

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF**

**IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT SENATE**

**ROOM #107, RENDEZVOUS**

**7:00 PM**

**MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
  - a. 11 Senators present.
  - b. Absent: Senator Lopez.
  - c. Also present: Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2026
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes from March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa
  - b. Unanimous
  - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR March 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026:
  - a. Motion to approve the agenda for March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026: Saunders/Smith
  - b. Unanimous
  - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
  - a. 5 Year Reserve Fund Allocation Presentation and Discussion
    - i. Senator Saunders began with a general overview of the Reserve Fund Allocation process. The purpose of this presentation was to introduce potential funding ideas, gather feedback, and assess general interest among members. It was emphasized that this was not the final proposal, but rather an exploratory step to determine priorities and refine ideas before formal decisions are made. He also noted that all prices provided are cost estimates. Senator Saunders clarified that senators who submitted requests would have opportunities to provide additional details, and that discussion should remain focused, concise, and constructive.
      1. Athletics, Reserve Fund Allocation Requests
        - a. ICCU Dome Decking for Turf, \$20,000
          - i. President Halter explained that this idea, originally suggested by Lowell Richards, would simplify the multi-day process of moving turf by creating a system to temporarily store it.
            1. Senator Saunders, Secretary Madison, Senator Vargas Barvosa, Senator Van Meter, Senator Smith, Senator Reside, and others engaged in discussion, weighing practicality and cost. President Halter noted that planning for full funding would be ideal but partial funding could still be impactful.
        - b. Miller Tiered Seating, \$100,000
          - i. President Halter explained that this idea, originally suggested by Lowell Richards and would be for seating around the new softball stadium in Bartz's Field.
            1. This proposal generated mixed reactions, and general concerns about prioritizing high-cost projects.
      2. Student Recreation and Wellness, Reserve Fund Allocation Requests
        - a. Jogging Track/Tennis Courts, \$300,000



Turner back parking lot. This idea was discussed at length, with Vice President Medema, Deputy Commissioner Price, Senator Little, Senator Van Metre, and Senator Vargas Barvosa emphasizing safety.

- h. Golf Simulator, \$15,000
    - i. Deputy Commissioner Price shared that while there is a golf simulator in the gym, it is reserved for the golf team. This addition would provide an opportunity for the general student population to have an edition to the gym.
      - 1. This proposed golf simulator sparked more mixed reactions, with some support by Senator King and Senator Little but also concerns about cost and accessibility.
  - i. Punching Bags for Reed's Gym, \$1,000
    - i. Senator Smith introduced this request as an addition of more punching bags to Reed Gym, noting that while some currently exist, there are not enough to meet student demand.
      - 1. Overall, there was moderate support, though some members questioned whether this should be a high funding priority compared to other needs.
  - j. Renovation of Bathroom in Reed's Gym, \$40,000
    - i. Senator Little explained that this funding would go toward renovating outdated and heavily used bathrooms in Reed Gym.
      - 1. Senator Vargas Barvosa, Senator King, Senator Saunders, Secretary Madison, Vice President Medema, Senator Reside, and others contributed to the discussion, emphasizing the poor condition and high usage of these facilities. Multiple members noted that this would be a highly visible and impactful improvement for a large portion of the student body. This proposal received strong overall support but there were some concerns on only prioritizing one bathroom on campus.
3. Student Life and Entertainment, Reserve Fund Allocation Requests
- a. Game Center Update, Amount to be Determined
    - i. President Halter introduced this as a general update to the Game Center space, though specific details and costs were not fully defined.
      - 1. Vice President Medema, Deputy Commissioner Price, and Senator Vargas Barvosa discussed the importance of keeping the space relevant and engaging for students. However, due to the lack of specificity, discussion remained broad and exploratory.
  - b. Entertainment for Tailgates, \$3,600 yearly and \$18,000 for five years
    - i. Senator Saunders described this as funding for DJs or entertainment at athletic tailgates to increase student engagement.
      - 1. Senator Van Meter, Senator Vargas Barvosa, and Secretary Madison supported the idea, emphasizing its role in building school spirit. Discussion focused on flexibility in funding and scaling based on need.
  - c. Spirit Pack, \$10,600 yearly and \$53,000 for five years
    - i. Senator Saunders explained that this funding would support distribution of spirit items to students.
      - 1. Vice President Medema and Senator Vargas Barvosa discussed combining this with activity merchandise funding. There was general agreement that this is a visible

and impactful way to promote school pride, though some suggested reducing the total amount slightly.

- d. Activity Merch, \$10,000 yearly and \$50,000 for five years
    - i. Senator Saunders and Senator Vargas Barvosa discussed this as funding for branded items used in student engagement and events.
      - 1. Senator Pandey, Senator Van Meter, and others emphasized the marketing value of branded materials. Theresa also contributed, noting that these items help increase visibility of ASISU initiatives. This proposal received strong support.
  - e. Esports Arena, \$50,000
    - i. Senator Saunders explained that this funding would support making the E-Sports space more accessible to both students and potentially the broader community by providing funding for access to all the games and software that we would be utilized.
      - 1. This proposal received limited support. While Saunders advocated for its growth potential, several members expressed hesitation, noting uncertainty about usage levels and whether the cost justified the investment.
    - ii.
  - f. Jungle Section, \$8,000 - \$10,000
    - i. Vice President Medema introduced this as support for the student section at athletic events. This would include painting and highlighting the student body section.
      - 1. There was general agreement on its importance for school spirit, though discussion remained brief.
  - g. Campus Food Option for Idaho Falls, Amount to be Determined
    - i. Vice President Taylor raised concerns about limited food options on the Idaho Falls campus.
      - 1. Senator Vargas Barvosa, Senator Pandey, Senator Smith, Deputy Commissioner Price, and Senator Saunders contributed, emphasizing equity between campuses. Discussion focused on whether ASISU should directly fund this or facilitate partnerships. There was strong interest but uncertainty about implementation.
  - h. OAC Project Update, \$45,000
    - i. Vice President Medema provided an update on the OAC project.
      - 1. Senator Van Meter, President Halter, and Deputy Commissioner Price discussed potential enhancements and funding contributions. Members noted that the project would move forward regardless, but ASISU funding could improve its scope.
4. Student Spaces and Campus Facilities
- a. Study Spaces, \$30,000
    - i. President Halter emphasized the growing need for additional and improved study spaces across campus.
      - 1. Senator Smith and Senator Vargas Barvosa highlighted overcrowding and lack of accessible areas. There was strong consensus that this is a high-priority need.
  - b. Study Pods, Amount to be Determined
    - i. Senator Little introduced the idea of installing private study pods.
      - 1. Discussion emphasized privacy and modern study needs but also the potential issues with those spaces.
  - c. Outlets in Main Areas of SUB, \$10,000



practices. Improving the HVAC would enhance usability and comfort for all users.

1. There was a general lack of support for this idea.
  - e. Administration Lobby Renovation, Amount to be Determined
    - i. This renovation would update the administrative lobby for aesthetics and function. President Halter noted funding is flexible based on desired scope.
      1. There was a general lack of support for this idea.
  - f. Library Renovations Project, Amount to be Determined
    - i. Vice President Medema highlighted opportunities to add study spaces, furniture, and a functioning fish tank. Senators discussed additional elements like couches, study pods, and whiteboards to improve usability and atmosphere for students.
  - g. General Housing Maintenance, Amount to be Determined
    - i. President Halter noted that direct funding toward maintenance is restricted, but donations of furniture and small items are possible. Deputy Commissioner Price emphasized enhancements to common spaces such as TVs and communal items.
  - h. Paw Print Station in Idaho Falls, \$10,000
    - i. President Halter described a new printing station for students to access printing and scanning, including software, furniture, and licensing. Discussion emphasized accessibility exclusively for ISU students and ADA compliance.
      1. There was great support showed for this addition to the Idaho Falls campus.
  - i. Performing arts Center Conex, \$3,000 - \$16,000
    - i. President Halter explained that shipping containers would be used for storage to support growing performing arts programs, including costumes and props. Costs vary by number of and type of units needed.
  - j. Sidewalk from Upper Rendezvous to Upper Parking, \$2,500
    - i. President Halter noted that the gap in the current pathway creates safety hazards, particularly in winter. While the initial estimate is \$2,500, actual costs may be higher.
      1. There was large support for this idea as it would greatly improve safety.
6. Campus Beautification and Art
- a. General Campus Beautification, Amount to be Determined
    - i. President Halter proposed flower beds, trees, and small aesthetic improvements across campus to enhance the student experience.
  - b. Art Installation, 5,000
    - i. Senators discussed funding new artwork, potentially including ASISU-themed or student-created pieces.
  - c. ASISU Statue on Idaho Falls Campus, Amount to be Determined
    - i. Vice President Taylor suggested creating a landmark statue to match existing campus installations. The placement and design would be coordinated with the Fine Arts Department.
  - d. Eames Building Branded Corridor, \$20,000 - \$30,000
    - i. President Halter explained that renovations in the Eames Building could incorporate ASISU branding and student-focused graphics to maintain aesthetic and functional engagement.
      1. Senators expressed limited support but noted the need to consider building accessibility and usage.
7. Student Services and Support

- a. Benny's Pantry Donation, Amount to be Determined
    - i. President Halter suggested allocating funds for equipment and storage to support Benny's Pantry operations. Senator Vargas Barvosa emphasized direct support for food access and community engagement.
      - 1. There was massive support for this suggestion.
  - b. Expanding Benny's Pantry, \$10,000
    - i. Expansion would involve knocking out walls to enlarge the space for increased student access. Senators discussed logistics of relocating equipment and integrating with existing spaces, including the esports area.
  - c. Lactation Pod, \$10,000 - \$40,000
    - i. President Halter explained the pod would provide a private, dedicated space for nursing students. Discussion focused on impact and student usage, with cost contingent on whether a pod or room renovation is used.
  - d. OER Stipend Funding, \$12,000 yearly and \$48,000 for five years
    - i. President Halter explained these stipends would incentivize professors to use Open Educational Resources, reducing textbook costs for students. Debate included whether paying professors is justified, with general consensus that student access to free materials is beneficial.
  - e. Laptop Loaner Program, \$11,700
    - i. Funds would cover laptop purchase, maintenance, and replacement. Senators supported the initiative to ensure equitable student access to technology.
      - 1. There was great support for this idea.
  - f. Museum Student Act Funding, \$8,000
    - i. President Halter noted that funding would enhance student programming at the museum, emphasizing both educational and community engagement aspects.
  - g. New ASISU Scholarships, \$1,000
    - i. President Halter outlined the flexibility of distributing scholarships to incentivize engagement and academic success. Senators discussed linking scholarships to event participation or academic achievement.
  - h. Campaign Money, \$50 Per Candidate and \$100 Per Party, \$3,000 yearly and \$15,000 for five years
    - i. Deputy Commissioner Price emphasized providing funds to reduce financial barriers for students running for office. Senators discussed potential safeguards to ensure responsible use of allocated funds.
8. Academic Facilities and Learning Spaces
- a. Business Administration 125, Amount to be Determined
    - i. Senator Saunders shared that this idea was suggest and identified as being a need in the Business Budling, but no students recognized the building or the need.
      - 1. Additional context was provided that the idea originated from Lowell Richards and was also supported by Design and Construction, who identified the space as an area that could benefit from enhancements. However, this administrative identification did not appear to align with student experience or expressed need.
  - b. Boardroom Accent Wall, \$3,000
    - i. This request involved reimbursing the university for painting and updating the ASISU Boardroom accent wall, which had already been

completed prior to formal approval from ASISU. Some members expressed concern that the university proceeded without explicit approval, potentially setting a precedent.

1. Secretary Madison explained that the work was done while the room was cleared for renovations, making it more cost-effective to complete at that time. She also noted that ASISU does not have exclusive control of the space and that occasional relocation of meetings or use of Zoom is sometimes necessary. Discussion balanced procedural concerns with the practical consideration that the cost was relatively small within the overall budget and that the boardroom is a central ASISU space.
  - c. Plant Science Classroom Upgrade and Remodel, Amount to be Determined
    - i. Vice President Medema and President Halter explained tiered renovation options.
      1. Members supported improvements, particularly ventilation upgrades.
  - d. Plant Science Staff Equipment, \$5,000
    - i. Vice President Medema emphasized outdated tools and lacking equipment needs for this department.
      1. Senator Vargas Barvosa, President Halter, Matt, Senator Van Meter, and Senator Reside supported this request.
  - e. Lilli Bridge Reactor Workbench, \$5,000 - \$15,000
    - i. Vice President Medema introduced this as an OSHA compliance need for the nuclear department.
9. Resident Life Improvements
- a. Community Kitchens in Residence Halls, \$3,000
  - b. Counters, Plumbing, Ventilation, \$7,000
    - i. Deputy Commissioner Price shared that these Resident Life Improvements are not available to be funded or supported currently.
  - c. Sport Equipment for Turner, \$200
    - i. Deputy Commissioner Price shared that this funding would provide new equipment for the student actives in Turner Hall.
      1. There was strong support for this low cost, and student focused request.
10. Technology and Administrative Tools
- a. Touch Net Scanner, \$850
  - b. Touch Net Scanner Laptop, \$400 or 2 for \$800
    - i. Senator Saunders explained equipment shortages and the necessity for both Touch Net equipment's. Senator Vargas Barvosa supported the idea and suggested branding for ASISU visibility.
  - c. In Person Club Training for Meridian Campus, \$2,000 - \$6,000 yearly
    - i. Senator Saunders and Theresa emphasized equity for satellite campuses.
      1. Members supported expanding training opportunities.
  - d. Suitable 3 Year Subscription, \$29,590 yearly and \$88,770 for three years
    - i. Theresa Brissette strongly advocated for this tool, emphasizing modernization and usefulness for students.
      1. President Halter and Deputy Commissioner Price raised concerns about vendor credibility and long-term sustainability. The group agreed further discussion was needed.
  - e. When I Work for ASISU, \$1,620 yearly and \$4,860 for three years

- i. Senator Saunders and Deputy Commissioner Price explained its efficiency and that the cost would be around \$5 per user, per month.
  - 1. Senator Little raised concerns about misuse, while Secretary Madison and President Halter noted it could streamline existing processes.

11. Additional Requests

- a. Ceramics Studio Kiln, \$2,000
  - i. Vice President Medema introduced this as a community-building project.
    - 1. Members strongly supported this low-cost, high-impact idea.
- b. Audiology Department Equipment, \$21,980
  - i. Vice President Medema shared that this single piece of equipment is lacking in that department which has created a notable lapse in student training.
    - 1. There was strong support from members for this idea.
- c. Bengal Newspaper Deficit, \$50,000
  - i. Senator Saunders, President Halter, and Dr. Daily explained the deficit resulted from inaccurate budget information.
  - ii. There were mixed suggestions about providing this funding or not and is open to further discussion.
    - 1. Motion to move to committee for 20 minutes: Little/Acharya
    - 2. Unanimous
    - 3. Motion: **CARRIED**
    - 4. Motion to extend committee by 20 minutes: Medema/Little
    - 5. Unanimous
    - 6. Motion: **CARRIED**
    - 7. Motion to move out of committee: Van Metre/Smith
    - 8. Unanimous
    - 9. Motion: **CARRIED**

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter reported that this week he met with Dean Daily to review Reserve Fund questions and discuss the future and game plan of the Student Leadership and Engagement Center, including anticipated needs and potential staffing changes for next year. He attended University Council, reviewing data on employee feedback and the overall state of the university. Over spring break, he is scheduled to attend meetings with key stakeholders in the State Board of Education, legislators, and the Governor.

IX. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Saunders
  - i. Senator Saunders reached out to all individuals who submitted ideas for the Reserve Fund. All submitted ideas will be reviewed and summarized tonight.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Saunders
  - i. Senator Saunders reported that the Finance Committee reviewed a Benny's Funding Request for the Idaho Dance Company Club for \$2,000 to support a performance. Senator Saunders collaborated with President Halter and Director Burrell to develop a budget, make recommendations for line items, and continue work on the Reserve Fund.
- c. Senate Rules and Appointments Committee, Senator Smith
  - i. Senator Smith reported that the committee met to continue the bylaws rewrite, coordinating on details, establishing processes, and assigning roles.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre



- a. Motion to approve the Tau Kappa Epsilon Philanthropy Car Show for \$1,200: Saunders/Vargas Barvosa

- i. 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
    - HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
    - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

- ii. Motion: **CARRIED**

- iii. Sexuality and Gender Alliance Club: Drag Show, \$784

- 1. Motion to approve the Benny’s Funding Request for the Sexuality and Gender Alliance Club Drag Show for \$784: Saunders/Van Metre

- 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
      - HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
      - DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

- b. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Joint Resolution AY26 #01

- i. This resolution, is sponsored by Senator Saunders, CO sponsored by President Halter, and Vice President Medema. The purpose of this resolution is to formally declare the collective commitment of Idaho’s four-year public institution student governments to the national observance of the United States 250th Birthday; to align student leadership efforts with the America 250 in Idaho Service Challenge; and to designate April 13 through April 25, 2026, as America 250 Student Service and Civic Engagement Weeks, a coordinated, university-wide initiative across Idaho’s public institutions of higher education dedicated to acts of service, civic reflection, and community unity.

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

XII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER

XIII. OTHER

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 11 Senators present.

- b. Absent: Senator Lopez.
- c. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 9:55PM.

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ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

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ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON