

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB**

5:30 PM

MARCH 4TH, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 11 Finance Committee members present.
 - b. Absent: Senator Pandey.
 - c. Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 25TH, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from February 25th, 2026: Saunders/Lopez
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 4TH, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for March 4th, 2026 with the friendly amendment to add an Internal Funding Request for the Paint-a-Pot event for \$1,380 under Old Business and an Internal Funding Request for the 2026 Graduation Stoles for \$800 under New Business: Saunders/Lopez
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. CHAIRS REPORT
 - a. Senator Saunders reported that this week he met with the reserve funding group to brainstorm and review ideas for potential reserve spending. He also met with Director Burrell, President Halter, and Theresa Brissette to discuss travel policies moving forward, as well as changes to other finance processes and the details surrounding those updates.
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Line-Item Hearing – Colin Johnson: International Affairs Council
 - i. Colin Johnson presented on behalf of the International Affairs Council (IAC) regarding funding for the annual Frank Church Symposium. The symposium is organized each year with support from a faculty advisor. The theme for this year’s symposium is “Our New Normal? Questioning the Global Future.” The event will take place on April 2 and April 3, and will include a keynote speaker. The council is requesting the same level of funding from ASISU as previous years. Johnson explained that the largest budget items for FY 2027 include travel, honorariums, and lodging and meals, which allow the council to bring invited delegates to Pocatello and create networking opportunities for IAC students. Honorariums help attract high-quality experts to participate both virtually and in person. By combining donations and paid services, the council prioritizes delegate-related expenses over logistical costs. Funds are also allocated for unexpected expenses and administrative costs to broadcast and record the symposium and keynote lecture via Zoom and YouTube, making the event accessible to both the student body and the public. Johnson shared that ASISU’s FY 2025 investment proved successful, and the council has taken steps to manage costs more effectively. The symposium was moved to April to take advantage of lower travel and lodging costs, and funds previously used for a formal banquet have been redirected toward honorariums and delegate travel. Increased support in FY 2026 has allowed the council to bring more delegates to Pocatello and place greater emphasis on lectures rather than panels. The council explained that their focus is on creating deeper engagement with invited delegates rather

than increasing the number of sessions. For FY 2027, the council is requesting continued support to maintain recent successes. While they continue to minimize costs, hosting a primarily in-person symposium requires consistent funding for travel and accommodation expenses. The council noted that they have been able to bring more delegates from across the American West, increasing awareness of both the symposium and Idaho State University while expanding networking opportunities for students.

1. During discussion, President Halter asked about attendance numbers from previous years and how both community and student involvement have changed over time.

b. Line-Item Hearing – Shelbie Harris: Bengal Newspaper

- i. Shelbie Harris presented the Bengal Newspaper FY 2027 budget request. The request to ASISU totals \$51,654, although the overall operating budget for FY 2027 is \$102,679, which includes a one-time funding request for \$35,000 to correct a fund balance deficit. Harris also shared that the Bengal Newspaper has continued to expand its publication schedule. This academic year, the newspaper printed monthly editions throughout the semester, including a summer edition published during the first week of school. The newspaper also completed a double print in November and December, producing three papers within six weeks, and plans to complete another double print before spring break. By the end of the academic year, the Bengal expects to have printed 11 total editions. The Bengal Newspaper currently operates with a full staff of writers, editors, and a photographer and continues to publish content both in print and online. Each article is also shared on the newspaper’s website and social media platforms to increase engagement with the ISU and Pocatello communities. Harris noted that students and community members have provided positive feedback regarding the publication. He also mentioned that the newspaper attempted to generate revenue through advertising sales. However, after the organization lost its advertising manager following the holiday break, some promised advertisement payments were not received.

1. During discussion, Senator Saunders asked whether the larger-than-normal funding request for FY 2027 is intended to help recover from the deficit. Harris confirmed that next year’s request would help stabilize operations moving forward. Senator Saunders also asked for clarification regarding the deficit the organization is currently facing and how the newspaper plans to address it. Harris explained that at the beginning of the year the organization believed it had a \$35,000 fund balance, but it was later discovered that the account actually had a \$15,000 deficit due to an oversight and incorrect financial information. This issue was not identified until later in the fiscal year.
2. President Halter asked about staffing and how the Bengal Newspaper plans to ensure finances are tracked more carefully moving forward. Harris explained that the organization currently has approximately eight to nine staff positions and that they are now closely monitoring the budget and tracking expenses more frequently. She clarified that the deficit resulted from incorrect financial information rather than mismanagement.

c. Suitable Student Engagement App Discussion, Theresa Brissette

- i. Discussion and presentation were moved to the Senate meeting later tonight.

X. OLD BUSINESS

a. Internal Funding Request

- i. Student Involvement Committee Tailgate Entertainment, \$3,600

1. Motion to move to committee for 5 minutes: Van Metre/Little
2. Unanimous
3. Motion: CARRIED
4. Motion to move out of committee: Van Metre/Little
5. Unanimous
6. Motion: CARRIED

- a. Motion to deny the Internal Funding Request for \$3,600: Saunders/Lopez

- i. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - MAKAYLA AMOS – YES
 - SKY HALTER – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - CJ LOPEZ – YES
 - CHARLIE MEDEMA – YES
 - ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
 - BROOKE TAYLOR – YES
 - HANNAH VAN METRE – ABSTAIN
 - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES
 - ii. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - ii. Counseling and Mental Health Center: Sleep and Personal Hygiene Kits, \$1,304
 - 1. A representative from the Counseling and Mental Health Center as well as the Health and Wellness Center shared that this funding is to purchase the supplies needed for these kits. The sleep kits will include packets of dried lavender, tea, sleep masks, and fuzzy socks to aid student with building better sleep habits. The personal hygiene kits will include toothpaste, toothbrush, body wash, hairbrushes, and shampoo and conditioner. These personal hygiene kits will be handed out in part along with the sleep kits. A significant portion of the hygiene kits will be kept in these two departments offices, to be handed out to students as needed.
 - a. Motion to approve the funding request for the Counseling and Mental Health Center’s Sleep and Personal Hygiene Kits for \$1,304: Van Metre/Halter
 - i. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - MAKAYLA AMOS – YES
 - SKY HALTER – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - CJ LOPEZ – YES
 - CHARLIE MEDEMA – YES
 - DIYA PANDEY – YES
 - ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
 - BROOKE TAYLOR – YES
 - HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
 - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES
 - ii. Motion: **CARRIED**
- iii. Paint-a-Pot Event, \$1,380
 - 1. Motion to approve the Internal Funding Request for the Paint-a-Pot Event for \$1,380: Saunders/Little
 - a. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - MAKAYLA AMOS – YES
 - SKY HALTER – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - CJ LOPEZ – YES
 - CHARLIE MEDEMA – YES
 - DIYA PANDEY – YES
 - ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
 - BROOKE TAYLOR – YES
 - HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
 - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Benny's Funding Request

i. HALO Baile Night, \$1,000

1. Representatives from the Hispanic Awareness Leadership Organization (HALO), including Estrella Barrientos, Isaac Brambila, and Vice President Jasmin Chávez, presented their request for funding for the upcoming Baile Night event. The presenters thanked ASISU and Theresa Brissette for their assistance in answering questions during the planning process and also acknowledged the work of the HALO executive board in organizing the event. They explained that HALO stands for the Hispanic Awareness Leadership Organization and aims to broaden students' perspectives and promote cultural awareness through cultural programming and events. The organization has hosted several events in the past, including a Homecoming Float, Valentine's Day Event, Lotería Night, and Aguas Frescas events. The presenters explained that Baile Night has been hosted in previous years and has historically received strong attendance and engagement. The event will include traditional food, traditional drinks, cultural décor, live music, prizes, and folklórico dancers. The funding request totals \$1,000 and will help support event expenses. The funding breakdown includes the SUB Ballroom at no cost, an additional hour rental for \$150, DJ Corazon Latino for \$800, and a \$50 gift card for a contest prize. The presenters also shared that \$900 in sponsorship funding has already been secured. This includes \$200 from Wilcox, \$500 contributed by parents of the executive team, and \$200 from Tacos Del Paisa in Idaho Falls. They emphasized that ASISU support helps create a welcoming environment for students to connect, strengthens collaboration with local businesses, and demonstrates support for cultural awareness and diversity within the student community.

a. During discussion, President Halter asked about the food and drink budget.

The presenters explained that food costs total approximately \$1,250 and will be covered through sponsorships and club funding. The catering will include quesadillas, street tacos, drinks, and utensils, with food planned for approximately 75 attendees. Vice President Medema asked about expected attendance, and the presenters shared that similar past events have had around 150 attendees, while they are currently expecting approximately 100 attendees for this event.

b. Senator Vargas Barvosa asked about the date and location of the event. The presenters confirmed that Baile Night will take place on April 3, with setup beginning at 5:30 PM in the SUB Ballroom. Senator Lopez asked whether the DJ had previously worked with ISU. The presenters explained that they have not worked with this DJ before but noted that the DJ frequently performs at events such as quinceañeras and will provide appropriate music for the event.

c. Vice President Medema asked whether ASISU would be included as a sponsor in promotional materials, and the presenters confirmed that the ASISU logo would be included. President Halter asked whether the event would be free to students and the community, and the presenters confirmed that the event will be free and open to all students and community members. Senator Vargas Barvosa also asked whether the presenters had worked with Theresa and Val to ensure the DJ meets university licensing requirements, and the presenters confirmed that they are currently working through that process.

i. Motion to approve the HALO Baile Night Benny's Funding Request for \$1,000: Saunders/Halter

1. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

MAKAYLA AMOS – YES

- SKY HALTER – YES
- PAIGE LITTLE – YES
- CJ LOPEZ – YES
- CHARLIE MEDEMA – YES
- DIYA PANDEY – YES
- ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
- BROOKE TAYLOR – YES
- HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
- DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

2. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Internal Funding Request

i. 2026 Graduation Stoles, \$800

1. Motion to approve the Internal Funding Request for the 2026 Graduation Stoles for \$800: Halter/Saunders

a. ROLL CALL

- SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
- MAKAYLA AMOS – YES
- SKY HALTER – YES
- PAIGE LITTLE – YES
- CJ LOPEZ – YES
- CHARLIE MEDEMA – YES
- DIYA PANDEY – YES
- ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
- BROOKE TAYLOR – YES
- HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
- DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Benny’s Funding Request

i. Native American Student Council: Roar of the Nations Powwow, \$2,000

1. A representative from the Wind River Reservation presented a funding request in support of the Roar of the Nations Powwow 2026 along with the council’s advisor, Echo Marshall. She shared that she is a freshman at ISU and this is her first time being involved in student leadership or campus organizations. She distributed posters and flyers with event details and explained that the request is for \$2,000 to support the host drum for the annual ISU Powwow. She went on to explained that the goal is to reestablish the ISU Powwow as an annual event, bringing both cultural celebration and community engagement to campus. The event is intended to strengthen connections between ISU, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the broader community while also bringing visitors and economic activity to the area. She emphasized that the Powwow is one of the most meaningful cultural events on campus and provides both a celebration and an educational space where students and community members can learn about Indigenous traditions and culture. The host drum is the center of a powwow, describing it as the “heartbeat” of the gathering. The host drum provides leadership and rhythm for the event and carries cultural, spiritual, and foundational significance. Without the host drum, the event would lose an important sense of connection and tradition. She emphasized that ASISU’s support would help ensure the powwow remains meaningful and impactful for students and the community.

a. During discussion, President Halter asked about the vendors expected at the event. She shared that two food vendors are confirmed, including tacos and island food, and that vendors are traveling from locations such as Montana

and Arizona. She noted that approximately 10 arts and crafts vendors are confirmed, with an additional 10 on a waiting list, and a walkthrough of the event space is scheduled to determine how many additional vendors can be accommodated.

- b. Senator Vargas Barvosa asked about the event's date and location. It was confirmed that the Powwow will take place on April 3 and April 4 in Reed Gym. President Halter asked about sponsorships or outside funding. The event has already received \$6,000 in support through a memorandum of agreement with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and additional sponsorships have helped support other event costs. The total cost of hosting the event is estimated to be between \$22,000 and \$25,000.
 - c. Senator Vargas Barvosa asked about expected attendance. Powwows typically attract over 1,000 attendees over the two-day event, including visitors traveling from multiple states. The host drum group, NDN Boyz from Warm Springs, Oregon, will also bring family members and participants. The last time a powwow of this scale was held at ISU was in 2016, and the organizers anticipate strong attendance from both the community and visiting participants. She also stated that many local hotels are expected to fill with powwow attendees that weekend.
2. The Roar of the Nations Powwow 2026 will feature free admission for the public, with Jackson "Rolling Thunder" Tahuka from Loon Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada serving as the event emcee, and will include the return of the Miss Native ISU Royalty Crowning. Conga concluded by encouraging members to help promote the event and support the return of the contest powwow to campus.
- ii. Tau Kappa Epsilon: Philanthropy Car Show, \$3,000
 1. Andrew Vaccarella, President of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), presented a request for \$3,000 to support a charity car show event in April. The event is scheduled for April 4 and is being organized in partnership with the Grilled Cheese Club. All proceeds from the event will be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as a philanthropy effort. The event is being overseen by a faculty committee and will have a capacity of approximately 100 cars. The event will be open to the Pocatello and Chubbuck community, with free entry and optional donations. A large portion of the requested funding will be used to provide food for the event, including hot dogs, hamburgers, soda, and water, as well as food for the Grilled Cheese Club portion of the event and any needed equipment. The remaining funds will go toward branded event T-shirts. Organizers are also coordinating with the Pocatello Police Department (PPD) and the Pocatello Fire Department (PFD) to set up informational booths during the event. At this time, there are no confirmed sponsors, though the TKE marketing lead is actively reaching out to local businesses for sponsorship opportunities and raffle donations.
 - a. During discussion, President Halter asked whether a mock-up of the shirt design was available. Vaccarella stated that the design is currently being finalized and will be shared when available
 - b. Senator Van Metre asked about the location of the event, which Vaccarella confirmed will be held in the Frazier Hall parking lot.
 - c. Senator Saunders asked how many shirts would be purchased; Vaccarella responded that approximately 100 shirts are planned and that both the food and shirts will be free.
 - d. Senator Van Metre asked whether the event would include older local vehicles, and Vaccarella confirmed that organizers are collaborating with the Pocatello Car Club and local motorcycle groups to encourage participation.

- e. Senator Vargas Barvosa asked whether any vehicles had been confirmed. Vaccarella explained that promotion had been delayed while awaiting faculty committee approval, but promotion will begin immediately once approval is received.
- f. President Halter asked where the shirts would be produced and how they would be distributed. Vaccarella stated they are still identifying a vendor but must use a Greek-letter certified company. Shirts will be included in goody bags for car show participants, with any remaining shirts distributed to students attending the event. When asked whether the funding would benefit students or vehicle participants, Vaccarella explained that it would support both students and car presenters, with priority given to participants, event staff, and registered vehicles, and any remaining items distributed to students

XII. OTHER

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 12 Finance Committee members present.
- b. Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- c. Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON