



Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton

2/19/2026 2:30 PMPST

@ ASI Boardroom, Titan Student Union

Meeting Details

Meeting Called By: Mahak Ahmad

Meeting Type: Regular

Meeting Attendees: Members, Staff, Public

CSU, Fullerton students, and members of the public may submit comments regarding any item posted on this agenda, or matters of importance to the student body through the [Public Comment Form](#). Comments will be reviewed by the Board Leadership, and submissions received prior to the meeting that are applicable to the governing body will be read during the meeting.

1. Call to Order (Ahmad)

Chair Ahmad called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Ahmad, Camarillo, Quock, Valdez, Romero

Members Absent: None

Liaisons Present: Hesgard, Mendoza, Salguero

Liaisons Absent: None

According to the ASI Policy Concerning Board of Directors Operations, attendance is defined as being present prior to the announcement of Unfinished Business and remaining until the scheduled end of the meeting.

* Indicates that the member was in attendance prior to the start of Unfinished Business but left before the scheduled end of the meeting.

** Indicates that the member was in attendance for a portion of the meeting, but not in attendance prior to the announcement of Unfinished Business.

3. Approval of the Agenda

[Item 3 - gov 2026 02 19 age.pdf](#)

Motion:

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Motion moved by Luisa Camarillo and motion seconded by Edwin Valdez.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. 02/05/2026 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

[Item 4 - gov 2026 02 05 min.pdf](#)

Motion:

The 02/05/2026 Governance Committee meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Motion moved by Luisa Camarillo and motion seconded by Edwin Valdez.

5. Public Speakers

Members of the public may address Governance Committee members on any item appearing on this posted agenda.

There were no public speakers.

6. Reports

A. Chair (Ahmad)

Chair Ahmad welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledged the inclement weather, and encouraged attendees to stay engaged, participate actively, and feel confident asking questions as they move into candidate interviews for the ECS vacancy.

B. Student Government Director (Hesgard)

Chair Ahmad yielded to Rebecca Hesgard, ASI Director of Student Government. Hesgard provided updates and reminders for upcoming events and responsibilities. She highlighted Rec Day hosted by NIRSA, Titan Talks in the Pavilion, and thanked student leaders for participating in the Valentine's Appreciation Grams. She reminded everyone to RSVP for the Academic Senate/Academic Affairs retreat and the CSU Board of Trustees visit in March, and emphasized adherence to the annual elections program guidelines. She also noted ASI's "Next Big Idea" event, managed by Liam and Juan with a \$25,000 budget, and the first-ever ASI Commission Impact Week, with wellness-themed events throughout the week. Finally, she reminded everyone that ASI scholarships remain open until March 1, with over 800 applications submitted, and encouraged promotion of the opportunity.

7. Time Certain

None

8. Unfinished Business

None

9. New Business

A. Action: Resolution to Appoint a Director for the College of Engineering and Computer Science (Ahmad)

The Committee will interview and select a candidate to serve as the Director for the College of Engineering and Computer Science effective immediately through May 31, 2026.

GOV 010 25/26 (Valdez-m/Quock-s) A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution to Appoint a Director for the College of Engineering and Computer Science effective immediately through May 31, 2026.

Chair Ahmad yielded to Rebecca Hesgard, ASI Director of Student Government.

Hesgard explained that the Committee hasn't filled a vacancy since the start of the academic year and expressed excitement about having a full board again. She outlined the process for interviewing candidates, noting that all eligible applicants were invited to present in person.

Candidates will speak in alphabetical order by last name, have three minutes each, and will be followed by a question session.

The first candidate, Keoni Guerrero, was invited to the podium.

Guerrero introduced himself as a second-year electrical engineering student from Newport Beach who has been living in Fullerton for the past two years. Guerrero emphasized his leadership experience, including serving as a governance ambassador, participating in the IRA committee, funding votes, and academic advising policy reform, as well as involvement in All Day ASI and Discover Fest. He highlighted his academic standing 55 credits over three semesters with a 3.5+ GPA and his work experience, noting that it taught him leadership, communication, work ethic, and decision-making skills. His goals for the term focus on student outreach, promoting underutilized academic resources, increasing engagement both online and in high-traffic areas on campus, collaborating with other ASI Board members and ICCs, and advocating for STEM-focused initiatives, internships, scholarships, and wellness programs to enhance the student experience during and after college.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Mendoza asked Guerrero what he enjoyed about serving as a governance ambassador and what motivated him to pursue a higher leadership position on the Board. Guerrero responded that serving on committees like academic advising and IRA exposed him to both student and faculty perspectives, which he found eye-opening. The experience helped him better understand ASI's impact and inspired him to take on a larger role where he could contribute more meaningfully to change and decision-making on campus.
- Romero asked Guerrero about the time commitment for the position, what other responsibilities he currently has, and how he would maximize his impact during the shortened spring term, given that the semester is already underway. Guerrero replied that he is stepping away from his part-time job and currently only balances academics and his involvement in ASI. He stated that he applied with a clear understanding of the time commitment and is prepared to dedicate his time outside of classes fully to ASI, committing to meet whatever responsibilities the position requires despite the shorter term.

Skanda Mandya Kumar was invited to the podium.

Kumar introduced himself as a graduate student in computer engineering who recently moved to the U.S. and emphasized his extensive leadership experience. He congratulated the board on ASI's 50th anniversary and expressed his desire not just to fill a vacancy but to leave his own legacy. He highlighted his involvement with IEEE, serving as treasurer for the Orange County section and managing funds across multiple institutions, as well as participating in IEEE Smart Cities initiatives related to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. He also shared that he has overseen the allocation of over \$350,000 in global funding for young professionals and previously represented 40,000 students in India as a section student representative. He emphasized his governance mindset, ethical leadership, experience managing large-scale initiatives, and ability to represent both undergraduate and graduate students, stating that he aims to create sustainable and meaningful impact.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Salguero asked whether, given his many leadership commitments, he truly has the time, ability, and mental capacity to step into the board position midway through the academic year and lead with the same level of energy and dedication. Kumar responded that over seven years of leadership experience, he has developed strong time management skills. He shared that he is currently president of Hindu Yuva on campus and balancing other responsibilities, but is only taking two classes, which gives him flexibility. He emphasized that he understands ASI requires significant commitment and stated he is confident in his ability to manage his time effectively and

collaborate closely with the other Engineering and Computer Science board representative to fulfill the role successfully.

- Quock asked Kumar how familiar he is with ASI's structure and what specific goals he hopes to accomplish during the remainder of the semester. Kumar responded that although the semester is shorter, he sees the remaining months as an opportunity to plan initiatives such as student congress-style events that engage not just engineering and computer science students, but the broader campus community. He expressed interest in expanding large-scale student engagement events similar to past speaker programs. Regarding ASI's structure, he described it as a pyramid, with students represented by college-based board members who bring concerns forward through leadership. He emphasized that he wants to serve as a bridge between students and ASI, ensuring community voices are brought directly to the Board for action.

Shrutik Kupekar was invited to the podium.

Kupekar introduced himself as a second-year graduate student in computer science with an undergraduate degree from India and two years of experience working in the tech industry as a full-stack developer. He currently serves as an instructional lab assistant, supporting teaching assistants and working closely with students, and has volunteered teaching computer science. He explained that this role matters to him because he values structured governance, meaningful contribution, and strong technical representation. Drawing from his experiences as a graduate student, software engineer, and instructor, he said he understands both student challenges and institutional processes. He emphasized that he would approach the role by actively listening to students, using data-informed advocacy to propose structured solutions, and collaborating effectively with faculty, administration, and diverse student groups. He highlighted his strengths in system-building, structured thinking, cross-functional collaboration, and clear technical communication, concluding that he would serve with responsibility, preparation, and thoughtful representation.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Camarillo asked Kupekar if, given that it is already the second semester, there were any specific goals or initiatives within his college that he would like to support alongside his fellow Board members. Kupekar responded that one specific goal would be to advocate for improved job fairs tailored to computer science students, aiming to create better career opportunities and industry connections for those in his field.
- Mendoza asked how Kupekar would approach working with Board members from different colleges who may have differing opinions, and whether he has experience handling similar situations. Kupekar responded that while he has primarily worked within his own college, he has collaborated with diverse individuals and understands the importance of listening carefully to all perspectives. He said he would consider everyone's input thoughtfully and then work toward a balanced solution that reflects the collective discussion.

Anirudh Mukherjee was invited to the podium.

Mukherjee introduced himself as a first-year master's student in computer science, highlighted his three years of experience as a software developer with Tata Consultancy Services, where he learned the importance of listening to stakeholders and building solutions based on their needs. He emphasized a data-driven approach to leadership and representation. To understand student concerns in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, he created a survey and gathered responses from about 100 students. The results identified key issues such as enrollment difficulties and limited internship preparedness. He stated that, although the

semester is short, using concrete data allows him to focus on targeted, practical solutions to better represent and support students.

- Mendoza asked Mukherjee to identify a significant weakness in his leadership that could potentially affect his effectiveness on the board.
Mukherjee acknowledged that governance is his main area of inexperience, as most of his prior work has been technical. He views this as a learning opportunity, aiming to apply his problem-solving skills while quickly adapting to governance processes to effectively contribute to the board.
- Romero asked Mukherjee how he would handle and pivot around roadblocks or bureaucratic hurdles in governance, especially given his newness to the process. Mukherjee replied that handling roadblocks in governance wouldn't feel very different from his past work experience. He explained that in his technical roles, they often faced situations where the client wanted something different than what was being built, which acted as a roadblock. He emphasized that they were able to solve these issues by understanding the client's needs, implying he would apply the same approach of listening, assessing, and adapting to overcome hurdles in governance.
- Chair Ahmad asked how Mukherjee sees himself contributing to the ASI Wellness Initiative this year and whether he has any ideas to bring forward or collaborate with the other Board Directors.
Mukherjee replied that he currently has limited knowledge about the ASI Wellness Initiative but is open to learning more. He emphasized that once he becomes more familiar with the initiative, he would be able to contribute ideas and collaborate effectively with Yash and the other Board Directors.

Esteban Molando was not present in person, the online submitted application was reviewed by the Committee members.

Rutuj Patil was invited to the podium.

Patil introduced himself as a third-semester Construction Management student at California State University, Fullerton and described his roles as a Teaching Associate and Graduate Student Ambassador. He emphasized listening to student voices directly, building feedback loops, and communicating updates clearly. His priorities as an ECS Board Director candidate focused on advocating for career readiness and industry connections, improving access to tools and resources like labs and software, and supporting student organizations to foster collaboration and belonging. He highlighted his approach of time-first leadership, building consensus, and executing initiatives efficiently while prioritizing student needs.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Quock asked how familiar Patil was with the ASI student government structure and how he would use that knowledge to perform and complete his goals as a director. Patil replied that he could not claim to fully understand the ASI structure or the specifics of a director's role, but he was confident he could acclimate quickly. He stated that he planned to learn from the current Board about the position's requirements and the work needed, and he believed he could perform effectively in the role.
- Mendoza asked how Patil approached working with people from other colleges who held different opinions, and whether he could draw on his experience working with international students to handle differing viewpoints.
Patil replied that when international students first enrolled in Universities abroad, including the U.S., they faced various concerns such as housing, course selection, and navigating campus resources. He explained that while advisors were available, the

students often shared different levels of concern with him as a student ambassador. Patil stated that working closely with colleagues and directly with students allowed him to understand diverse perspectives and bridge gaps, which he believed would help him approach differing opinions from other colleges effectively.

Ruman Saiyed was invited to the podium.

Saiyed shared that he was a second-semester master's student in computer science. He described his experience as a student assistant at the ISDS department in the College of Engineering, College of Business, and Economics, and as an intern at PyCom Corporation in India. He held leadership roles as a board officer for ACM, treasurer of Muslim in Tech Collaborative, and ICAREP. He also volunteered for seven years in India with his grandfather's social welfare initiative, helping underprivileged and disabled individuals access government benefits. Saiyed stated his goal was to bridge the gap between colleges, fostering collaboration between students of different disciplines, such as engineering and arts/animation, to create a more interdisciplinary learning environment.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Romero asked Saiyed to expand on what he meant by creating opportunities for students in different majors to share knowledge, and how he would implement initiatives during the current term as well as potentially in the next semester. Saiyed explained that, if elected, he would focus on organizing workshops, interactive events, and speaker sessions that involved multiple colleges and majors. He emphasized the need for students to participate and share knowledge across disciplines, citing examples such as animation, business, social welfare, and religious clubs. He aimed to create a collaborative environment where students could learn from one another through these structured, inclusive events.
- Chair Ahmad asked Saiyed how he would navigate disagreements within Board meetings while maintaining professionalism and respect. Saiyed explained that, as a Board director for ECS, he would take a stand on behalf of his college while also actively listening to opposing perspectives. He emphasized the importance of understanding others' concerns and intentions, balancing advocacy for his own college with respectful consideration of differing viewpoints.

Vrund Thakkar was invited to the podium.

Thakkar introduced himself and highlighted his student leadership experience with organizations like IEEE, IMAS, and ESI, where he developed collaboration, communication, and teamwork skills. He shared several awards recognizing his contributions and event management. Thakkar emphasized his vision for ECS to strengthen student representation, ensure transparent communication, and enhance academic and career readiness. He aimed to serve as a bridge between students and policy makers, advocating for student voices and opportunities to develop technical and professional skills.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to questions.

- Romero asked Thakkar to elaborate on how his past achievements, particularly the events that went "surprisingly well" reflected his work ethic and the experience that allowed him to succeed in those roles. Thakkar explained that he managed multiple teams simultaneously, each with different working styles. He maintained focus and adapted to each team while keeping their priorities clear. By effectively leading across these groups, he delivered successful events that were recognized by both participants and committees. He noted that adding humor in his presentations contributed to engagement and positive outcomes.

- Quock asked Thakkar to describe his experience as a governance ambassador, including what he liked and disliked about the role, and what inspired him to run for the Board of Directors position.

Thakkar explained that he had previously run for the position but narrowly lost and was excited when the vacancy opened again. As a governance ambassador, he had worked on student success initiatives, the Graduate Education Committee, and the Outstanding Professor Committee. He enjoyed participating in policymaking and contributing to decision-making on campus. He also noted that his approach and opinions were appreciated by other committee members, which motivated him further to pursue the Board of Directors role.

Chair Ahmad opened the floor to discussion.

- Mendoza reminded the candidates to keep in mind their prior experiences, such as stepping into a role from a vacancy or serving as a Governance Ambassador, when considering how they would approach this position.
- Quock shared his thoughts, noting that he valued candidates with prior experience stepping into a vacancy or serving as a governance ambassador. He emphasized the importance of familiarity with ASI and having explicit, actionable goals for the short term. He identified Keoni Guerrero and Vrund Thakkar as the two strongest candidates, citing their governance ambassador experience, volunteer involvement, communication skills, and knowledge of the wellness initiative.
- Valdez added that it was important to consider the perspectives each candidate would bring to the board. He highlighted that since the current ECS representative was a master's student, it was essential to ensure undergraduate representation as well, to maintain balanced and even representation on the board.
- Romero emphasized the importance of the ASI Wellness Initiative (ASWI), noting that it was a significant and ongoing project. He highlighted that as a member of the ASWI Committee, he considered it crucial for Board members to support the initiative, ensuring the longevity of the board's legacy. He stressed that the person selected should be a strong advocate and champion for the Wellness Initiative, building on the work of predecessors and current efforts.
- Quock emphasized the importance of having a diverse board that accurately represents the student population. He highlighted the example of Jennifer Tran, noting that she served as a strong voice for undergraduate students within the College of Education, illustrating the value of balanced representation across colleges and student levels.

The Committee moved to a roll call vote.

 [Item 9.A Resolution - Appointment BOD ECS 02.17.26.pdf](#)

Motion:

GOV 010 25/26 Roll Call Vote: Keoni Guerrero - 5. The motion to approve the resolution to Appoint Keoni Guerrero as Director for the College of Engineering and Computer Science effective immediately through May 31, 2026 was adopted.

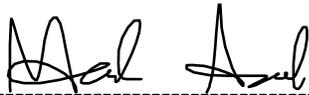
Motion moved by Edwin Valdez and motion seconded by Shay Quock.

10. Announcements & Member's Privilege

- Salguero congratulated all the candidates for presenting and acknowledged the passion they demonstrated. He noted that their enthusiasm could positively impact many areas across campus, not just ASI, and that it reflected the communities they represented.

11. Adjournment (Ahmad)

Chair Ahmad adjourned the meeting at 3:36 pm.



Governance Committee Chair



Erika Perret-Martinez
2026-03-06 15:53 UTC
Recording Secretary

Roll Call 2025-2026

02/19/2026 Governance Committee Roll Call

Attendance			Board Members	
			Present	Absent
CHAIR/EDU	AHMAD	MAHAK	1	
HHD	CAMARILLO	LUISA	1	
CBE	QUOCK	SHAY	1	
COMM	ROMERO	LUCA	1	
HSS	VALDEZ	EDWIN	1	
			Present	Absent
			5	0

Attendance	Liaisons			Present	Absent
COR. STU GOV.	HESGARD	REBECCA		1	
ASI PRES. *	SALGUERO	JUAN		1	
ASI CHAIR *	MENDOZA	CESAR		1	
				Present	Absent
				3	0

*Recording Secretary: Erika Perret-Martinez

Pres Designee: Juan Salguero

Chair Designee: Cesar Mendoza

QUORUM	4
Majority	3

Roll Call Votes	07 Resolution to Appoint a Director for the College of Engineering and Computer Science										
				Keoni Guerrero	Skanda Mandya Kumar	Shrutik Kupekar	Anirudh Mukherjee	Esteban Maldonado	Rutuj Patil	Ruman Saiyed	Vrund Thakkar
HHD	CAMARILLO	LUISA									
CBE	QUOCK	SHAY									
COMM	ROMERO	LUCA									
HSS	VALDEZ	EDWIN									
CHAIR/NSM	AHMAD	MAHAK									
			5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON™

**APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR THE COLLEGE
OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Sponsors: Governance Committee

WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates as an auxiliary organization of California State University, Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, ASI is governed by ASI Board of Directors, sets policy for the organization, approves all funding allocations to programs and services, and advocates on behalf of student interests on committees and boards; and

WHEREAS, ASI's mission is to provide students and campus community members with important social, cultural, and recreational opportunities as well as a wide range of programs and services; and

WHEREAS, per policy, in the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Governance Committee shall recommend a Director for the appointment to a majority vote approval by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee has recommended **[STUDENT]** as the Director for the College of Engineering and Computer Science; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, ASI approves the appointment of **[STUDENT]** as the Director for the College of Engineering and Computer Science, effective immediately through May 31, 2026; and let it be finally

RESOLVED, that this Resolution be distributed to applicable ASI departments and staff.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton on the seventeenth day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Chair, Board of Directors

Secretary, Board of Directors