

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF**

**IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT SENATE**

**SHIRLEY SARGENT BOARDROOM, PSUB**

**7:00 PM**

**JANUARY 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM
- II. ROLL CALL
  - a. 12 Senators present.
  - b. Also present: Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student, Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist, and Val Davids, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Coordinator.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2026
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025: Smith/Vargas Barvosa
  - b. Unanimous
  - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2026
  - a. Motion to approve the agenda for January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 with the friendly amendment to change the Reserve Funding Request for Games Pass amount to \$25,000: Saunders/Lopez
  - b. Unanimous
  - c. Motion: **CARRIED**
- VI. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
  - a. Watermark, Canvas Evaluation Platform, Bob Houghton, Director of ITRC and Faculty Senate
    - i. Bob Houghton introduced himself as the Interim Director of ITRC, and Professor of Information Systems in the College of Business at ISU, where he has been for 13 years. The mission of the ITRC is to support faculty by creating and designing high-quality courses for the online learning environment. Faculty evaluations are completed by students to assess courses. This year, the university transitioned from Moodle to Canvas, and as part of that transition, ISU began exploring improved methodologies for collecting student faculty evaluations. To support this effort, the university purchased a tool called Watermark. Since implementing Watermark, the response rate has reached 53%. There are no comparable statistics from before this change because there was no universal, campus-wide evaluation system or standardized forms. One of the goals of adopting this system is to solidify and standardize evaluation data across the university. During the implementation of a new system, several lessons were learned. Differences between classes were identified, and the adoption of a standardized five-point Likert scale eliminated confusion about whether higher numbers represented positive or negative ratings. The most common student complaint has been the frequent pop-up reminders, which are intentionally designed to increase response rates and feedback. Feedback surveys remain optional, but they are intended to drive higher student participation across multiple systems and departments. Prior to this system, response rates were typically between 5–7%; with Watermark, response rates have increased to as high as 73% in some cases. The State Board has also changed how faculty evaluations are conducted for tenure and promotion. Higher response rates and more meaningful feedback are

emphasized, as increased participation leads to more reliable evaluation data. Faculty have been able to adapt and improve their courses directly based on this feedback. In addition to evaluations, the ITRC manages the Honorlock online proctoring system for exams and quizzes, maintains computer systems, and oversees various instructional tools within the Canvas framework. The ITRC is also working on implementing more dynamic and inclusive testing methods.

1. There was a brief discussion surrounding a question raised by Senator Vargas Barvosa regarding the Psychology Department, which conducts evaluations at both the beginning and end of courses. This prompted a question about whether faculty would then have three evaluations per course. Bob Houghton shared that the Department of Academic Affairs has made the use of the Watermark system voluntary across departments. The ITRC does not have control over circular or policy-level decisions related to evaluation processes.
- b. The Linguistic Society, New Club, Grace Stander and Val Davids, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Coordinator
  - i. Grace Stander, The Linguistics Society Club president, shared information about its mission to create a fun and educational space where members can engage in discussions and participate in trainings related to various aspects of the organization. The club currently has 10 members and has met all qualifications and criteria to be officially recognized as a club. She also shared that Dr. Elizabeth Wright is the club advisor. This club is part of the Linguistics Society, a field within anthropology that focuses on language. The club is planning to host a Language Fair in February in recognition of International Mother Language Day.
    1. Senator Vargas Barvosa asked whether the club would be participating in the Involvement Fair on Wednesday, January 28th.
      - a. Grace Stander confirmed that they are already signed as a club up to attend this event.
    2. Senator Saunders asked about activities during a typical meeting.
      - a. Grace Stander shared that a regular meeting will include time for business matters, crafts, presentations, and discussion-based activities centered on specific topics.
        - i. Motion to approve The Linguistic Society as a new club: Vargas Barvosa/Lopez
          1. ROLL CALL  
SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES  
AIDAN HALL – YES  
BRYSON KING – YES  
PAIGE LITTLE – 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
          2. Motion: **CARRIED**
- c. Zambia Student Association, New Club, Malindima Bwalya and Val Davids, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Coordinator
  - i. Val Davids shared that the Zambia Student Association has run into a few issues while registering as a new club, she is hoping to have them attend senate next week.

- ii. Val Davids also reminded ASISU officers that The Student Organization Fair will feature a Candyland theme with the slogan, “M your life a little sweeter, Join a student organization.” With ASISU’s participation encouraged. In addition to this she also reminded officers that the C.E.A.S.A.R and Financial Club for clubs will be held Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>-Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. AS well as the Gatsby Event on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

VIII. PRESIDENT REPORT

- a. President Halter shared that this week, meetings were held with the craft shop to explore new engagement opportunities, including adding one monthly craft shop visit to the Games Pass. Overall, the Games Pass will include bowling and billiards, both with a snack, as well as a craft shop event that will provide materials for participants. President Halter also noted that significant time has been dedicated to allocating the Reserve Fund Budget. Meetings have taken place with faculty, students, and administrators to assess individual needs. The soft deadline for submission of the final Reserve Fund Budget is March 1st, with a hard deadline of April 1st to present recommendations to the Dean of Students Office. Additionally, President Halter shared that he attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Day events earlier this week, including the walk and panel discussion, as well as the Soul Food event on Tuesday. Lastly, President Halter informed officers that Selma will be playing at the Bengal Theater this weekend.

IX. CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senate Pro Tempore Committee, Senator Lopez
  - i. Senator Lopez shared that committee chairs have been informed that he will be reaching out to schedule Senate Pro Temp committee chair meetings to get projects moving and provide support as needed. Committee chairs are encouraged to reach out to him for assistance at any time. Senator Lopez also reminded officers to email their clubs and to complete their January timecards and checklists by January 29th at 5:00 PM. Officers were encouraged to maintain close relationships with their deans and to meet regularly with faculty. Lastly, members were reminded that the Student Involvement Fair is coming up and were encouraged to participate and be involved at the ASISU table.
- b. Finance Committee, Senator Saunders
  - i. Senator Saunders shared that this week, further work was done on developing the budget for the Reserve Fund, as well as drafting a resolution to make Benny’s Pantry a permanent line item. Any ideas for reserve fund use are welcome, and officers are encouraged to share any suggestions.
- c. Senate Rules and Appointments Committee, Senator Smith
  - i. Senator Smith nothing to report.
- d. Student Involvement Committee, Senator Van Metre
  - i. Senator Van Metre shared that the Student Involvement Committee is working on getting the ball rolling on a project with the Health, Wellness, and Sustainably Committee and have a meeting scheduled for this week.
- e. Health, Wellness, and Sustainably Committee, Senator Pandey and Senator Vargas Barvosa
  - i. Senator Vargas Barvosa shared the Health, Wellness, and Sustainably Committee is meeting tomorrow and is working with the Student Involvement Committee to organize a plant-painting-in-a-pot event. Additionally, Senator Pandey shared that they will also be meeting with the

Counseling and Mental Health Center to discuss ways to support and collaborate on their events throughout the semester.

X. OLD BUSINESS

a. Benny's Funding Request

i. Sigma Lambda Beta, \$3,000

1. Motion to deny the Sigma Lambda Beta request for \$3,000: Saunders/Hall

a. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – 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 – ABSTAIN

b. Motion: **CARRIED**

b. Reserve Funding Request for Benny's Pantry, \$15,000

i. Motion to approve the Reserve Funding Request for Benny's Pantry for \$15,000: Saunders/Van Metre

1. ROLL CALL

SAUGAT ACHARYA – YES

AIDAN HALL – YES

BRYSON KING – YES

PAIGE LITTLE – 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

2. Motion: **CARRIED**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Reserve Funding Request for Games Pass, \$25,000

XII. GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER

XIII. OTHER

XIV. ISU FIGHT SONG

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- a. 12 Senators present.
- b. Also present: Also present: Dr. Matt Daily, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student, Theresa Brissette, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Program Specialist, and Val Davids, Student Leadership and Engagement Center Coordinator.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

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ASISU VICE PRESIDENT

CHARLIE MEDEMA

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ASISU SECRETARY

ELIANA MADISON