

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB

7:00PM

SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:02PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 16 Senators present.
 - b. Also present: Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16th, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from September 16th, 2026: Little/Hsieh
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for September 23rd, 2026 with the friendly amendment to add Aviation Maintenance, Club Reactivation under Announcements and Correspondence: Little/Swartz
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Aviation Maintenance – Club Reactivation, Theresa Brissette
 - i. Theresa Brissette shared that the club has completed the required steps for reactivation and has been functioning successfully under its probationary terms. Representatives from the club discussed their leadership structure, including a President, Vice President, and Secretary, as well as plans for future meetings and fundraising activities.
 - ii. Representatives from the Aviation Maintenance Club discussed the club's plans for leadership continuity. They explained that the program is two years long and that, as second-year students graduate, first-year students will transition into executive leadership positions. Current leaders plan to remain involved in a mentorship capacity to assist incoming officers as needed. They also explained that their club's purpose is to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities, mentorship, workforce connections, and aviation competitions. He also discussed using LinkedIn and other professional connections to help students connect with potential employers before graduation as a main focus of the club.
 1. Motion to reactivate the Aviation Maintenance club: Little/Hsieh

- 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. Reed Gym Mural Discussion, Vice President Medema

- i. Vice President Medema presented information about the mural located in Reed Gym, including its history, original intent, and concerns that have been raised regarding its imagery and continued placement in the space.
 - 1. President Halter questioned whether the topic was appropriate for discussion in Senate or if additional discussion should first take place with ASISU advisors before moving forward.
 - 2. Vice President Medema clarified that he had already discussed the topic with the ASISU advisors. Other senators requested that the presentation continue, as the topic was new to them and they wanted to hear the full presentation and additional context before forming an opinion.
- ii. The mural dates to the 1960s and was created by former ISU Art Department Chair John B. Davis after three ISU professors commissioned him to create artwork for the building in 1963. The mural is rumored to be titled, “Dawn of Recreation”, and its original intent was described as depicting ancient people in Idaho in a natural environment. Vice President Medema also provided background on previous conversations surrounding the mural. Around 2013, there were discussions about potentially relocating it, although no action was ultimately taken. The mural has also been covered or partially concealed during some events held in Reed Gym, including events associated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was noted that Reed Gym is used for a variety of academic, athletic, University, and community events, including the ISU Powwow. Vice President Medema raised questions about the historical accuracy of some of its imagery, particularly the depiction of the people and the presence of horses. He also discussed religious interpretations that some viewers may associate with those elements. He emphasized that the concern

was not with any particular religion or religious community, but rather whether the University's continued display of the mural in its current location is appropriate and consistent with how the space is used today.

1. Senators discussed whether the potential religious interpretation should be a significant part of the conversation. It was noted that the University has guidelines surrounding religious expression and that additional information from University Administration would be important before determining whether those guidelines apply to the mural. Senators also discussed the difference between religious organizations having a presence on or near campus and imagery that is permanently displayed within a university-owned building. Other Senators emphasized the importance of considering the mural as a piece of artwork. It was noted that artwork does not necessarily need to be historically accurate and can instead reflect an artist's interpretation, creativity, or beliefs. Senators also discussed the nudity depicted in the mural, with one member noting that depictions of the human body are common in art and that they did not consider the mural to be explicit. Additional context was provided about the mural's connection to Reed Gym. A member shared that professors in areas such as sport management and sport and exercise science have used the mural in class discussions about the human body, and physical movement. Senators noted that Reed Gym is both an athletic and academic space and that this context may have influenced why the mural was originally placed there. The conversation also included concerns about cultural representation, particularly the mural's depiction of what the artists identified as ancient people in Idaho. Senators discussed how Indigenous populations have historically been inaccurately represented in artwork and questioned whether the mural accurately represents the people it was intended to depict. Because Reed Gym hosts events such as the annual Roar of the Nations Powwow, members discussed the importance of considering the perspectives of Indigenous students and community members as the conversation continues. Senators also considered how the mural affects the current use of the space and the student experience. It was noted that the mural has sometimes been covered during events and that the area may be avoided in some circumstances. Senators also discussed whether additional historical or interpretive information could be displayed with the mural if it remains in Reed Gym.
- iii. Vice President Medema also raised the possibility of relocating the mural to an art-focused location, such as the John B. Davis Gallery or another appropriate University space, where more context about its history and artistic significance could be provided. It was also noted that relocating the mural may be difficult because it is not simply a framed piece of artwork. Any potential relocation would need to preserve the piece and avoid damaging or destroying it.

1. Senators also discussed what could potentially replace the mural if it were moved and whether another piece of artwork could better reflect the current use of Reed Gym and the University community.
- iv. The discussion remained preliminary, and no decision was made regarding the mural. Senators agreed that more information and perspectives would be helpful before considering any action, including input from university administration, relevant academic departments, individuals familiar with the mural's history, and Indigenous students and community members. The group was encouraged to continue considering the mural's history and artistic significance, its cultural representation, its current purpose within Reed Gym, and the potential effects of either leaving it in place or relocating it.

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter reported meeting with faculty members who discussed a perceived lack of camaraderie within some ISU departments compared with previous institutions where departmental dinners and team-building activities were more common. President Halter questioned whether faculty relationships and departmental camaraderie could ultimately affect students. President Halter also met with senators and directors regarding the Reserve Fund, tailgates, and a potential project involving additional ISU athletic programs. The September ASISU team activity will be held Friday at 6:00 PM in Reed Gym and will include pickleball and other opportunities to socialize. Attendance is optional, and all ASISU officers are invited. President Halter also attended the AI Steering Committee meeting on behalf of Director of Academic Affairs Mia Price. The committee is considering whether the University should purchase a specific AI tool or maintain a more open approach. The committee is also working on academic AI policy and how the University will educate the campus community regarding AI use. President Halter reported sending ASISU officers an email containing information regarding the Reserve Fund. The Swanson Arch proposal has entered the Finance Committee process, and additional Reserve Fund requests are expected. Senators were encouraged to carefully review significant funding proposals and submit their own ideas. President Halter reported that an Executive Cabinet representative has been identified for the lactation policy working group. ASISU still needs a representative for the University's e-scooter policy group, and interested members were asked to reach out to him for that.

IX. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre reported continuing work on club assignments. Club registration closes tomorrow, and senators are expected to receive their club assignments within the next week or so. She also shared that she has been working with Director Hutchins on doing a monthly club feature. The goal is to prepare content during the preceding month so that the selected club can receive recognition throughout the entire featured month rather than receiving recognition only near the end of the month, before the next Senate Pro Temp vote.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Ball

- i. Senator Ball reported that in Finance Committee tonight they approved the Jungle and Grilled Cheese Club's \$3,000 bus trip request, Sigma Sigma Sigma's \$221 Dirty Sodas request, the \$500 Homecoming Parade Internal Funding Request, and also had discussion regarding the \$125,000 Swanson Arch 125th Anniversary Plaza Reserve Fund Request.
- c. Rules and Appointment Committee, Senator Smith
 - i. Senator Smith reported that the Rules and Appointments Committee met and continued working on its assigned projects. Committee members have been assigned to projects, including work involving proposed bylaw changes.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre reported that the Student Involvement Committee met and is planning ahead for upcoming tailgates and Homecoming. The committee has a short break between football games before entering a busy period of events.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Committee, Senator Swartz
 - i. Senator Swartz reported that the committee received funding for the Suicide Awareness Month goodie bags discussed during the previous meeting and ordered the planned supplies for that initiative. The committee's timeline has been pushed back slightly due to delivery timing, but members plan to assemble and distribute the bags once the items arrive.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Internal Funding Request
 - i. October 3rd Tailgate Fund, \$400
 - 1. Senator Van Metre noted that the number of hamburgers and hotdogs planning to be purchased for this event is 100. The condiments and paper plates used will be leftovers from the last event.
 - a. Motion to approve the October 3rd Tailgate Fund for the amount of \$400: Burrell/Baughmann
 - i. 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

ii. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Bill 628

- i. Bill 628, authored by Silas Smith, Senator for the College of Arts and Letters and sponsored by Brayden Wight, Senator for the College of Pharmacy is being proposed with the purpose of ensuring that ASISU has better, more competent, and participating officers through attendance.
 1. Senator Smith explained that portions of the current bylaws are unclear or leave room for interpretation. One significant addition this bill would make is establishing an expectation that officers attend regularly scheduled meetings in person while allowing exceptions for unavoidable personal circumstances. Senator Smith explained that the language was intentionally broad enough to accommodate circumstances in which an officer may need to participate remotely for an extended period. The intent is to prevent remote attendance from becoming a default when an officer is otherwise able to attend in person. The bill would also explicitly include Caucus as a regularly scheduled meeting for attendance purposes and clarify attendance expectations for committee meetings.
 - a. Motion to move to committee for 10 minutes: Van Metre/Baughman
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
 - d. Motion to move out of committee: Van Metre/Picanco
 - e. Unanimous
 - f. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Bill 629

- i. Bill 629, authored by Silas Smith, Senator for the College of Arts and Letters and sponsored by Jovany Leyva, Senator for the College of Education is being proposed with the purpose of ensuring better consistency in legislation organization.

c. Benny's Funding Request

- i. The Jungle and Grilled Cheese Club: Bus Trip to Weber State, \$3,000
 1. Senator Ball provided some details that this request is for two charter buses would provide capacity for approximately 100 students to attend the game. He also shared that the clubs will be contributing to the request by covering the downpayment for the charter bus reservation, rather than relying entirely on ASISU funding.

d. Internal Funding Request

- i. Homecoming Parade, \$500
 1. Senator Van Metre reported that there are six officers within ASISU that have confirmed their patriation, so the Student Involvement Committee is planning to move forward with is participation in the parade. She also encouraged any officer who hasn't volunteered yet to participate.

2. Senator Paine noted that ASISU officer who do participate will be utilizing his truck so the parade, showing up in Bengal Gear and handing out candy.
3. President Halter emphasized the importance of participants following all Homecoming Parade safety requirements. He specifically reminded members of previous rules prohibiting participants from getting on or off a moving parade vehicle

XII. OTHER

XIII. GALLERY QUESTIONS AND ANSWER

- a. Vice President Medema asked officers to stay after the meeting to sign a thank-you card to accompany a thank-you basket he purchased using his discretionary funds for the Outdoor Adventure Center in appreciation for hosting ASISU at the Challenge Course and assisting with ASISU training.
- b.

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

XVI. ROLL CALL

- a. Vice President Medema asked officers to stay after the meeting to sign a thank-you card to accompany a thank-you basket he purchased using his discretionary funds for the Outdoor Adventure Center in appreciation for hosting ASISU at the Challenge Course and assisting with ASISU training.
- b. Senator Saunders provided an update from the Budget Advisory Group, he shared that ISU's overall student headcount was reported as down approximately 4.1% for the year, while revenue was reported as up approximately 1.4%, largely due to the tuition increase and slightly lower scholarship expenditures. The incoming class is expected to be approximately 15% smaller than the previous year's class. Retention was reported at approximately 74% for the Fall 2024 cohort and approximately 70% for the Fall 2025 cohort. It was noted that declining enrollment is not unique to ISU and that other Idaho public institutions are experiencing similar challenges. Factors discussed as contributing to enrollment and retention changes included changes to rules affecting student-athlete transfers, decreases in international enrollment related to visa challenges, students completing degrees more quickly, and fewer Idaho students choosing to attend college. Due to the unexpected enrollment decline, ISU was reported to be facing an approximately \$2.37 million budget shortfall. While reductions will be necessary, the shortfall represents a relatively small percentage of the University's overall budget. Members were encouraged to remain financially responsible with available funds. Senator Saunders also shared that in regards to tuition increases, it is too early to determine a final amount because the process depends on additional state-level factors and negotiations, although a moderate tuition increase is currently being considered.
 - i. Senator Paine asked what ASISU could do to assist with retention.
 1. Senator Saunders suggested making ISU a welcoming environment, providing events and opportunities students want to attend, helping students feel connected to campus, and encouraging student involvement. It was noted that involved students may be more likely to

remain connected to the University and that ASISU events contribute to building a healthy campus community.

- c. Senator Vaccarella reminded members about the TKE and Grilled Cheese Club's Second Annual St. Jude Car Show on Saturday, September 26th, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in. The event is free for spectators, with donations and proceeds benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- d. Senator Leyva reminded members that during Homecoming Week, Los Estudiantes Despues will be selling aguas frescas as a fundraiser to support efforts to provide food to farmworkers and educate them about their rights.
- e. Senator Van Metre reminded senators that if they would like to attend events hosted by their assigned clubs, they should send the event information to the Secretary so it can be added to the ASISU calendar.
- f. Senator Ball reminded senators to complete the required club trainings and to direct their assigned clubs to the Suitable app as needed.

XVI. ISU FIGHT SONG

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion to adjourn: Vaccarella/Smith
- b. Unanimous
- c. Motion: **CARRIED**

XVIII. ROLL CALL

- a. 16 Senators present.
- b. Also present: Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

KASHLYN PETERSON