

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

ZOOM

7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 12 Senators present.
 - b. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student, Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist, Dr. Adam Bradford, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Craig Chatriand, Vice President of Student Affairs.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 4TH, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from February 4th, 2026: Vargas Barvosa/Lopez
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 11TH, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for February 11th, 2026: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. ISU Academic Updates, Dr. Craig Chatriand, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dr. Adam Bradford, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - i. Dr. Craig Chatriand, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Dr. Adam Bradford, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided a comprehensive update on the university's ongoing budget planning process and Academic Affairs restructuring efforts. Leadership shared that the university has engaged in numerous town halls across campus and distributed a campus-wide survey to faculty and staff to gather feedback regarding the budget decisions facing the institution. Thousands of comments and suggestions were collected, reviewed, and analyzed by the Administrative Council through both automated and manual review processes, including the coding of more than 2,000 individual comments. Key themes identified from this feedback included strengthening the academic core, improving operational efficiency, investing in people and performance, restructuring administrative units, and identifying opportunities for revenue growth and diversification. President Wagner released a campus video update providing additional context and transparency about the restructuring process. Dr. Bradford addressed concerns regarding information that circulated publicly before official announcements were made, noting that some press coverage created confusion and unnecessary concern. He emphasized that the structural reorganization has been carefully designed to ensure that students' ability to achieve their educational goals will not be negatively impacted. Academic programs will maintain accreditation, and students will continue progressing toward their degrees without disruption. While structural changes will occur, leadership stressed that academic integrity, student success, and institutional stability remain the highest priorities. A significant

restructuring initiative includes the creation of the College of Humanities, Education, and Social Science (CHESS), which will bring together the School of Education, School of Humanities, and School of Social Sciences into a single college structure. Departments within this new college will include Teaching and Educational Studies, School Psychology and Educational Leadership, Communication, English and Philosophy, History, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work and Criminology, Anthropology and Languages, Political Science, and Military Science/ROTC. This reorganization includes consolidations in administrative leadership and support roles, resulting in reductions in leadership positions, administrative assistant roles, and chair assignments, along with the addition of select positions to support graduate studies, philanthropy, and technology. The restructuring is projected to generate approximately \$1.78 million in annual savings. Within the College of Business, leadership presented its FY27 budget reduction plan, which focuses primarily on vacant faculty lines and summer compensation revisions. Planned reductions include eliminating open assistant professor positions in Accounting and Management, a visiting clinical assistant professor position, and implementing summer salary savings adjustments. These changes result in a total projected savings of \$521,797 and are tied to positions that were vacant at the time of the decision. Within the College of Science and Engineering, leadership reviewed both organizational structure and budget reduction strategies. The college structure includes multiple departments spanning engineering, mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, biology, and geosciences, supported by associate deans for undergraduate and graduate studies and six administrative assistants. The college's budget savings plan totals \$550,008 and includes restructuring chair assignments to reduce chair spending by 40 percent, reducing two administrative assistant positions, and eliminating two open faculty lines. These changes are intended to maintain academic quality while improving operational efficiency. Leadership also presented the realignment of biomedical science instruction and research into a unified Department of Biomedical Sciences within the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health. This department will integrate biochemistry, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, and pharmaceutical sciences. The realignment is intended to increase research productivity, expand collaboration opportunities, coordinate course offerings, streamline operations, and support expanded student opportunities in health science careers. Leadership noted that the university spent approximately \$800,000 last academic year on Anatomy and Physiology instruction, highlighting opportunities for improved coordination and efficiency. Within the College of Technology, leadership outlined a strategic restructuring plan focused on aligning programs with workforce needs, improving efficiency, and supporting long-term sustainability. Budget and efficiency measures include a shift in the Continuing Education model toward fee-based instruction, personnel and facility optimization, restructuring the START program, and targeted budget adjustments to support financial stability. Strategic investments include nursing curriculum alignment, a transition of the Respiratory Therapy associate degree, and expansion of the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy program. The College of Technology general fund reduction plan totals \$841,560 across FY26 and FY27. Leadership also presented a feasibility assessment exploring the potential relocation of the Emergency Services Department (ESD) from the College of Health and Human Services to the College of Technology, with a possible funding shift from general appropriations to Career Technical Education funding. Programs involved include Paramedic Science, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Fire Services, and Emergency Medical Services. If implemented, projected savings could total \$974,391 through reductions in faculty lines, classified staff, non-classified staff, operating costs, and adjunct and overload costs. Leadership emphasized that this remains an exploratory feasibility study rather than a finalized decision. The College of Health will be reorganized and renamed the College of Nursing and Rehabilitative Sciences. The new structure will include the School of Nursing and the School of Rehabilitative Sciences, incorporating programs such as Communication Sciences and Disorders, Counseling, Physical Therapy, Athletic Training, Occupational Therapy, and Sport and Exercise Science. The reorganization will implement a shared administrative services model intended to increase efficiency and improve resource management. The College of Pharmacy will expand into the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health. The new structure will include the College of Pharmacy alongside a School of Allied Health consisting of Community and Public Health,

Dental Hygiene, Emergency Services, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Nutrition and Dietetics, Physician Assistant Studies, and Radiographic Sciences. The reorganization also supports the creation of the Department of Biomedical Sciences through collaboration across academic units. Leadership presented data illustrating how these changes will rebalance resources across colleges. Previously, the College of Health included approximately 3,418 students, 46 programs, 130 faculty, and 55 staff, while the College of Pharmacy included 332 students, four programs, 33 faculty, and 20 staff. Under the proposed structure, the College of Nursing and Rehabilitative Sciences will include approximately 1,753 students, 25 programs, 85 faculty, and 31 staff, while the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health will include approximately 2,140 students, 27 programs, 81 faculty, and 42 staff. Leadership described this as achieving improved balance in academic resources. Restructuring across KDHS-related units is projected to generate \$382,627 in savings, primarily through salary and fringe reductions. Additional structural adjustments include proposed changes to the Office of Experiential and Interprofessional Education, integration of AHEC, collaboration with OSBE, and MarCom restructuring to support KDHS operations. These changes will transition into Phase Two of program prioritization. Leadership also discussed a university-wide initiative to harmonize faculty compensation policies and workload expectations. Current challenges include inequities in stipend practices, inconsistent compensation processes, and variations in course release policies. The future goal is to implement standardized compensation practices, transparent guidelines, and equitable workload distribution while maintaining flexibility for academic units. Programmatic growth opportunities were also presented as part of the institution's long-term financial strategy. These include increasing class sizes in Audiology and DNAP programs, expanding Radiographic Sciences to the Idaho Falls campus, creating a Health Science bachelor's degree with a pre-osteopathic medicine concentration in partnership with ICOM, and continuing expansion of existing programs such as Physical Therapy. These initiatives are projected to generate estimated budget impacts of approximately \$521,958 in FY27, \$591,311 in FY28, and \$705,613 in FY29. Leadership introduced the ISU Health initiative, which proposes creating a rebranded entrepreneurial clinical enterprise to improve clinic efficiency and financial sustainability. FY25 clinic data included 49,688 patient visits, 72,629 prescriptions filled, \$3.2 million in net clinic revenue, and \$5.9 million in gross pharmacy revenue. The initiative will be implemented over three years, beginning with leadership hiring and strategic planning, followed by rebranding and marketing, and culminating in expanded clinical services and full operations. The long-term goal is a financially viable, service-oriented clinical enterprise that balances academic training with clinical revenue generation. The presentation concluded with a summary of organizational reductions and financial targets. Centrally funded position eliminations include 11 administrative positions, 12 faculty positions, and 21 staff positions. The institution's overall financial strategy includes an approximately \$8 million reduction target, with 68 percent coming from personnel reductions, 14 percent from operating expense reductions, and 18 percent from additional revenue generation. Leadership emphasized that the restructuring process is designed to maintain academic quality, protect student success, and ensure the long-term financial stability of the institution.

1. Questions were raised regarding how the information presented primarily focused on the Division of Academic Affairs, while restructuring and budget adjustments are also occurring across the broader university, including the Division of Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, the Division of Finance, and the Division of Campus Operations. It was noted that changes within Academic Affairs directly impact ASISU representation, and ASISU may need to adjust how its members are apportioned in order to accurately reflect the newly organized academic structure of the institution.
2. A question was asked about the administrative assistant restructuring within the College of Science and Engineering and whether those changes included terminations. Leadership confirmed that some terminations are included. The university is moving toward a shared services model across multiple units when possible. Some engineering departments within the College of Science and Engineering were already operating under a shared services structure, which will help inform broader implementation. Of the positions being eliminated across the institution, approximately 40 percent were

vacant positions and 60 percent were filled positions, with some of the filled positions being administrative assistant roles.

3. Further clarification was requested regarding how budget reductions are affecting faculty positions. Leadership explained that most faculty position eliminations involve vacant lines, with the exception of one visiting professor position. These reductions represent the loss of the option to fill those positions in the future rather than the termination of currently employed faculty. Personnel changes will not take effect until the end of the fiscal year in June, and the university is implementing systems to support individuals whose positions are being eliminated. Leadership reiterated that, despite personnel reductions, the goal is to minimize disruption to academic programs and maintain stability for students.
4. Questions were also raised about the CHES reorganization and the School of the Arts. Leadership clarified that the arts will remain independent and will be led by an executive director. The goal is to provide the arts with flexibility to manage their own operations and develop a sustainable budget model.
5. Additional discussion focused on the potential impact of restructuring on adjunct professors and instructional faculty. Leadership explained that adjunct faculty are contract instructors hired to teach specific courses each semester, while longer-term instructor positions are non-tenure-track faculty roles. The restructuring is not intended to prevent departments from employing adjunct instructors, nor is it targeting instructional faculty positions. Leadership stated that no currently employed faculty members are expected to lose their positions as a result of these changes and that similar reductions are not anticipated moving forward.
6. Questions about ISU research structure prompted discussion of the reassignment of some biology-related staff responsibilities to the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health in order to address dispersion of related programs across colleges and improve coordination. Leadership noted that many other Idaho institutions are facing similar financial pressures and organizational changes.
7. ASISU members asked how they could help support the campus community during the transition and address negative narratives surrounding the restructuring. Leadership encouraged ASISU to reassure students that academic integrity will not be compromised and that student success remains the university's highest priority. They emphasized that the restructuring process has been handled thoughtfully and with careful consideration for students, faculty, and staff.
8. Questions were also raised about how the university will address potential confusion among incoming students related to college renaming and restructuring. Leadership noted that the institution is entering the implementation phase of these changes, which will include communication strategies to help students understand the new structure.
9. The discussion concluded with broader context about institutional budgeting. Leadership explained that universities primarily allocate funding toward personnel and facilities, and while the institution cannot control state funding levels, it must respond to those realities. Even during restructuring, campus improvements and updates must continue, and certain funds remain restricted to specific purposes based on state allocation requirements.

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter reported this week, he attended Faculty Senate this week, where discussion focused on upcoming ISU organizational changes. Approximately 130 members were in attendance. The Student Fee Recommendation is due this Friday. Director Burrell and Senator Saunders are working with Theresa Brissette to complete that process. President Halter is continuing to review student fees and prepare for the upcoming budget season.

IX. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Saunders
 - i. Senator Saunders reported that he met with committee chairs this week and has been working to clean and reorganize the Google Drive to make it more organized and uniform across committees. The committee also discussed deductions related to missed committee meetings and implementing those.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Saunders
 - i. Senator Saunders reported that he attended Bengal Cage, where they heard a presentation regarding lactation pods. He has also met with President Halter, Director Burrell, and Theresa Brissette to review Student Fee Activity proposals. Discussion focused on reviewing line items and determining how those items will be handled moving forward.
- c. Senate Rules and Appointments Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith reported that the committee met today and made significant progress on the project of consolidating and rewriting committee rule books. Work on this project is ongoing.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre reported that the committee is continuing to plan Trivia Night. The committee has finalized prize details and will be using remaining materials from Spirit Week in October. Members were encouraged to reach out with any questions.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainably Committee, Senator Pandey and Senator Vargas Barvosa
 - i. Senator Pandey reported meeting with Senator Van Metre to discuss planning for the Paint, Pot, and Pizza event. The committee is coordinating with other campus departments to support the event. Two potential dates, April 8 and April 15, are being considered, with the final decision dependent on weather conditions. The committee will meet tomorrow at 5:30 PM.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Bill 627
 - i. Motion to move Bill 627 to the Rules and Appointments Committee: Smith/Vargas Barvosa
 - 1. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - AIDAN HALL – YES
 - BRYSON KING – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - CJ LOPEZ – YES
 - DIYA PANDEY – YES
 - ANNA RESIDE – YES
 - ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
 - PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
 - SILAS SMITH – YES
 - HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
 - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES
 - 2. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Benny's Funding Request

i. Kappa Sigma and Alpha Xi, \$2,952

1. Motion to move to committee for 15 minutes: Saunders/Lopez
2. Unanimous
3. Motion: **CARRIED**
4. Motion to move out of committee: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa
5. Unanimous
6. Motion: **CARRIED**

a. Motion to approve the Kappa Sigma and Alpha Xi funding request for \$2,952:
Saunders/Pandey

i. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

CJ LOPEZ – YES

DIYA PANDEY – YES

ANNA RESIDE – ABSTAIN

ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

ii. Motion: **CARRIED**

c. Internal Funding Request

i. Idaho Period Project, \$1,000

1. Motion to approve the Internal Funding Request for \$1,000: Saunders/Lopez

a. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

CJ LOPEZ – YES

DIYA PANDEY – YES

ANNA RESIDE – YES

ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Internal Funding Request

i. Trivia Night, \$1,500

1. Senator Van Metre shared that all the prize and event details have been ironed out. The Student Involvement Committee will be moving forward with this event.

ii. Turner Day of Service, \$3,000

1. President Halter reminded members that this funding request is for breakfast on the morning of the Turner Day of Service. Breakfast will be provided to volunteers prior to the volunteering jobs begin.

XII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER

XIII. OTHER

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 12 Senators present.
- b. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON