

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB**

6:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 30th, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 13 Finance Committee members preset.
 - b. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist, and Dr. Robert Wagner, Idaho State University President.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from September 23rd, 2026: Vaccarella/Paine
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 30th, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for September 30th: Halter/Van Metre
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. CHAIRS REPORT
 - a. Senator Ball asked senators to watch for information regarding a special budget committee that he and Director Saunders will be working on shortly.
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Reserve Fund Request
 - i. Swanson Arch at Foundation Plaza, \$125,000
 1. President Wagner thanked ASISU members for their contributions to the university and acknowledged the significant time commitment associated with serving in student government. President Wagner then discussed the Swanson Arch at Foundation Plaza project, which has been discussed by ASISU for several months, and asked members to consider participating in what he described as a historic project during Idaho State University's 125th anniversary. President Wagner discussed three projects of historical and cultural importance currently being considered or undertaken by the university such as improvements to Red Hill, including efforts to recognize the significance of the land and the university's tribal relationships. Ongoing work through the Tribal University Business Council to establish a greater tribal presence on the Quad and recognize the

university's relationships with tribal communities. President Wagner described the Swanson Arch as an iconic symbol of Idaho State University with significant cultural and institutional importance. The Arch appears on the university seal and is associated with traditions marking the beginning and completion of a student's time at ISU. President Wagner discussed March Through the Arch and the significance of the tradition for incoming students, graduates, families, and alumni. He noted that thousands of alumni return to campus during events such as Homecoming and stated that the Arch provides a recognizable connection to their time at Idaho State. The goal of the project is to improve and beautify the area surrounding the Arch and create an inviting gathering space for students, families, alumni, and visitors. President Wagner connected the project to ISU's 125th anniversary and referenced the History Walk created during the university's 100th anniversary. He encouraged current students, faculty, staff, and alumni to consider what contribution their generation will make to the history and culture of the institution. President Wagner asked ASISU to contribute to the project through its Reserve Fund also noting that the university, ISU Foundation, alumni, donors, and other funding sources will also contribute. President Wagner stated that the ISU Foundation is investing approximately \$1 million in the project. President Wagner acknowledged that he does not frequently approach students to request funding and expressed respect for ASISU's responsibility to manage student funds. He confirmed that ASISU's contribution would be formally recognized through a plaque or similar recognition at the plaza. ASISU would be able to work with the university to determine how the student contribution is identified.

- a. President Wagner addressed concerns regarding potential cost overruns and explained that contingency costs are incorporated into project budgets to account for unforeseen expenses. Long-term maintenance of the plaza will be incorporated into the regular responsibilities of ISU Facilities and Grounds staff and will not become a maintenance responsibility for ASISU or students. President Wagner noted that the area has already been unavailable for significant periods during the previous four years because of steam tunnel work and construction staging. He does not anticipate construction creating substantially different challenges from those already experienced. The plaza is intended to remain usable throughout the year. Facilities and Grounds staff will provide snow removal, landscaping, and other regular maintenance in the same manner as other outdoor campus spaces.
- b. President Wagner addressed questions regarding seating and explained that the drawings presented thus far are preliminary rather than final construction plans. President Wagner stated that he would like to see additional seating and potentially tables incorporated into the final design while preserving sufficient open space for large gatherings such as March Through the Arch.

Solar-powered charging tables or similar amenities are not guaranteed but will be considered as the design is developed. President Wagner confirmed that the plaza is intended for regular student use throughout the year and will not be enclosed by fencing. The space may occasionally be reserved for events such as March Through the Arch, but President Wagner estimated that it will remain openly available to students and the campus community approximately 95% of the time.

- c. President Wagner addressed concerns regarding parking and acknowledged that parking remains an important issue for the campus community. President Wagner stated that the affected parking area has already been offline for much of the previous four years. The plaza and related work will result in approximately 50 fewer parking spaces on the Pocatello campus. President Wagner acknowledged that 50 spaces is not insignificant but noted that a parking garage is included in the university's master plan. Although a timeline for construction of the parking garage has not been established, President Wagner stated that additional structured parking will eventually be necessary as the university grows. The university is also working with PRT to explore increased transit options for students, faculty, and staff. He also stated that students should not experience substantially different parking conditions from those already experienced while the existing lot has been unavailable.
2. President Wagner emphasized that the university intends to move forward with the Swanson Arch at Foundation Plaza project regardless of ASISU's participation because of the project's importance to the institution. President Wagner encouraged ASISU to participate so that current students can contribute to the project and leave a lasting legacy as part of ISU's 125th anniversary. President Wagner concluded by expressing appreciation for ASISU and emphasizing that the university exists to serve students throughout their time at ISU and later as alumni.
 - a. Senator Smith asked for clarification regarding ASISU's contribution and whether participation would create an additional or ongoing student fee.
 - b. President Wagner clarified that the university is not requesting a new or continuing student fee. The request is for a one-time investment from ASISU's existing Reserve Fund. President Wagner referenced the history of the ICCU Dome, which was supported through student fees over time, and emphasized that the Swanson Arch project is not being funded through that type of arrangement.
 - c. Senator Little asked what types of events could take place in the plaza beyond March Through the Arch, particularly during the winter months.
 - d. President Wagner stated that the plaza would function similarly to other outdoor campus spaces, including the Quad, and would remain available

throughout the year. Snow will be removed during the winter, and students will be able to use the space for activities and events as weather permits.

- e. Senator Smith asked about the anticipated construction timeline.
- f. President Wagner stated that the current plan is to hold a groundbreaking or “shovel ceremony” and begin construction in the spring. President Wagner noted that a significant portion of the project will make the Arch ADA accessible. State funding will be used for the accessibility improvements. President Wagner stated that seeing students who use wheelchairs unable to participate fully in March Through the Arch reinforced the importance of making the area accessible. The anticipated construction timeline is less than one year, with a goal of holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Fall 2027. The final timeline will depend on the completed design, availability of materials and resources, landscaping, and other construction factors.
- g. Senator Van Metre asked how beginning construction in the spring could affect Spring Commencement and March Through the Arch.
- h. President Wagner referenced the August March Through the Arch, which occurred while a large chain-link fence was in place because of steam tunnel construction. President Wagner stated that the goal is to maintain access to the Arch for Spring Commencement and the beginning of the fall semester, even if temporary accommodations or construction fencing are necessary. President Wagner committed to doing everything possible to avoid denying students the opportunity to participate in March Through the Arch.
- i. Director Saunders asked whether consideration had been given to how changing the area surrounding the Arch could affect alumni perceptions and their connection to the historic space.
- j. President Wagner explained that the design is intended to draw greater attention to the Arch rather than diminish its historical character. He also stated that the Arch currently blends into the surrounding building and landscaping and that the project will use landscaping and the plaza design to make the Arch more visually prominent. President Wagner shared that relocating the Arch had previously been considered, including potentially deconstructing and rebuilding it in the center of the plaza. That option was rejected because of the significant cost and concerns that alumni and others would object to moving the Arch from its historic location where Swanson Hall once stood. He confirmed that the Arch itself, including its original brick and stone, will remain in its existing location. The primary physical change to the Arch will be the addition of ADA accessibility.
- k. Director Saunders shared concerns he has heard from students regarding the level of direct student impact compared with the size of the requested

investment. He noted that approximately \$125,000 represents a significant portion of the Reserve Fund and questioned whether the space would have enough regular student use to justify the investment.

- l. President Wagner acknowledged and respected those concerns. He agreed that if impact is measured solely by the frequency of student use, the concern is reasonable. President Wagner encouraged members to consider a broader measurement of impact based on legacy, institutional identity, student traditions, and the significance of the Arch to students entering and graduating from Idaho State.
- m. President Halter noted that previous discussions involved a lower contribution and clarified that ASISU could approve an amount different from the requested \$125,000.
- n. President Wagner agreed that determining the contribution amount is within ASISU's authority but encouraged members to be generous in considering the request.
- o. Director Saunders asked why the request had increased from approximately \$110,000 previously discussed to \$125,000.
- p. President Wagner explained that the project is being funded through several sources, including state funding, Foundation funding, donor contributions, alumni support, and the requested student contribution. President Wagner compared the funding process to assembling a jigsaw puzzle, explaining that the university now has more definite information regarding contributions from other funding sources and the anticipated project cost. He stated that the increase from approximately \$110,000 to \$125,000 reflects the continued development of the project and its funding plan. President Wagner committed that the university would not return to ASISU seeking additional funds if final project costs exceed the current estimate. Additional needs would instead be addressed through alumni, Foundation, or other funding sources.
- q. Director Saunders asked all non-voting members of the committee to step out prior to a motion being made or a vote being held.
 - i. Motion to approve the Reserve Fund Request for The Swanson Arch at Foundation Plaza in the amount of \$125,000: Medema/Burrell
 - 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 – NO
HEATHER SWARTZ – YES
JOHN TORRES-DROZD – YES
AJ VACCARELLA – YES
HANNAH VAN METRE – NO
BRAYDEN WIGHT – YES

2. Motion: **CARRIED**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. OTHER

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion to adjourn: Little/Halter
- b. Unanimous
- c. Motion: **CARRIED**

XII. ROLL CALL

- a. 13 Finance Committee members preset.
- b. Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, and Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist.
- c. Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

KASHLYN PETERSON