



03/12/2025 A.S. Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Minutes

Associated Students San Jose State University
3/12/2025 3:00 PMPDT

@ Student Union Meeting Room 1A: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/85916216835>

I. Call to Order

Chair Nwokolo calls the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

II. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Nwokolo reads the land acknowledgement.

 [Land Acknowledgement.pdf](#)

III. Roll Call

The recording secretary completes roll call.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion moved by Director Gambarin and motion seconded by Controller Dhami. Vote: 9-0-0, Motion Passed.

V. Approval of the Minutes

 [02.26.2025 A.S. Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion moved by Director Sinha and motion seconded by Director A. Joshi.

Motion:

Director Agustin recommended a motion to amend "Ralph M. Brown Act" to "Gloria Romero Act" in the closed session description.

Motion moved by Director Agustin and motion seconded by Director R. Joshi. Vote: 9-0-0, Motion Passed.

Motion:

Vote: 9-0-0, Motion Passed.

VI. Public Forum

Public Forum is intended as an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Associated Students Board of Directors regarding any issues affecting SJSU students. Speakers are allowed 3 minutes each to speak. Please sign in on the clip board if in person or if you are online sign in using chat for minute recording purpose.

Haleema from A.S. Transportation Solutions introduced herself as the new Transportation Manager.

President Lacson recognized at 3:10 PM.

John, President of the Student Democratic Society, expressed his frustration over the failure to pass the resolution. He urged the directors who voted against it to reconsider their stance and vote in favor.

Rachel from the faculty union described it as “terrifying” that a simple resolution meant to protect students did not pass. She called on the board to reflect on their decision and to stand in solidarity with the trans community, emphasizing that the board had lost the trust of many. She urged them to take action to restore that trust.

Aidan from the SDS condemned the board’s failure to pass the resolution, highlighting the historical struggles and safety concerns of queer people. He implored the board to reexamine the resolution and vote to pass it.

Ethan from SDS, a long-time advocate for the trans community, described the board’s failure to support the resolution as shameful. He insisted that trans students deserve to feel safe on campus and called on those who voted against it to reflect on their decision and the responsibilities of their position.

Oli from SDS, a trans advocate, criticized the board for inaction, recalling a similar lack of response when President Trump targeted trans rights. He called on those who opposed or abstained from voting to educate themselves, rethink their position, or step down from the board.

Misa, a trans former student-athlete, shared their personal experience of not feeling a sense of belonging. They urged the board to challenge traditional gender roles and take a stand for trans students.

Shambhavi, President of Queer & Asians, expressed deep disappointment in those who opposed or abstained. She emphasized that serving in a public seat is not for personal safety or resume-building but a responsibility to protect students. She condemned the board’s decision as a betrayal, warning that another community would inevitably feel the same if this behavior continued. She urged the board to do better, or step aside for those who will.

Director Gambarin, speaking on behalf of Kayla, highlighted the fear and lack of safety trans students experience on campus. She condemned the transphobia exhibited by those who voted against the resolution, stating that it was never about fairness in athletics but about denying rights.

Director Gambarin also spoke on behalf of Kris, a trans student at SJSU, who urged the board to take their duty seriously and prioritize protecting trans students.

Robin, speaking via Zoom, emphasized that this was a failure of justice. He called on the board to recognize the violence and discrimination trans people face daily. He urged them to acknowledge the anger expressed, learn from it, and take meaningful action. He stressed that lack of knowledge should never be an excuse for inaction.

Public forum paused for a time—certain item at 3:30pm and resumed at 3:50 PM.

Danny, speaking via Zoom, discussed how anti-trans narratives have been used politically to justify exclusion. He condemned the use of university spaces to further these agendas and called on the board to protect trans students from discrimination.

Brandon from the Black Student Union reflected on his time in high school track and emphasized that success in sports comes from training and practice, not biology. He challenged the idea that trans athletes have an unfair advantage, stating that talent alone never wins, effort and dedication do.

Director Agustin, speaking on behalf of Teairra, an Orientation Leader and club president, expressed sadness for incoming students who will lack support and feel unwelcome. She commended those who spoke at the forum and applauded their courage.

Artur stressed the importance of voting and accountability. He argued that abstaining should not be a way to avoid taking a stance and questioned why those who abstained hold leadership positions. He urged the board to reflect on their purpose and step aside if they are unwilling to lead.

President Lacson, speaking on behalf of another student, acknowledged the lack of inclusivity on campus and noted that trans students' rights and needs are not being adequately addressed.

Tim from SDS recognized the strength of those who spoke, stating that they were not just advocates but friends and colleagues fighting for their rights. He reiterated that trans rights are human rights and condemned those who seek to take them away.

Lastly, Kenne from A.S. Events expressed profound disappointment upon learning the resolution had failed. They described working as a trans staff member under this A.S. board as deeply disheartening. They emphasized that this issue extends beyond sports, it is a matter of human rights. They urged board members to reflect on the faculty and advisors around them and to stand in true support of trans students.

VII. Executive Director's Informational Report (4 minutes)

Executive Director Allen thanked everyone for attending and speaking. She shared that she has spent the past week reflecting and reaching out to individuals. She emphasized that this is a time to be open, foster dialogue, and create opportunities for change.

She encouraged everyone to take initiative in creating these opportunities while also doing the necessary work of reading, educating themselves, and engaging in spaces with a mindset of listening, understanding, and growth.

She highlighted the rapid pace of structural changes happening and acknowledged CHI Month and Women's History Month. She also addressed the VTA strike, urging everyone to speak up and explore ways to improve processes moving forward.

VIII. University Administration's Informational Report (3 minutes)

Dr. Fuentes-Martin applauded those who spoke and thanked everyone for using their freedom of speech to advocate. She mentioned the candidate lunch for the AVP of Student Equity and Belonging in the Division of Student Affairs.

She also introduced Jon Tucker as the new Executive Director of the Student Union and Dr. Heather French as the new Associate Vice President, Dean of Students.

Dr. Fuentes-Martin expressed her excitement about the leadership changes in Student Affairs.

IX. Student Union's Informational Report (3 minutes)

President Lacson discussed the purchases that have been approved for event purposes. She clarified that the materials and funding were used specifically for orientation purposes. She also highlighted the Student Union's ongoing efforts to improve the student experience.

X. Student Election Commission's Informational Report (3 minutes)

Chief Elections Officer Glerys Gonzalez announced that all applications were closed on February 28 and commended the SEC team for their efforts. She noted that 18 candidates are running in the election and stated that they are now moving into Phase Two of election awareness. She also mentioned that the first kickoff event will take place next Tuesday.

XI. Action Items

A. Old Business

B. New Business

1. Action Item: Vote to Appoint Jhony De Oliveira as the 24/25 A.S. Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities (Presenters: Ariana Lacson)

President Lacson reviewed applications for Board of Directors Vacancy Position: Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities. Following this review her and an interviewing committee consisting of other BOD members held interviews and debriefed on a candidate to nominate. This was completed with the support of the Leadership and Government Coordinator. Post this process President Lacson is nominating Jhony De Oliveira for the Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities position.

 [BOD Vacancy Applications.pdf](#)

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion to open the action item.

Motion moved by Director Gambarin and motion seconded by President Lacson.

President Lacson emphasized the importance of appointing someone who can effectively fulfill the responsibilities of the role. She highlighted several qualities that stood out about Jhony, including his dedication to advocating for undocumented students and his commitment to supporting students from diverse communities. She expressed confidence that he would be a great fit for the position and described him as a phenomenal SJSU student.

She then opened the floor for board discussion.

Director Gambarin stated that she believes Jhony is an excellent fit for the role. She echoed President Lacson's sentiments, emphasizing the need for someone who is driven and capable of completing the job effectively in the remaining two months of the academic year.

Chair Nwokolo reiterated that the board would need at least eight votes to approve the appointment.

Motion:

Vote: 9-0-0, Motion Passed.

2. Action Item: Vote to Approve Letter of Support for Trans Rights & Trans Athletes (Presenters: Ariana Lacson)

This action item seeks approval for a Letter of Support affirming the organization's commitment to transgender rights and inclusion, particularly in athletics. The letter addresses ongoing legislative challenges impacting transgender individuals and athletes, emphasizing the need for equal rights, protections, and opportunities. By approving this letter, the organization will publicly stand in solidarity with the transgender community and advocate against discriminatory policies that limit participation in sports and other areas of public life.

 [Letter of Support for Trans Rights & Trans Athletes Rights to Compete in Sports .pdf](#)

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion to open the action item.

Motion moved by Director Gambarin and motion seconded by President Lacson.

President Lacson thanked everyone who came to speak. She emphasized the importance of treating others with respect while also addressing

personal safety concerns. She clarified that no names or voting records would be included in the letter. She discussed what this resolution means for students across the community and the CSU system.

President Lacson then read the letter of support for trans rights and trans athletes' right to participate in sports. She reviewed the statistics included in the letter and explained that the letter serves as a temporary solution and a stepping stone for further action. She then opened the floor for any changes or concerns.

Director Swaminathan spoke about the importance of empathy, urging board members to consider the needs of the community over personal interests. She emphasized the need for the same empathy that others have sought from them.

Chair Nwokolo handed the gavel to Vice Chair A. Joshi and then yielded time to him. Vice President Nwokolo thanked President Lacson for her efforts and spoke about the importance of having leaders who are willing to step up and speak out. He stated that if students do not feel represented, they will not feel safe. He emphasized the need for student leaders who are ready to protect their peers at all costs. Vice Chair A. Joshi then passed the gavel back to Chair Nwokolo.

Director Swaminathan expressed confusion over the lack of concerns raised directly to President Lacson, questioning whether there were any actual objections. Director Gambarin echoed this sentiment, highlighting the importance of communication and stating that without proper communication, things will not go well. She also pointed out that abstaining from a vote is effectively a "no" vote.

President Lacson reiterated that every organization on campus had been informed about the resolution, including its failure and its contents. She also mentioned that she had not received any direct opposition to the resolution.

Director R. Joshi shared that while some students had voiced opposition to her privately, they had not spoken up publicly. She noted that concerns primarily centered around safety. She also mentioned the backlash she and other board members who opposed or abstained had received, which had taken a toll on their mental health.

President Lacson questioned why, if Director R. Joshi and Controller Dhama had received objection comments, they had not informed her about it. At this point, Executive Director Vicki Allen reminded the discussion to be directed toward the Chair.

Director Agustin was re-recognized at 5:03 PM.

Director R. Joshi acknowledged that she had not received approval to disclose the conversations she referenced. Director Swaminathan stated that while she understood Director R. Joshi's intent to advocate for the minority, she was unsure how to proceed given the lack of formal statements from those opposing the resolution.

Director Gambarin clarified that this was a letter of support, not a resolution, and that it was intended to show solidarity with the community. She stated that if students who opposed the resolution truly disagreed with its intent, they should have been present at the meeting, but none had attended.

Chair Nwokolo concluded by stating that at least six votes in favor were needed for approval.

Motion:

Vote: 10-0-0, Motion Passed.

3. Action Item: Vote to Approve \$3,960.80 for American Choral Director's Association (Time Certain: 3:30PM) (Presenters: Riya Dhami, Guests: Representatives from American Choral Director's Association)

As outlined in the Associated Students Budget Policy, student organization funding requests exceeding \$3,000 must be approved by the Board of Directors. At the March 5, 2025 meeting, the Finance Committee was unable to hear this request due to time constraints and has moved it to the Board of Directors for review. Given that the request pertains to travel planned for March 18–22, 2025, this item is time-sensitive

 [2 17 25 funding form.pdf](#)

 [2024-2025 Budget Policies.docx.pdf](#)

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion to open the action item.

Motion moved by Director Sinha and motion seconded by Director Gambarin.

Controller Dhami explained that the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) attended the last Finance Committee meeting but did not have time to present. She yielded time to the representatives from the association to share the presentation with the board. The representative provided an overview of the organization, explained the significance of attending the national ACDA conference, and broke down

the travel expenses, which constituted the majority of the funding request.

Director Agustin questioned why the business-class flight option was chosen over the "Wanna Get Away" fare, which was half the price. He noted that the board would not be able to approve the funding since the most cost-effective option was not selected.

Director R. Joshi inquired about the number of members attending. Controller Dhama clarified and recalculated the new total cost. She then recommended a motion to amend the funding request to \$2,000.

Motion:

Controller Dhama recommended a motion to amend the funding request to \$2,000.

Motion moved by Controller Dhama and motion seconded by Director Agustin.

President Lacson asked for clarification on the changes. Director Khehra explained them. President Lacson then brought up reasons why organizations might upgrade their flights, but Director Agustin and Director R. Joshi stated that it was acceptable. Director Sinha asked for clarification on the \$50 per person fee, and Director R. Joshi inquired about its purpose. It was explained that the fee covered taxes and additional charges.

Director Khehra requested the funding request form to be brought up and noted that some of the lower-cost flight options had limited availability, which may have influenced the decision to choose the upgraded option. Director R. Joshi mentioned that flight prices fluctuate and may not be the same as initially listed. Director Swaminathan checked the current prices and noted a significant increase.

President Lacson asked how members planned to cover the remaining costs, and they responded that it would most likely come out of pocket. Director Gambarin then yielded time to another member of the organization, who shared insights on the organization's future plans.

Motion:

Controller Dhama rescinded her motion and recommended a new motion to allocate the maximum amount of \$3,000.

Motion moved by Controller Dhami and motion seconded by Director Swaminathan. Vote: 9-1-0, Motion Passed.

Motion:

Main Motion

Vote: 10-0-0, Motion Passed.

4. Action Item: Vote to Appoint Andrew Negrette to the Institutional Review Board (Presenters: Ariana Lacson)

 [Andrew Negrette Application.pdf](#)

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion to open the action item.

Motion moved by Director Khehra and motion seconded by President Lacson.

President Lacson expressed support for Andrew, stating that he would be a great fit for the board.

Motion:

Vote: 10-0-0, Motion Passed.

5. Action Item: Vote to Appoint a Director at Large to the Academic Freedom Committee of the Academic Senate (Presenters: Ariana Lacson)

AFC shall monitor the state of academic freedom both at San Jose State and in the broader academic environment. In addition, it shall safeguard and promote academic freedom at SJSU, and shall serve as an advisory body on issues arising from the application of academic freedom on our campus. AFC shall educate and advise on the meaning and scope of academic freedom and its application. To do so, AFC shall familiarize itself with policies, laws, court decisions, and current events concerning academic freedom. AFC shall educate all constituencies of the San Jose State Community on our own policies on academic freedom. It shall host at least one academic freedom forum each year, on a topic related to academic freedom and designed to stimulate interest in academic freedom.

The last 2 dates they're meeting this semester are: **March 21, 3-4 pm and April 25, 3-4pm (both Fridays).**

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion to open the action item.

Motion moved by President Lacson and motion seconded by Director Ramalingam.

Director Sinha was granted a point of personal privilege at 5:12 PM. President Lacson shared that the committee is seeking a replacement following Leo's resignation. Director A. Joshi and Chair Nwokolo self-nominated for the position.

Motion:

President Lacson recommends a motion to discuss the self-nominations.

Motion moved by President Lacson and motion seconded by Director Agustin.

Chair Nwokolo shared why he believes he would be a great fit for the role. Director Sinha was re-recognized at 5:16 PM.

Director A. Joshi shared why she believes she would be a great fit for the role.

Director Agustin posed a question regarding what academic freedom means to both candidates.

Both candidates explained their perspectives on academic freedom.

Director Agustin expressed that he felt Chair Nwokolo provided the strongest response to the question.

President Lacson shared her definition of academic freedom and noted that Chair Nwokolo has demonstrated long-standing interest in the role.

Motion:

President Lacson recommended a motion to vote Chair Nwokolo to the Academic Freedom Committee of the Academic Senate

Motion moved by Director Sinha and motion seconded by Director Gambarin. Vote: 9-0-1, Motion Passed.

Motion:

Director Sinha recommends a motion to table all the board reports indefinitely.

Motion moved by Director Sinha and motion seconded by Director Khehra. Vote: 10-0-0, Motion Passed.

Motion:

President Lacson recommends a motion to table Discussion Item 6 until the next meeting.

Motion moved by President Lacson and motion seconded by Director R. Joshi. Vote: 10-0-0, Motion Passed.

6. Discussion Item: CSSA Trans Resolution & Next Steps for SJSU A.S.
(Presenters: Ariana Lacson)

Since President Lacson is spearheading efforts in seeking approval for similar legislation as the Trans Rights resolution presented to the Board last week to CSSA, in light of this new development she would like to share the draft that was presented at March CSSA Plenary & discuss next steps moving forward on supporting trans students at SJSU.

 [UPDATED 3 3 25 CSSA RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANS RIGHTS & TRANS ATHLETES RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS.pdf](#)

7. Discussion Item: Visit from University President Dr. Teniente-Matson
(Time Certain: 4:15 PM) (Presenters: Ariana Lacson, Guests: President Teniente-Matson)

This meeting provides an opportunity for the board to welcome University President Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, hear her insights on campus initiatives, and engage in open dialogue. Board members will have the chance to ask questions, share perspectives, and discuss key topics relevant to SJSU's future.

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion table the item until Dr. Teniente-Matson arrives.

Motion moved by President Lacson and motion seconded by Director R. Joshi. Vote: 10-0-0, Motion Passed.

President Lacson welcomed University President Dr. Teniente-Matson. She spoke about the importance of the board's voices, the recent changes happening on campus, and student concerns. She emphasized her commitment to supporting all students, regardless of their background. Additionally, she highlighted SJSU Cares and the importance of available resources to support students in the community.

Dr. Teniente-Matson also discussed the exciting developments in academic programs and what they mean for both students and alumni. She noted the university's strong commitment to AI and mentioned ongoing conversations with RAs to address concerns and maintain open communication.

Director Agustin was excused at 4:23 PM.

Director R. Joshi yielded time to a student from the public. Misa, the president of OSTEM, expressed disappointment that Dr. Teniente-Matson missed the public forum and asked for her opinion on a particular case. Dr. Teniente-Matson responded that she was present to observe and listen.

Director Gambarin yielded time to another student, who inquired about how the university plans to integrate AI while maintaining critical thinking skills. Dr. Teniente-Matson explained that AI will be available as a resource and mentioned the training faculty have undergone with Adobe.

XII. Executive Officer Reports (4 minutes each)

A. President

 [A.Lacson Board Report-03.12.25.docx.pdf](#)

B. Vice President

 [03-12-25 Vice President C. Nwokolo Board Report .pdf](#)

C. Controller

 [March 12, 2025 - Controller Board Report.docx.pdf](#)

XIII. Directors' Reports (3 minutes each)

A. Director of Academic Affairs

 [SKhehra-03 12 25-Board Report.docx.pdf](#)

B. Director of Business Affairs

 [03 12 2025 - Director of Business Affairs Board Report.docx.pdf](#)

C. Director of Co-Curricular Affairs

 [03 12 25 Board Report .docx.pdf](#)

D. Director of Communications

 [G. Agustin Board Report - 3.12.25.pdf](#)

E. Director of Intercultural Affairs

 [03 12 25 S. Sinha Board Report.docx.pdf](#)

F. Director of Internal Affairs

 [march 12,2025 board report.docx.pdf](#)

G. Director of Legislative Affairs

 [K.Gambarin Board Report - 03 12.docx.pdf](#)

H. Director of Student Resource Affairs

 [T. Brown Board Report 3.12.25.docx.pdf](#)

I. Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities

Vacant.

J. Director of Sustainability Affairs

 [Director of Sustainability Affairs Board Report\(03 12 2025\).docx.pdf](#)

XIV. Ad Hoc Committees

No Ad Hoc Committees.

XV. Closed Session

No Closed Session.

XVI. Announcements

Chair Nwokolo announced that the A.S. 55 Award is now open for applications.
President Lacson provided an update on upcoming CHI Month events.
Director Gambarin mentioned that the D3 candidate quorum will take place in 30 minutes.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion:

Chair Nwokolo recommends a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 PM.

Motion moved by Director Khehra and motion seconded by President Lacson. Vote: 10-0-0, Motion Passed.



Chima Nwokolo
2025-03-21 17:04 UTC

2024-2025
Associated Students
Board of Directors

Date: 03.12.2025
ROLL CALL

NAME	Attendance
President Lacson	X (@ 3:10 PM)
Vice President Nwokolo	X
Controller Dhami	X
Director Khehra	X
Director Ramalingam	X
Director Agustin	X
Director Swaminathan	X
Director Sinha	X
Director Gambarin	X
Director of Student Rights & Responsibility	Vacant
Director R. Joshi	X
Director A. Joshi	X
Director Brown	A
Non-voting Members	
Executive Director Vicki Allen	X
Mari Fuentes-Martin	X (@ 3:27 PM)
Sam Brown - Recording Secretary	X

Legends:

- X** – Present
- A** – Absent

Guests: Janely Pulido, Kingson Leung, Abby Escobar, Jim Westbrook, Brendon Brown, Artur Gafurov, Tim, Kenny Kackson, Joyee Li, Emerald Lacy, Savannah Downey, Selena Wang, Megan Sweet, Mayela Sanchez, Emily Datta, Ariana Leung, Owen Jackson,

Leegan Jackson, Patricio Gonzalez, Sofia Calderon, Layhann Bellany, Sharon Klass, Reanna M, Jhony De Oliveira, Sam Michael, Lurt Rasmussen, Sumit Churba, E. Sigmen, Sofi Ciprien, Michelle Sanches, Nina Chuang, Sireesha Dandamudi, Caleb Mossa, Kalyani Blackwell, Rian Monson, Wendy Siguenza, Haleema Bharoocha-Jobe, John Duroyan, Rachel Abeyta, Aidan Ruvh, Ethan Maruyana, Oli Harter, Misa Church, Shambhavi Sisodiya, Jim Westbrook, Pori H, Robin, Danny Johnson, Laasya Kollepara, Juliana, Sandy Jacobs-Tolle, Alex Chechik, Beverly Corriere, Alex, Fariyal Popal, Jasmine, Jay Timbol, Teairra Brown, Sidhant Sadawarti, Rian Morrison, Juan Padilla, Quynh Lg, Joanna, Anai Avalos, Kevin, Bonnie Sugiyama

Additional public comments:

Director Gambarin spoke in public on behalf of Kayla Le

Director Gambarin spoke in public on behalf of Kris Waller

Director Gambarin spoke in public on behalf of Ida Kheung

Director Agustin spoke on behalf of Teairra Brown