

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF**

**IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT SENATE**

**SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB**

**7:00 PM**

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
  - a. 10 Senators present.
  - b. Absent: Senator Lopez and Senator Reside.
  - c. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students and Idaho State University President, Robert Wagner.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes from February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026: Saunders/Pandey
  - b. Unanimous
  - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2026
  - a. Motion to approve the agenda for February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 with the friendly amendment to add Resolution 2 under New Business: Saunders/Pandey
  - b. Unanimous
  - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
  - a. University Updates and Discussion, President Wagner
    - i. President Wagner provided several updates and opened the floor for questions from the Senate. He announced the dedication of the new Student Meditation and Reflection Room located in the Rendezvous Building. The space was created at the request of students and made possible through generous alumni financial support. Students may book time through the Student Success Center, and the room is available for meditation, reflection, and personal quiet time. President Wagner also announced that the May 2026 Commencement Speaker will be Randy'L He-dow Teton, a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, author, and model for the Sacagawea coin. She was recommended by the Idaho Humanities Council as part of the America 250 initiative and is expected to deliver an inspiring message to graduates and their families. President Wagner also noted continued progress in tribal relations. Two honorary doctorate degrees will be awarded at commencement. Recipients include one former President of the State Board of Education, recognized for her role in facilitating the purchase and development of land that became part of the ISU Meridian Campus, and the second to the founder of Melaleuca, recognized for contributions to economic development and employment opportunities in Eastern Idaho. President Wagner reminded members that Bengal Giving Day will take place March 10–11 and mentioned an upcoming press event and celebration in connection to that event. He plans to attend unless the men's or women's basketball teams are competing in the Big Sky Championship games. He also thanked students for their organization of the Founders Day of Service and encouraged members to visit the 125 Years website to share photos, stories, and participate in anniversary events. He noted that an online store featuring retro Bengal gear is also part of the 125-year celebration. Regarding tuition and fee hearings, President Wagner shared that the process is proceeding as scheduled and following established protocols. Final decisions will be made by the Department of Education Board during the April meeting in Moscow. He emphasized

that student engagement and participation in this process are critical. President Wagner also provided budget updates. He explained that ISU began the fiscal year on July 1, 2025, with a balanced budget for the first time in ten years after addressing a \$15 million structural deficit. However, approximately two and a half months into the fiscal year, the Governor's Office announced a 3.5% budget decrease, resulting in an estimated \$3 million difference. The university responded through operational holdbacks and hiring freezes and is continuing to plan for long-term financial resilience. He emphasized that higher education continues to evolve and adapt, and that institutional change is necessary to ensure long-term success.

1. Senator Smith asked about President Wagner's experience discussing policy issues with legislators. President Wagner responded that the experience has been unlike anything he has seen in his career.
2. President Halter asked about the School of Arts and whether similar programs exist. President Wagner explained that it will remain a school rather than a college, allowing for more efficient organization. He also discussed auxiliary funding, noting that programs able to generate their own revenue may reinvest those funds and potentially operate independently in the future.
3. Senator Saunders asked hypothetically whether the university could reorganize again in the future if circumstances changed. President Wagner stated that while future conditions are unknown, current changes are based on what ISU needs now.
4. Senator Van Metre promoted Trivia Night and asked if questions about President Wagner could be included.
5. Senator Smith asked for clarification on the difference between a school and a department. President Wagner explained that departments exist within schools, which then exist within colleges as part of the university structure.

#### VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter reported that this week he participated in the student fee discussion and co-chaired the board alongside Dr. Craig Chatraind. On Tuesday, he met with Senator Reside to discuss graduate student concerns. He also shared that he and Vice President Medema are holding weekly office hours to ensure students know they are available and accessible. President Halter also met with Pallavi Pokharel, the University Sustainability Manager, and several involved student organizations to hold the first Earth Day planning meeting, noting that donations are being sought for a pop-up thrift shop. He and Vice President Medema also met with other student body leaders from universities and colleges across Idaho to support the Idaho Launch Program, emphasizing it as an important resource for students. Members were encouraged to reach out with any questions regarding the program. He also reminded members that the Turner Day of Service will take place on Wednesday, March 11, and will include breakfast burritos and T-shirts for volunteers.

#### IX. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Saunders
  - i. Senator Saunders reported that he attended the student fee hearing review and represented student concerns and perspectives regarding proposed fee increases that would be most beneficial to students. He also shared that new club email access is being organized and that assignments will be completed this weekend.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Saunders
  - i. Senator Saunders reported that today, the finance committee heard line-item presentations from the Outdoor Adventure Center and KISU-FM regarding their current operations and future goals. Additional discussions included the ASISU Spirit Pack, the Paint-a-Pot event, student tailgates entertainment and Counseling and Mental Health Center hygiene kits.
- c. Senate Rules and Appointments Committee, Senator Smith
  - i. Senator Smith reported that the committee is releasing Bill 627 and continuing work on bylaws reformatting and revisions.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre



i. Motion: CARRIED

b. Resolution 2

i. Senator Saunders reported that this resolution provides a commitment for ASISU to commit to making Benny's Pantry a continuing line item on our future budgets.

XII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER

XIII. OTHER

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

a. 10 Senators present.

b. Absent: Senator Lopez and Senator Reside.

c. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students and Idaho State University President, Robert Wagner.

d. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

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ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

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ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON