

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB

7:00 PM

MARCH 11TH, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 10 Senators present.
 - b. Absent: Senator Lopez and Senator Van Metre.
 - c. Also present: Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist, Jen Steele, Vice President of the Division of Finance and University Planning Administration, Fred Parrish, the University Business Officer, Dr. Rex Force, Vice President for Health Sciences & Senior Vice Provost, and Dr. Craig Chatriand Vice President of Student Affairs
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 4TH, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from March 4th, 2026: Saunders/Pandey
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR March 11TH, 2026:
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for March 11th, 2026 with the friendly amendment to add FY2027 Tuition and Fee Hearing under Announcements and Correspondence: Saunders/Pandey
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. FY2027 Tuition and Fee Hearing
 - i. The Senate was joined by Jenn Steele, Fred Parrish, Dr. Rex Force, Dr. Craig Chatriand, as the university representatives for the annual tuition and fee hearing presentation. The presenters explained that each year the university holds public hearings to review proposed tuition and fee changes for the upcoming academic year. They noted that the hearing held during the Senate meeting was open to the public and that an additional virtual hearing would be held the following day via Zoom. The presenters emphasized that the figures being shared represent the maximum proposed tuition and fee increases that could be implemented. Feedback gathered during the hearings, along with any written comments submitted to the university, will be compiled and presented to the Idaho State Board of Education at its April meeting before final decisions are made. The presenters began by outlining the university's budget and explaining how state appropriations and tuition dollars are allocated within central university funds. For FY2026, the adopted central university budget totals \$220,451,100. Of that amount, \$132,319,500 (60%) is allocated to personnel, including faculty, staff, advisors, custodians, and other university employees. The next largest category is scholarships at \$35,485,800 (16%), which includes awards for Idaho resident students, graduate assistants, some non-resident students, student athletes, and smaller scholarship programs. Other major categories include services and supplies at \$21,690,900 (10%), capital expenditures at \$10,962,700 (5%), and graduate assistantships at \$6,995,200 (3%). Additional expenditures include insurance, utilities, and rent at \$5,616,600 (3%), student employees and work-study at \$2,340,600 (1%), travel at \$1,786,400 (1%), and other operating expenses at \$3,253,400 (1%). The presenters then reviewed the major FY2027 budget drivers, explaining that the university is facing a projected \$12.8 million budget gap. The gap is

driven by several factors, including \$4.9 million in increased health insurance costs, \$2.7 million in inflationary expenses, and \$5.2 million in state funding cuts. The presenters noted that Idaho has already reduced ISU's budget by 3% in the current year, with legislation moving forward for an additional 1% reduction this year, and that all current indications point to a further 5% ongoing cut next year. These developments were described as a major shift from the prior expectation that the university had entered FY2026 with a balanced budget for the first time in several years. To address the projected gap, the university outlined its FY2027 balancing plan, which includes \$1.2 million in alternate revenues, \$5.4 million in staffing reductions, and \$1.7 million in operating reductions, resulting in \$8.3 million in total reductions. The remaining \$4.5 million would be addressed through proposed tuition and rate increases, bringing the total balancing plan to \$12.8 million. The presenters shared that approximately 44 positions will not continue into next year, with around 40% of those positions already vacant or resulting from retirements, though current employees are also affected. They emphasized that the university believes the plan is strategic and thoughtful and reflects feedback gathered from more than 2,000 comments received from the university community, including students. The presenters also discussed the broader work still ahead. Priorities include continued implementation of the university's restructuring plan, development of a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan to increase net tuition revenue, pursuit of diversified revenue streams, launch of a comprehensive fundraising campaign, and expansion of advocacy, outreach, partnerships, and collaborations. They also highlighted ongoing work on public-private partnerships to support infrastructure and student housing, Campus Master Plan implementation, including support for Life Sciences debt service, and continued focus on operational efficiencies, program prioritization, and preparation for Outcomes-Based Funding. The presenters emphasized that these efforts are intended to reduce the university's vulnerability to future state funding changes and to build greater financial resilience. The proposed FY2027 tuition rates were then reviewed. For full-time undergraduate students, tuition is proposed to increase from \$4,457 to \$4,724 per semester, a \$267 increase (6.0%). The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) rate would increase from \$6,018.61 to \$6,380.81 (6.0%), while undergraduate non-resident tuition would increase from \$14,120 to \$14,387 (1.9%). Graduate tuition is proposed to decrease from \$5,820 to \$5,687 (-2.3%), while graduate non-resident tuition would remain unchanged at \$15,420. For part-time students, undergraduate tuition would increase from \$454 to \$475 per credit hour (4.6%), while graduate tuition would increase from \$592 to \$613 per credit hour (3.5%). The presenters explained that the more significant increases in part-time non-resident rates are part of a multi-year effort to bring those rates into alignment with approximately one-tenth of the full-time non-resident rate. The hearing also included a review of the proposed Consolidated Mandatory Fee increases. For full-time students, total mandatory fees would increase from \$1,333.78 to \$1,410.38 per semester, a \$76.60 increase (5.7%). These fees support areas such as student enrollment, engagement, and success, student health and wellness, counseling and health center services, intramurals and recreation, institutional operations, facilities, information technology, student union services, band and choir, athletics, student government, and student clubs and organizations. The ASISU and Student Events fee would increase from \$67.00 to \$69.50 (3.7%), while the student clubs and organizations fee would remain unchanged. For part-time students, mandatory fees would increase from \$93.87 to \$98.88 per credit hour (5.3%). The presenters also reviewed the New Student Orientation fee, explaining that it is proposed to increase from \$105 to \$190, an \$85 increase, bringing it more in line with comparable fees at other Idaho institutions. They also noted that the university's ISU fee for fully online coursework will be fully phased out in FY2027, which will slightly offset costs for students taking online classes. Dr. Rex Force then presented information on professional fees, which apply primarily to programs in the health sciences and certain other specialized areas, including social work. He explained that these fees are separate from regular tuition and are used to cover extraordinary costs associated with programs that lead to licensure or professional credentials, require specialized accreditation, and have higher-than-

average faculty, facility, or equipment costs. He noted that in the Division of Health Sciences, only about half of the funding comes from state sources, meaning those programs rely more heavily on professional fees. Proposed increases are based on factors such as health insurance costs, equipment and supplies, technology needs, workforce outcomes, market rates, salary and benefit costs, and specialized operational expenses. He also explained that some programs are seeing no increase, while others may see increases as high as 10–14% depending on need.

1. During discussion, Senator Saunders asked about the increase to the New Student Orientation fee, and the presenters clarified that the new total would be approximately \$190–\$195, comparable to peer institutions in Idaho.
2. Theresa Brissette asked about scholarship spending and whether the university's scholarship allocation is in line with similar institutions. The presenters explained that ISU's scholarship grid is closely aligned with the University of Idaho's, though institutions fund scholarships in different ways. They emphasized that access and affordability remain central to ISU's mission.
3. Senator Saunders also raised concerns about students questioning why some programs are still charged professional fees if they are no longer federally classified as "professional" programs. Dr. Force explained that the university and the State Board of Education use a different framework for defining professional fees, based on licensure, specialized accreditation, and extraordinary program costs, rather than the federal student aid definition of a profession.
4. Senator Reside asked what percentage of tuition revenue comes from student borrowing and what percentage of the university's total operating budget is funded by tuition and fees. The presenters responded that they are in the process of compiling more detailed data on student borrowing and aid and would share those figures when available. They estimated that roughly one quarter of the central university budget comes from tuition revenue, with state funding making up a similar portion, though that balance continues to shift as state investment declines.
5. Several questions focused on enrollment trends. The presenters explained that some indicators are mixed. Applications submitted through the Idaho Common Application are down, which appears to be consistent across the state, but direct applications to ISU are holding steady, and new student orientation registrations are significantly up. They also noted that international student enrollment is expected to decline due to external factors such as changes in travel policy. The presenters explained that the university has made improvements in student retention and scholarship strategy over the last several years, which has helped stabilize and grow enrollment after many years of decline. They also noted that residence hall capacity remains a limiting factor and that expanding student housing is a major priority.
6. In response to questions about the long-term implications of the restructuring and tuition increases, the presenters said they do not yet know what the full effect on admissions will be, but they are closely tracking indicators and continuing to invest in recruitment, retention, and strategic enrollment planning. They noted that ISU's niche in health sciences and other specialized academic areas helps distinguish it from other Idaho institutions and supports recruitment both in-state and out-of-state.
7. Additional discussion addressed the impact of changing state policy, including concerns about the future of the Idaho Launch program. The presenters shared that between 1,400 and 1,500 students are currently receiving Launch support and acknowledged that any reduction or elimination of the program could affect student access and enrollment. They noted that the university is monitoring these developments closely and exploring alternatives, including other aid models and workforce-oriented funding opportunities.

8. The presenters concluded by thanking the Senate for its questions and feedback and encouraged members to share any additional written comments so they can be included in the materials presented to the State Board of Education.

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter reported that Founders Day of Service took place earlier today and that several ASISU officers participated in community service projects. He also shared that he has been in regular contact with Justino Gomez, Manager of the Bookstore.

IX. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Saunders
 - i. Senator Saunders reported that he participated in the Turner Founders Day of Service this morning, where he helped rake leaves at the cemetery. He is also beginning work on a slideshow presentation for Senate next week that will outline all current reserve fund request ideas in order to gauge Senate interest and gather feedback.
 1. Secretary Madison noted that next week's meetings will take place in Room #107 in Rendezvous.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Saunders
 - i. Senator Saunders reported that the Finance Committee approved the ASISU Spirit Pack request with the stipulation that it come from the reserve fund, as well as two Benny funding requests for Native American Student Council and Tau Kappa Epsilon. The committee also approved an additional Benny funding request for the Sexuality and Gender Alliance Club and an internal funding request for Bowling Night with the College of Science and Engineering. Senator Saunders also shared that he will be meeting with President Halter and Director Burrell to finalize recommendations for line-item budgets.
- c. Senate Rules and Appointments Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith reported that the committee met today and continued working on bylaw rewrites. The committee is also releasing Resolution 2 to the senate.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre absent.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainably Committee, Senator Pandey and Senator Vargas Barvosa
 - i. Senator Vargas Barvosa reported that the committee is continuing to finalize details and contingency plans for the Paint-a-Pot event.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 2
 - i. Motion to approve Resolution 2 as is: Vargas Barvosa/Acharya
 1. ROLL CALL
SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
AIDAN HALL – YES
BRYSON KING – YES
PAIGE LITTLE – YES
DIYA PANDEY – YES
ANNA RESIDE – YES
ROBERT SAUNDERS – ABSTAIN
PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
SILAS SMITH – YES
DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES
 2. Motion: **CARRIED**
- b. Internal Funding Request
 - i. Spring 2026 ASISU Spirit Pack, \$10,600
 1. Motion to approve the Spring 2026 ASISU Spirit Pack in the amount of \$10,600 with the stipulation that this funding is pulled from the reserve funding: Vargas Barvosa/King
 - a. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
AIDAN HALL – YES
BRYSON KING – YES
PAIGE LITTLE – YES
DIYA PANDEY – YES
ANNA RESIDE – YES
ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
SILAS SMITH – YES
DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

ii. Counseling and Mental Health Center: Sleep and Personal Hygiene Kits, \$1,304

1. Motion to move to committee for 5 minutes: Saunders/Smith
2. Unanimous
3. Motion: **CARRIED**
4. Motion to move out of committee Saunders/Pandey
5. Unanimous
6. Motion: **CARRIED**

a. Motion to approve the Internal Funding request for the Counseling and Mental Health Center Sleep and Personal Hygiene Kits for \$1,304: Vargas Barvosa/Saunders

i. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
AIDAN HALL – YES
BRYSON KING – YES
PAIGE LITTLE – YES
DIYA PANDEY – ABSTAIN
ANNA RESIDE – YES
ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
SILAS SMITH – YES
DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – ABSTAIN

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/Acharya

a. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
AIDAN HALL – YES
BRYSON KING – YES
PAIGE LITTLE – YES
DIYA PANDEY – ABSTAIN
ANNA RESIDE – YES
ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
SILAS SMITH – YES
DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – ABSTAIN

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

iv. 2026 Graduation Stoles, \$800

1. Motion to approve the Internal Funding request for the 2026 Graduation Stoles for \$800: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa

- a. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - AIDAN HALL – YES
 - BRYSON KING – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - DIYA PANDEY – YES
 - ANNA RESIDE – YES
 - ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
 - PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
 - SILAS SMITH – YES
 - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES
 - b. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - c. Benny’s Funding Request
 - i. HALO Baile Night, \$1,000
 - 1. Motion to approve the Benny’s Funding Request for HALO Baile Night for \$1,000: Saunders/Pandey
 - a. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - AIDAN HALL – YES
 - BRYSON KING – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - DIYA PANDEY – YES
 - ANNA RESIDE – YES
 - ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
 - PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
 - SILAS SMITH – YES
 - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES
 - b. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - XI. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Internal Funding Request
 - i. Bowling Night with College of Science and Engineering, \$650
 - 1. Motion to move to committee for 10 minutes: Acharya/Little
 - 2. Unanimous
 - 3. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - 4. Motion to move out of committee: Vargas Barvosa/Saunders
 - 5. Unanimous
 - 6. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - b. Benny’s Funding Request
 - i. Native American Student Council: Roar of the Nation Powwow, \$2,000
 - ii. Tau Kappa Epsilon: Philanthropy Car Show, \$3,000
 - iii. Sexuality and Gender Alliance Club: Drag Show, \$784
 - XII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
 - XIII. OTHER
 - XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG
 - XV. ADJOURNMENT
 - a. 10 Senators present.
 - b. Absent: Senator Lopez and Senator Van Metre.
 - c. Also present: Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
 - d. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.
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ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON