

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SENATE
SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB
7:00 PM
APRIL 15TH, 2026**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:01 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 11 Senators present.
 - b. Absent: Senator Little.
 - c. Also present: 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 APRIL 8TH, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from April 8th, 2026: Saunders/Smith
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 15TH, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for April 15th, 2026: Saunders/Smith
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Greet and Q & A, Mayor of Pocatello, Mark Dahlquist
 - i. Mayor Mark Dahlquist opened the session by introducing himself and sharing that he began his position on January 8. As a graduate of Idaho State University, he expressed deep appreciation for student leaders and thanked those present for their service and contributions to the university. He highlighted his long-standing involvement with ISU, including participation in the Bengal Booster Club, and emphasized his passion for strengthening the connection between the university and the Pocatello community. He noted ongoing meetings with university leadership focused on improving collaboration and shifting

the perception of Pocatello from a city that simply has a university to a true college town. Mayor Dahlquist discussed several initiatives aimed at increasing school spirit and community integration, including expanding “Bengal Wednesday” into a broader, community-wide tradition and encouraging local businesses to display orange and black and promote ISU pride. He emphasized that the university is a major driver of the local economy and that building a stronger relationship between ISU and the city is a key priority. He also addressed efforts to revitalize downtown Pocatello, noting that while the area has historical and cultural value, it often feels disconnected from campus. Projects such as the Terry Street First initiative and planned improvements to the Benton Street overpass are intended to create a stronger physical and cultural link between campus and downtown. In addition to infrastructure improvements, the mayor highlighted broader community development goals, including enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities by better connecting local trails and promoting Pocatello’s natural environment. He also emphasized the importance of creating more professional-level job opportunities in order to retain ISU graduates in the area, noting that while major employers such as the hospital system and Idaho National Laboratory are valuable assets, more sustainable employment opportunities are needed to prevent graduates from leaving the city. Housing was also identified as a significant challenge, particularly in terms of affordability and proximity to campus. Mayor Dahlquist discussed the need to modernize zoning regulations to allow for more diverse and flexible housing options, including “missing middle housing” such as townhomes, apartments, and mixed-use developments. Drawing on his experience with NeighborWorks Pocatello, he explained that zoning reforms are necessary to move away from segregated housing patterns and toward more integrated, community-oriented development.

1. Senator Vargas Barvosa asked how the city plans to support ISU’s diverse student population.
 - a. Mayor Dahlquist acknowledged that there is room for improvement and emphasized the importance of making both the university and the city more welcoming. He highlighted the City of Pocatello’s Human Relations Advisory Committee and encouraged

student involvement to promote cultural awareness and inclusion.

2. President Halter asked what community resources or opportunities students should take greater advantage of.
 - a. Mayor Dahlquist encouraged students to support local businesses and pursue internships, noting that students are often underrepresented in city planning and decision-making processes. He expressed a desire to see more students included at the table when community initiatives are being developed.
3. Senator Smith asked about previous discussions on modernizing city zoning and when students might expect to see tangible changes in housing opportunities.
 - a. Mayor Dahlquist reiterated his background in housing development and emphasized that zoning modernization is an ongoing process. He discussed the importance of allowing mixed-use developments and expanding “missing middle housing,” explaining that updated zoning codes are necessary to create more accessible and diverse housing options.
4. Senator King asked whether students could propose ideas to improve collaboration between the City of Pocatello and ISU. He suggested expanding course-based opportunities that bring students into downtown spaces, such as performances or hands-on learning experiences, and proposed ideas like a collaborative market event involving ISU clubs and local businesses. He also recommended increasing promotion of community events on campus.
 - a. Mayor Dahlquist responded positively, stating that he supports integrating academic experiences into the community and will bring these ideas into discussions with university leadership. He also emphasized the importance of better promoting local opportunities to address the misconception that there is little to do in Pocatello.
5. President Halter asked who within the mayor’s office would be the best point of contact for ongoing collaboration with student government. Mayor Dahlquist identified his Chief of Staff, Anne

Nichols, as the appropriate contact and encouraged students to connect through the Mayor's Office to establish more consistent communication and involvement.

6. Vice President Medema asked about memorable academic or cultural experiences from Mayor Dahlquist's time at ISU that could be reintroduced or emphasized today.
 - a. He highlighted events such as "Welcome Back Orange and Black" as strong examples of community-building initiatives and encouraged increased student participation in athletics. While noting strong attendance at homecoming, he expressed concern about lower turnout at other sporting events and emphasized the value of school spirit in creating a vibrant campus culture.
7. Mayor Dahlquist concluded by reiterating his strong support for Idaho State University and the Pocatello community. He noted recent enrollment growth and a shift toward more traditional student experiences, expressing optimism about the university's trajectory. He reaffirmed his commitment to fostering a more connected, engaged, and spirit-filled community that benefits both ISU students and the city.

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter reported on upcoming Earth Day events, noting that he will be serving on a student-facing panel focused on sustainability at Idaho State University and how it impacts students. He also shared that he is researching and brainstorming the development of living-learning communities, which are college housing models that integrate academics or specific areas of study. He noted that a living-learning community currently exists within the College of Business.

IX. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Saunders
 - i. Senator Saunders reported that he is planning with President Halter for next year's events, with a focus on streamlining processes and building momentum to host larger, high-impact events at the start of the academic year. He also requested that any available photos of ASISU be shared for use in an end-of-year wrap-up.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Saunders

- i. Senator Saunders reported that in finance committee tonight they approved the ASISU FY2027 Budget, including the FY202 Club Fee Budget, and established New Club Funding Amounts and Initial Deposit Amounts. A friendly amendment was also approved for the ASISU FY2027 Budget to switch the scholarship allocations for the Election Commissioner and Deputy Election Commissioner positions. Additional amendments to the budget included the creation of a Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Chair position with a stipend of \$750, and the addition of a Twin Falls Vice President position with compensation set at \$1,098.00 per semester. The Senate Pro-Tempore stipend was increased from \$700 to \$800. It was also clarified that the awards banquet percentage was adjusted to 0% to accurately reflect that no change was made. Lastly, a correction was made within the ASISU officer scholarships section to fix the spelling of the College of Business.
- c. Rules and Appointments Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith nothing to report.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre nothing to report.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Committee, Senator Pandey and Senator Vargas Barvosa
 - i. Senator Vargas Barvosa reported that this committee will be helping hand out the Sleep and Personal Hygiene kits with the Wellness Center. He also asked that if any other officers would be able to help with this event that they do.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Internal Funding Request
 - i. May Day Celebration, \$980
 - 1. Motion to approve the internal funding request for the May Day Celebration for \$980: Saunders/Pandey
 - a. ROLL CALL
 - SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES
 - AIDAN HALL – YES
 - BRYSON KING – 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. ASISU FY2027 Budget Approval
- b. FY2027 Club Fee Budget Approval
- c. Setting of New Club Funding Amounts for FY27
- d. Setting of Initial Deposit Amounts for FY27

XII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER

XIII. OTHER

- a. Approval of ASISU Scholarship Recommendations for Fall 2026
 - i. Senator Saunders asked a point of clarification, sharing concerns that some ASISU officers received these scholarship awards.

1. Motion to move to committee for 10 minutes: Sharma/Vargas Barvosa

2. Unanimous

3. Motion: **CARRIED**

4. Motion to extend committee for 10 minutes: Vargas Barvosa/Pandey

5. Unanimous

6. Motion: **CARRIED**

7. Motion to extend committee by 20 minutes: Pandey/King

8. Unanimous

9. Motion: **CARRIED**

10. Motion to move out of committee: Vargas Barvosa/Pandey

11. Unanimous

12. Motion: **CARRIED**

- a. Motion to approve the ASISU Scholarships Recommendations for Fall 2026: Vargas Barvosa/Smith

i. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

CJ LOPEZ – YES

DIYA PANDEY – YES

ANNA RESIDE – YES

ROBERT SAUNDERS – YES
PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
SILAS SMITH – ABSTAIN
HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
DENIS VARGAS BARVOSA – YES

ii. Motion: **CARRIED**

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 11 Senators present.
- b. Absent: Senator Little.
- c. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON