bags in Rendezvous the following day on October 8th.

X. OLD BUSINESS

a. Bill 628

- i. Senator Smith discussed implications of the bill, highlighting expectations for in-person Senate attendance and attendance tracking during caucus and Senate meetings.

1. Motion to approve Bill 628: Smith/Vaccarella

- a. ROLL CALL

BRENDON BALL- YES

MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- YES

HANNAH BURRELL – YES

ERIC HSIEH – YES

JOVANY LEYVA – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

ETHAN PAINE – YES

OLIVIA PICANCO – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HEATHER SWARTZ – YES

JOHN TORRES-DROZD – YES

AJ VACCARELLA – YES

BRAYDEN WIGHT- YES

- b. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Bill 629

- i. Motion to approve Bill 629: Leyva/Hsieh

1. ROLL CALL

BRENDON BALL- YES

MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- YES

HANNAH BURRELL – YES

ERIC HSIEH – YES

JOVANY LEYVA – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

ETHAN PAINE – YES

OLIVIA PICANCO – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HEATHER SWARTZ – YES

JOHN TORRES-DROZD – YES

AJ VACCARELLA – YES

BRAYDEN WIGHT- YES

2. Motion: **CARRIED**

c. Reserve Fund Requests

i. The Swanson Arch 125th Anniversary Plaza

1. President Wagner thanked the Senate for its consideration and acknowledged the discussion that had taken place regarding the request. He explained that the project would create a lasting space on campus and provide an opportunity for current and future students, as well as alumni, to participate in an important part of ISU's 125-year history. President Wagner invited senators to ask questions and express concerns before the Senate entered private discussion.
 - a. Senator Paine questioned the benefit of contributing reserve funds to a project that would be completed regardless of whether ASISU provided funding.
 - b. President Wagner explained that the request was intended to allow students to participate in the project and contribute to its design.
 - c. Senator Paine expressed concerns that many students were opposed to the request and questioned whether student funds should be used when the project would proceed without them.
 - d. Senator Torres-Drozdz asked how much influence students would have over the design if ASISU contributed funds.
 - e. President Wagner stated that a design committee would be formed and that two students would be included on the committee. Those students would have the opportunity to provide input regarding the plaza's design and features.
 - f. Senator Leyva asked how firmly the design would be established before students could provide input.
 - g. President Wagner explained that the design committee would receive a budget and determine which features could be incorporated. Committee members representing different areas of the university would provide input, compromise would be necessary, and the final design would be developed within the established budget.
 - h. Senator Little asked why the request increased from approximately \$100,000 in the spring to \$125,000.
 - i. President Wagner explained that the project estimates had been reevaluated as the university considered contributions from multiple participating organizations. He stated that if the \$25,000 difference was a concern, he would accept and appreciate a \$100,000 contribution.
 - j. Senator Baughman noted that the original presentation connected the \$125,000 request to ISU's 125th anniversary.

- k. President Wagner explained that the amount was connected to the anniversary while also reflecting the estimated total project cost and anticipated contributions from other groups.
- l. Senator Paine asked whether ASISU would still have a voice in the project if it contributed less than the requested amount or no funding.
- m. President Wagner stated that students would still be consulted and provided updates regardless of whether ASISU contributed funding. However, students who contribute funding would have formal representation on the design committee. He emphasized that students would continue to receive updates and opportunities to provide input because they are members of the institutional community.
- n. Director Saunders expressed concern that many students do not support the project because they believe reserve funds could be better spent addressing deteriorating campus infrastructure. Examples were provided regarding aging facilities, including concerns about classrooms and bathrooms.
- o. President Wagner explained that ISU is actively pursuing funding for deferred maintenance and facility improvements. He noted that the university recently requested approximately \$400,000 for College of Business bathroom improvements and has pursued millions of dollars in deferred maintenance funding. President Wagner emphasized that maintaining campus infrastructure is a priority but that creating spaces for student life, engagement, community, beauty, and a sense of belonging is also important.
- p. Senator Leyva asked whether the \$125,000 contribution was intended for a specific portion of the plaza or primarily to provide students with a voice in the design.
- q. President Wagner explained that the project is being funded through multiple sources and that he personally proposed including students in the project because of the significance of the university's 125th anniversary. He stated that the project would proceed without ASISU funding but that student funding would allow students to participate more directly and help the project move forward more quickly.
- r. Senator Ball shared that he had spoken with graduate students and other students who supported the beautification project and asked President Wagner why he came to the Senate if the project would proceed without student funding.
- s. President Wagner reiterated that the purpose was to give students the opportunity to participate in a significant project

during ISU's 125th anniversary and to allow students to make a lasting contribution to the institution.

- t. Senator Smith thanked President Wagner for seeking student input but expressed concern that ASISU's reserve funds are limited and that other student projects could potentially have a greater impact.
- u. President Wagner acknowledged the concern and stated that the plaza would represent approximately 10% of ASISU's reserve funds, leaving approximately 90% available for other projects.
- v. President Halter expressed support for the plaza as part of ISU's broader 30-year plan and stated that a \$100,000 contribution may be more appropriate than the full \$125,000 request.
- w. Senator Hsieh asked about the overall fundraising goal.
- x. President Wagner explained that the total project is currently estimated at approximately \$1.5–\$1.8 million. The ISU Foundation has committed \$1 million, the Alumni Association is expected to raise more than \$100,000, and additional donor support is anticipated for landscaping. He noted that additional fundraising may be necessary depending on the final design and project cost.
- y. Senator Leyva asked whether President Wagner would accept \$100,000 rather than \$125,000.
- z. President Wagner stated that he would appreciate whatever amount ASISU was willing to contribute and emphasized that the contribution would help the project move forward more quickly. Regarding the project timeline, ADA work is expected to begin in the spring, with a potential groundbreaking/shovel ceremony also planned for the spring.
 - i. Motion to move into committee for 20 minutes:
Baughman/Hsieh
 - ii. Unanimous
 - iii. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - iv. Motion to move out of committee: Baughman/Little
 - v. Unanimous
 - vi. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - 1. Motion to deny the \$125,000 Reserve Fund Request for the Swanson Arch Plaza:
Smith/Paine
 - a. ROLL CALL
BRENDON BALL- NO
MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- YES
HANNAH BURRELL – NO
ERIC HSIEH – YES

JOVANY LEYVA – YES
PAIGE LITTLE – YES
ETHAN PAINE – YES
OLIVIA PICANCO – YES
PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
SILAS SMITH – YES
HEATHER SWARTZ – NO
JOHN TORRES-DROZD – NO
AJ VACCARELLA – YES
BRAYDEN WIGHT- YES

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Bill 630

- i. Bill 630, written by Heather Swartz, Senator for the College of Science and Engineering, and sponsored by Silas Smith, Senator for the College of Arts and Letters, has the purpose of extending the speaker limit from five minutes to thirty minutes.

b. Benny's Funding Request

- i. Sigma Sigma Sigma: Tailgate and Dirty Soda, \$188
 1. Senator Van Metre provided support for passing this request as the dirty sodas were extremely popular at the last tailgate.

c. Internal Funding Request

- i. October 3 Football Game Giveaway, \$150
 1. Director Saunders determined this is executive discretionary spending and therefore does not require Senate action; including it on the agenda was an oversight.

XII. OTHER

- a. Senate pro Tempore Vote of Confidence- October
 - i. Senator Smith was elected as the Senate Pro Temp for the month of October.

XIII. GALLERY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion to adjourn: Vaccarella/Smith
- b. Unanimous
- c. Motion: **CARRIED**

XVI. ROLL CALL

- a. 14 Senators present.
- b. Absent: Senator Burlakoti
- c. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

KASHLYN PETERSON