

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB

7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER — 7:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 16 Senators present.
 - b. 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 SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from September 2nd, 2026: Paine/Vaccarella
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for September 29th, 2026: Van Metre/Picanco
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
 - a. Theresa Brissette asked officers how many have downloaded Bengal Stripes by Suitable app and encouraged anyone who has not yet downloaded it to do so.
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Stephanie Smith, CEO of the ISU Foundation: Swanson Arch Plaza
 - i. Stephanie Smith presented information regarding the proposed Swanson Arch Foundation Plaza and asked ASISU to consider joining other campus partners in supporting the project. As ISU prepares to conclude its 125th anniversary year and launch a comprehensive fundraising campaign, the Foundation is looking for opportunities to bring the university community together and increase support for current and future generations of students. The proposed project would transform the underutilized parking area surrounding Swanson Arch into a more vibrant and accessible campus gathering space. The plaza is designed to accommodate approximately 1,200 people, make Swanson Arch ADA accessible, include an elevated platform for speakers, and update the History Walk. The space could be used for traditions and events including March Through the Arch, convocations, alumni celebrations, and other university gatherings while establishing a more permanent and accessible campus landmark. The ISU Foundation is asking ASISU to consider an investment of \$125,000, representing ISU's 125th anniversary, and become one of the project's leading partners. Preliminary project costs are approximately \$1.2 million. The ISU Foundation Board has approved a \$1 million gift to the university toward making the project a reality. The Foundation hopes to have project funding committed in time to announce the project and its partners during Homecoming. The Alumni Association also plans to launch a

crowdfunding campaign with a goal of raising \$125,000 for the project. Stephanie Smith emphasized that the Foundation is intentionally seeking support from multiple sources so the project represents the many groups who will use and be celebrated within the space. The project also seeks to recognize donors who have supported ISU throughout its first 125 years.

1. Senator Hsieh asked how many parking spaces would be lost as a result of the project.
 - a. Stephanie Smith explained that the area is currently an underutilized reserved parking lot and that parking loss had not been identified as a significant concern. President Halter later estimated that approximately 20–25 reserved parking spaces would be affected.
2. Senator Vaccarella asked when construction could begin and how long the project would take.
 - a. Stephanie Smith explained that construction could begin once the necessary funding is secured, with the goal of having all funding commitments in place as soon as possible.
3. Senator Little noted that much of the parking area is already impacted by construction and asked whether the appearance of Swanson Arch itself would change.
 - a. Stephanie Smith clarified that Swanson Arch would remain unchanged.
4. Senator Paine asked whether food service would be incorporated into the plaza.
 - a. Stephanie Smith stated that permanent food service is not part of the current plan but that the space could accommodate events featuring food trucks or similar options.
5. Senator Baughman expressed concern about the loss of parking and asked whether additional parking would be created elsewhere to compensate.
 - a. Secretary Madison noted that the affected reserved lot is currently underutilized due to the exponential cost of reserved lot parking passes.
6. Vice President Medema asked about other donors and partners contributing to the project.
 - a. Stephanie Smith identified other donors, as well as some anonymous donors but also emphasized the importance of ASISU being a part of funding this project.
7. Senator Van Metre noted that although the reserved lot is not heavily utilized by students, reserved parking passes can cost nearly \$400 and asked whether individuals who purchase passes would receive refunds or other accommodations once construction begins.
 - a. Stephanie Smith stated that this is something they would consider as they move forward with the project, but had not considered it yet.
8. Senator Torres-Droz asked whether additional symbolism or modifications would be incorporated into Swanson Arch.
 - a. Stephanie Smith reiterated that the Arch itself would remain unchanged but that the surrounding plaza could become a space that celebrates both ISU's history and its future.

9. President Halter asked whether students would still have opportunities to provide input on the surrounding plaza or whether the presented designs were finalized.
 - a. Stephanie Smith explained that the current designs are conceptual renderings rather than final engineering designs and welcomed the possibility of a work session to gather student ideas.
10. Vice President Medema emphasized the importance about ensuring the historic Arch would not be damaged during construction.
 - a. Stephanie Smith expressed her absolute agreement that preserving the historical Arch would not be damaged.
11. Senator Picanco asked how the plaza would function as a usable student space during the regular semester.
 - a. Stephanie Smith emphasized that the goal is for the plaza to remain useful even when an event is not taking place, with areas where students can gather, study, and connect.
12. Director Saunders asked about the impact on existing trees and landscaping.
 - a. Stephanie Smith stated that she did not anticipate trees needing to be removed because they are not located within the existing parking area.
 - i. Motion to move to committee for 15 minutes: Baughman/Van Metre
 - ii. Unanimous
 - iii. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - iv. Motion to move out of committee: Van Metre/Little
 - v. Unanimous
 - vi. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - b. Stephanie Smith shared that one of the most exciting aspects of the project is the opportunity to transform that side of campus into a more intentional and welcoming entrance to ISU. The plaza could provide a space for students and alumni to gather while making Swanson Arch and its associated traditions accessible to all students. Stephanie Smith requested that ASISU make a decision regarding its potential support by the end of September, allowing ASISU to be included among the project partners when the project is announced during Homecoming. She also expressed interest in bringing members of the Facilities team into a future discussion or work session so ASISU members can provide additional feedback and ideas regarding the design.

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter reported that he has been meeting with The Jungle and Athletics to discuss the basketball student section. Athletics is considering moving the band to one side of the court underneath one of the baskets, near where the opposing team gathers during timeouts. While this would reduce some courtside student seating, President Halter noted that positioning the band near the opposing team is common at other universities and that discussions are focused on creating a more intentional student section. Members with feedback or ideas are encouraged to reach out, as no final decisions have been made. He also shared that he has been working with Senator Baughman as well as with Student Affairs and Marketing regarding ASISU officer pins and

are waiting for additional information. He also shared that he met with SAB Director Allen to review plans for Homecoming and ensure preparations are on track with Homecoming approximately one month away. President Halter reported that along with Senator Van Metre he has finalized plans for the upcoming tailgate. Food and drinks have been secured, and several clubs will be participating along with ASISU. President Halter encouraged members to attend the upcoming and noted increased excitement surrounding the upcoming home game following ISU's recent win. He also attended ASISU Night at the Challenge Course, distributed ASISU merchandise, and interacted with students. President Halter thanked Senator Swartz and others who stayed to assist the Outdoor Adventure Center with cleanup. Lastly, President Halter shared that along with Director Saunders are working on reserve fund requests so ASISU can begin moving forward with allocating reserve funds. They have also contacted ISU Finance regarding the final steps for the ASISU Game Pass, which would provide student access to bowling, billiards, and the Craft Shop.

IX. Committee Chair Reports

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre shared that she has been working with Theresa Brissette to assign senators to registered clubs as club requests continue to come in. She asked senators who are currently members of clubs to let her know so those affiliations can be considered when making assignments. She is also working to schedule a meeting with all committee chairs to discuss how committees are progressing and plans for the semester.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Ball
 - i. Senator Ball shared that in finance tonight, the committee reviewed a \$545.15 Benny's Funding request from Pocatello SPTA for its Costume 5K Fun Run, which was approved by the committee. The committee also reviewed the Tau Kappa Epsilon and Grilled Cheese Club St. Jude Philanthropy Car Show request, ultimately approving \$700. The \$375 ASISU Branded Magnets request was tabled for another week while the design continues to be finalized. The Health, Wellness & Sustainability Committee's \$446.24 internal funding request for Suicide Prevention Month awareness goodie bags was also approved.
- c. Rules and Appointment Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith reported that this committee met and began establishing goals and timelines for the semester. Members also began brainstorming potential solutions for ASISU's election process related to the CHESS campus restructuring situation.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre reported that plans have been finalized for the upcoming beach-themed tailgate. Theresa Brissette completed the food order, which will be picked up prior to the game. The committee plans to determine themes for the remaining home games so a schedule can be distributed in advance and students have more time to prepare. Events & Scheduling has been assisting with ASISU's tents by transporting them from the storage in Rendezvous to the tailgate location and returning them afterward, eliminating the need to pick up supplies from multiple locations. The committee also learned that Events & Scheduling has metal drink troughs available for future events. The committee is also looking into the possibility of purchasing a new set of speakers for ASISU, as the current speakers are difficult to connect and can take approximately 30 minutes to set up.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Committee, Senator Swartz

- i. Senator Swartz reported that this committee is beginning to collaborate with campus organizations, including the Counseling Center, Wellness Center, and Sustainability team. Senator Swartz has met with representatives from several of these areas to discuss potential collaboration and brainstorm ideas. The committee is also working toward its first student-focused initiative, which will include self-care goodie bags and information about resources available to students on campus in relation to Suicide Prevention Awareness month.

X. OLD BUSINESS

a. Benny's Funding Request

i. Alpha Xi Delta: Rose Run, \$179

- 1. Motion to approve the Benny's Funding Request for the Alpha Xi Delta Rose Run for \$179: Smith/Baughman

a. ROLL CALL

BRENDON BALL – YES

MAKENNA BAUGHMAN – YES

ASHRAYA BURLAKOTI – YES

HANNAH BURRELL – YES

ERIC HSIEH – YES

JOVANY LEYVA – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – YES

ETHAN PAINE – YES

OLIVIA PICANCO – YES

PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES

SILAS SMITH – YES

HEATHER SWARTZ – YES

JOHN TORRES-DROZD – YES

AJ VACCARELLA – YES

HANNAH VAN METRE – YES

BRAYDEN WIGHT – YES

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Internal Funding Request

i. Tailgate Food and Drinks, \$950

Senator Van Metre shared that the actual cost of food for the upcoming tailgate was significantly less than originally anticipated. The final food order totaled \$433.52. The food order ended up having, approximately 120 hot dogs, 120 hamburgers, and 300 bags of chips that were purchased. The Jungle, TKE, and Kappa Alpha Theta will also be providing food.

- 1. There was also some clarification that this funding request was specifically for the San Diego tailgate rather than all remaining tailgates for the year.
 - a. Motion to move to committee for 10 minutes: Van Metre/Little
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - d. Motion to move out of committee: Van Metre/Baughman
 - e. Unanimous
 - f. Motion: **CARRIED**

- i. Motion to approve the Internal Funding Request for Tailgate Food and Drinks for \$433.52: Van Metre/Picanco

- 1. ROLL CALL
 - BRENDON BALL – YES
 - MAKENNA BAUGHMAN – YES
 - ASHRAYA BURLAKOTI – YES
 - HANNAH BURRELL – YES
 - ERIC HSIEH – YES
 - JOVANY LEYVA – YES
 - PAIGE LITTLE – YES
 - ETHAN PAINE – YES
 - OLIVIA PICANCO – YES
 - PRAJAKTA SHARMA – YES
 - SILAS SMITH – YES
 - HEATHER SWARTZ – YES
 - JOHN TORRES-DROZD – YES
 - AJ VACCARELLA – YES
 - HANNAH VAN METRE – YES
 - BRAYDEN WIGHT – YES
- 2. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Benny's Funding Request

i. Pocatello SPTA: Costume 5K Fun Run, \$545.15

- 1. Senator Smith noted that Pocatello SPTA will not need to purchase the \$176 liability insurance included in the request and discussed subtracting that expense from the total.
- 2. President Halter asked whether keeping the original amount could provide a safety net in case the organization ultimately needs to purchase the insurance.
- 3. Theresa Brissette confirmed that the insurance requirement has already been vetted through General Counsel and that they have written confirmation that no additional liability insurance is required.
- 4. Senator Ball asked whether the liability insurance expense had already been removed when the \$545.15 total was calculated.
- 5. Senator Smith confirmed after reviewing the calculations that the insurance had already been accounted for in the total request.
- 6. Senator Paine noted that the cost breakdown included with the funding request was unclear and difficult to follow.

ii. Tau Kappa Epsilon & Grilled Cheese Club: St. Jude's Philanthropy Car Show, \$700

- 1. Senator Vaccarella clarified that the Finance Committee amended the funding request to \$700.
- 2. Senator Hsieh expressed concern after observing finance committee that it would not be appropriate for an individual student to personally profit from an ASISU-funded event.
- 3. Senator Vaccarella agreed and clarified that the proposed horchata expenses had been removed from the ASISU funding request.

4. Vice President Medema asked whether the horchata fundraiser could still take place as long as it was not officially affiliated with the ASISU-funded portion of the event.
5. Members discussed the distinction between an individual fundraiser and fundraising through a recognized student organization, as well as university requirements that may apply.
 - a. Motion to move into committee for 10 minutes: Van Metre/Little
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - d. Motion to move out of committee: Paine/Baughman
 - e. Unanimous
 - f. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Internal Funding Request

- i. ASISU Branded Magnets, \$375
 1. Request was tabled for one week by the Finance Committee for further review.
- ii. Suicide Prevention Month Awareness: Goodie Bags, \$446.24
 1. Senator Swartz reported that the Health, Wellness & Sustainability Committee is planning a giveaway in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month. The committee plans to create goodie bags using reusable totes filled with wellness and self-care items. Members will table on campus to distribute the bags to students and provide information about available campus resources, including counseling and tutoring services. The initiative is intended to promote Suicide Prevention Month while increasing student awareness of resources and support available on campus.

XII. OTHER

- a. Swearing in of Newly Hired 2026-2027 Officers
- i. Megan Ostermann, Vice President of Meridian
 - ii. Robert Saunders, Director of Finance
 - iii. Amy Joinville, Director of Community Relations
 - iv. TeAnna Hutchins, Director of Public Relations
 - v. Kate Ollivant, Director of Student Affairs
 - vi. Mia Price, Director of Academic Affairs
 - vii. Brendon Ball, Senator for College of Graduate Studies
 - viii. Brayden Wight, Senator for College of Pharmacy
 - ix. Eric Hsieh, Senator for College of Pharmacy
1. All newly hired 2026-2027 Officers were sworn into their positions.

XIII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER

- a. Secretary Madison raised the possibility of moving the Finance Committee meeting to an earlier start time due to meetings regularly running over their allotted time. The proposed Wednesday schedule would be President's Cabinet from 5:00–5:45 PM and Finance Committee from 5:45–6:30 PM, with Caucus and Senate remaining at their current times.
- b. Senator Smith noted that the Bylaws allow the Finance Committee meeting time to be adjusted.
- c. The group discussed establishing the earlier time for the fall semester rather than adjusting it on a week-by-week basis.

- d. Senator Van Metre suggested holding one additional Finance Committee meeting under the current schedule to see whether it continues to run over before making a change. The schedule adjustment will remain under consideration.
- XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG
- XV. ADJOURNMENT
 - a. Motion to adjourn: Paine/ Van Metre
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- XVI. ROLL CALL
 - a. 16 Senators present.
 - b. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
 - c. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON