

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB

7:00PM

SEPTEMBER 30th, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:0PM
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. 15 Senators present.
 - b. Absent: Senator Wight
 - 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 SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from September 23rd, 2026: Vaccarella/Picanco
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 30th, 2026
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda for September 30th, 2026 with the friendly amendment to add Ryan Sargent, Associate Vice President for Government and Community Relations and Special Assistant to the President presenting on Working with Local Government and Representing Yourself; and Jim Widmann, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering, presenting on the Exploration, Prototyping, Innovation, and Collaboration (EPIC) Center under Announcements and Correspondence: Van Metre/Picanco
 - b. Unanimous
 - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Ryan Sargent, Associate Vice President for Government and Community Relations and Special Assistant to the President, Working with Local Government and Representing Yourself
 - i. Ryan Sargent introduced himself and discussed his previous involvement with ASISU, including serving as ASISU President while completing his undergraduate degree at Idaho State University. He discussed his professional background and current role at ISU, which includes government relations, community relations, presidential support, and serving as an internal connector between university experts and appropriate external partners. Ryan Sargent explained that a major component of his position is connecting Idaho State University with appropriate policymakers to support students, academic programs, departments, and the university as a whole. Ryan Sargent emphasized the importance of building

relationships with elected officials and encouraged ASISU members to develop relationships with local and state policymakers. He discussed the Bengal Community Partnership, a formal partnership between Idaho State University and the City of Pocatello. The agreement will establish a permanent working relationship between ISU and the City of Pocatello that is intended to continue regardless of changes in university or city leadership. A Bengal Community Partnership Cabinet will be established with five representatives from ISU and five representatives from the City of Pocatello, appointed respectively by the University President, Dr. Robert Wagner and Pocatello Mayor Mark Dahlquist. The Cabinet will identify priorities and establish working groups and task forces involving university and city representatives. Ryan Sargent also reported that a similar partnership will also be established with the City of Chubbuck. Potential areas of collaboration include public safety, downtown and warehouse district development, housing, transportation and mobility, workforce development, research, arts and athletics, and coordinated community communication. Ryan Sargent discussed opportunities to make areas surrounding campus more conducive to student life through restaurants, retail, housing, transportation, and other development.

- ii. Senator Paine asked whether planned future student housing near Terry Street relates to the university's partnership with the city.
- iii. Ryan Sargent explained that the university owns the property but will still work with the city regarding matters such as zoning, traffic, parking access, and other requirements associated with development.
- iv. Senator Smith asked how the partnership could enhance the student experience and how students could be involved.
- v. Ryan Sargent explained that although the Cabinet will establish the overall direction of the partnership, working groups and task forces will include students, faculty, and staff with relevant expertise and perspectives. He stated that students interested in participating in these groups should contact him and emphasized that student involvement will be important because the purpose of the partnership is to improve the university and student experience. He also provided an overview of the Idaho Legislature, including its structure of 35 legislative districts, 35 senators, and 70 representatives. Ryan Sargent discussed the legislative process, including the development of legislative ideas, routing slips, committee consideration, floor votes, consideration by the opposite chamber, and gubernatorial action. He emphasized that ASISU does not need to take positions on every legislative proposal and encouraged members to focus on issues that directly affect students and Idaho State University. Areas ASISU was encouraged to monitor include legislation affecting the student experience, university authority and flexibility, tuition and fees, scholarships, state funding, and new compliance requirements. Ryan Sargent discussed the state budget process and the role of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee in establishing agency and higher education budgets. He emphasized the

importance of credibility, engagement, relationship-building, understanding issues, and knowing when student input can have the greatest impact.

- vi. Senator Paine asked Sargent about issues he worked on during his own time in ASISU.
 - vii. Ryan Sargent discussed previously serving as an ASISU lobbyist and working on an effort related to student representation on the State Board of Education. He reflected on the importance of coalition-building and communicating with relevant stakeholders before pursuing legislative changes.
 - viii. Senator Smith asked about Sargent's experience serving as ASISU President. Sargent discussed the value of the experience in developing leadership skills, relationships, and confidence.
 - ix. Senator Ball asked how students interested in participating in the Bengal Community Partnership could become involved.
 - x. Ryan Sargent encouraged interested students to contact him and stated that he anticipates student participation in the partnership's working groups. He offered to assist ASISU members with future engagement with state and local government, including helping arrange meetings and connections with policymakers.
- b. Jim Widmann, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering, Exploration, Prototyping, Innovation, and Collaboration (EPIC) Center
- i. Dean Widmann presented the proposed Exploration, Prototyping, Innovation, and Collaboration (EPIC) Center. He described the EPIC Center as a campus-wide project and collaboration space that would be available to students, faculty, and staff with an ISU ID. The proposed center would provide equipment and resources allowing members of the university community to design, prototype, build, and create projects. The center is intended to support research and creative activities, class projects, student organizations, competitions, skill development, collaboration, and community building. Dean Widmann emphasized that the EPIC Center would not be limited to engineering students and is intended to serve the entire university. The proposed location is approximately 6,000 square feet in the Lillibridge Engineering Building, providing a central location near the Quad. He stated that he anticipates the EPIC Center becoming a significant feature of campus tours and a resource for recruiting prospective students. Proposed equipment and capabilities include 3D printing, laser cutting, woodworking, soldering, brazing, electronics, metal fabrication, welding, machining, CNC machining, and composite and carbon-fiber work. Users would receive appropriate safety training before operating equipment requiring additional supervision or expertise. Dean Widmann emphasized that the center would be a hands-on environment in which users would create their own projects rather than having staff build projects for them. He also discussed his previous experience overseeing similar facilities, which were largely operated by paid student employees. The proposed EPIC Center would similarly create opportunities for student employment while allowing students to develop technical, leadership, and instructional skills. He discussed

the importance of providing students from different disciplines with a shared space where they can collaborate, develop practical skills, and turn ideas into physical projects. The current planning process for the space, including preliminary layouts and equipment needs was explained.

- ii. Senate members discussed the potential benefits of the center for students across academic disciplines and its potential as a future campus resource.
- iii. Dean Widmann encouraged ASISU members to consider funding half of the needed Facility Manager position for the next five years for \$40,000 a year as part of future Reserve Fund discussions.

c. Anti-Gravity Club- New Organization, Breanne Hansen

- i. The Anti-Gravity Club was rescheduled to next week's Senate meeting, October 7th.

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter reported that he attended a Homecoming Committee meeting during the previous week and has served on the committee since April. He encouraged ASISU members to participate in Homecoming Week and attend events including the Royalty Pageant, Lip Sync Battle, bonfire, tailgate, football game, and other scheduled events. President Halter noted that ASISU held its first team-building night at Reed Gym, where members participated in pickleball. He encouraged additional members to participate in future team-building activities to boost team morale. President Halter reported meeting with the local Rotary Club to discuss ASISU, student involvement, and university initiatives. He informed senators that he has been working with Director Price and Director Ollivant on the upcoming Student Leaders Social. President Halter also reported that he helped promote the Career Fair and noted that there was a strong turnout of both potential employers and ISU students. He has been identifying potential campus locations that could be developed into additional student-centered hangout spaces. President Halter discussed the value of providing students with spaces they can personalize and make their own over time.

IX. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre reported that she also attended the ASISU team-building night and encouraged members to participate in future activities. She informed senators that committee chairs held their first meeting and discussed what is working well within their committees and areas that could be improved. She explained that she has been working with Senator Smith, and Director Saunders to develop a presentation regarding the Reserve Fund to provide members with additional background and clarify its purpose and potential uses. She continues waiting for the final official club contact information before distributing club assignments to senators. Club assignments will be distributed once the remaining information is received.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Ball
 - i. Senator Ball had nothing to report
- c. Rules and Appointment Committee, Senator Smith

- i. Senator Smith reported that the committee is working on its first proposal regarding college mergers and several additional proposals. The committee anticipates having proposals ready for consideration within the next one to two weeks. As a committee they continue to research the possibility of establishing a Judicial Branch and reviewing potential revisions to the ASISU Bylaws. Senator Smith also noted that the Bylaw rewrite project has identified several procedures that need to be followed more consistently and that members may receive reminders regarding procedural requirements.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
 - i. Senator Van Metre reported that the committee met regarding the upcoming tailgate and that student organizations have been requesting funding to participate in tailgates. She informed everyone that the upcoming tailgate will include food, games, music, and other activities, highly encouraging members to attend events if possible.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Committee, Senator Swartz
 - i. Senator Swartz reported that there were delays in ordering items originally intended for Suicide Prevention Month goodie bags. The items will instead be assembled and distributed as Midterm Self-Care Bags. The committee plans to distribute the bags through pop-up locations in the Pond Student Union Building and Rendezvous.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Bill 628
 - i. Senator Smith reminded Senate that considerations of Bills 628 and 629 at this stage does not constitute final approval. The motions send the bills to the Rules and Appointments Committee for review before they return to Senate.
 - 1. Motion to send Bill 628 to the Rules and Appointments Committee for review: Van Metre/Baughman
 - a. ROLL CALL
 - BRENDON BALL- YES
 - MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- 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
 - b. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Bill 629

- i. Motion to send Bill 629 to the Rules and Appointments Committee for review:
Van Metre/Baughman

1. ROLL CALL

BRENDON BALL- YES
MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- 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

2. Motion: **CARRIED**

c. Benny's Funding Requests

- i. The Jungle and Grilled Cheese Club — Bus Trip to Weber State University,
\$3,000

1. Senator Paine discussed his recent personal travel to Southern Utah and noted that his individual transportation costs were less than \$50.
2. Senator Baughman noted that personal vehicle costs vary significantly depending on the vehicle and circumstances and stated that individual travel experiences may not provide an accurate comparison for a group trip.
3. Senator Van Metre discussed her positive experience participating in a previous student bus trip to support ISU Athletics and stated that organized transportation provides students with an opportunity to attend games together and support university teams.
4. Senator Leyva discussed the cost of renting university vehicles and noted that transportation expenses can be substantial, particularly when transporting a large number of students.
5. Senator Little noted that students traveling independently would be responsible for transportation expenses as well as individual game tickets.
6. President Halter noted that individual travel costs multiplied across a large group could exceed the requested \$3,000.
7. Secretary Madison asked whether approved advisors would accompany the trip.

8. Director Saunders clarified that having an advisor or advisors participate was included as a stipulation of the request. Senators discussed requiring an approved advisor in each vehicle for both the trip to Weber State and the return trip.

a. Motion to approve The Jungle and Grilled Cheese Club Bus Trip to Weber State University for \$3,000, with the stipulation that an approved advisor must be present in both vehicles during travel to and from the game: Van Metre/Smith

i. ROLL CALL

BRENDON BALL- YES

MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- 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

ii. Motion: **CARRIED**

d. Sigma Sigma Sigma- Tailgate and Dirty Sodas, \$221

i. Senator Van Metre clarified that Sigma Sigma Sigma will retain any leftover syrups purchased through the request and use them at future tailgates.

1. Motion to approve Sigma Sigma Sigma Tailgate Dirty Sodas for \$221: Vaccarella/Picanco

a. ROLL CALL

BRENDON BALL- YES

MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- 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

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

e. Internal Funding Request

i. Homecoming Parade, \$500

1. Motion to approve the Internal Funding Request for Homecoming Parade supplies in the amount of \$500: Smith/Leyva

a. ROLL CALL

BRENDON BALL- YES

MAKENNA BAUGHMANN- 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

b. Motion: **Carried**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Reserve Fund Request

i. Swanson Arch at Foundation Plaza, \$125,000

1. It was noted that President Wagner offered to attend the following week's Senate meeting when the request is scheduled for final consideration, since he attended Finance Committee tonight to discuss this request.

2. Senator Van Metre noted that she and Senator Smith voted against the request in Finance Committee and invited members to discuss their reasoning with them.

a. Motion to move into committee for 20 minutes: Vaccarella/Van Metre

b. Unanimous

c. Motion: **CARRIED**

d. Motion to extend committee by 10 minutes: Vaccarella/Smith

e. Unanimous

f. Motion: **CARRIED**

g. Motion to extend committee by 10 minutes: Leyva/Vaccarella

h. Unanimous

i. Motion: **CARRIED**

XII. OTHER

a. September ASISU Finance Update- Director Saunders

- i. Director Saunders reported that ASISU had approved approximately \$6,965 in spending at that point in the semester. He clarified that approved funding does not necessarily equal actual expenditures because organizations and programs may ultimately spend above or below their initially budgeted amount. Director Saunders reviewed spending across Benny's Funding, Internal Funding, and discretionary accounts. Benny's Funding began with approximately \$28,000, with approximately \$4,645 approved or spent at the time of the report. Approximately \$24 had been spent from discretionary accounts. Director Saunders reminded members that discretionary funding is available to the President, Vice President, and applicable campus vice presidents and encouraged those individuals to use the funding for appropriate projects and initiatives. Director Saunders presented spending by category, including ASISU outreach, club events, athletics, and student support. Approximately 66% of spending to date was associated with athletics or athletics-related events, approximately 20% with club events, approximately 7% with ASISU outreach, and approximately 6% with student services. Director Saunders noted that significant athletics-related spending is understandable during football season but encouraged ASISU to diversify funding across additional programs and student populations.
- ii. Senator Van Metre asked whether diversification meant reducing athletics funding or increasing spending in other areas.
- iii. Director Saunders clarified that ASISU has sufficient available funding and does not necessarily need to reduce athletics-related expenditures. Instead, he encouraged members to identify additional non-athletics programs, projects, and initiatives to support.
- iv. Director Saunders presented spending forecasts for Internal Funding Requests and reported that ASISU is currently below the spending pace required to use the amount budgeted for the semester. Director Saunders emphasized that funding remains available for senators' initiatives, goals, and projects. Based on the semester's overall spending rate at that point, Director Saunders projected approximately \$7,568 in unspent funding could ultimately roll into the Reserve Fund if spending continued at the same rate. A second projection excluding the slower first two weeks of the semester produced a more aggressive spending estimate and a smaller projected remaining balance. Director Saunders also compared current spending trends with the previous academic year to provide Senate with additional context regarding the pace of expenditures. Director Saunders encouraged senators and committees to develop initiatives that serve a broader range of students and make purposeful use of available ASISU funding.

XIII. GALLERY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

XVI. ROLL CALL

- a. 15 Senators present.
- b. Absent: Senator Wight
- 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 9:13 PM

ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

ASISU SECRETARY

KASHLYN PETERSON