



Associated Students of Santa Monica College

A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting of **09/21/2026** at 3:00 p.m.,
Cayton Center Computer Lab (2nd Floor), Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405
The Public may join via: Zoom/Telephone: <https://smc-edu.zoom.us/j/89893070926>
Associated Students Office Phone Number: (310) 434-4250

Minutes

I. Call to Order at 3:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call

President, Paula Cortes, P	External Affairs, Viktoriia Oberderfer, P
Vice-President, Gabriel Sánchez, P	Activities, Gregory Hawthorne, P
Secretary, Zoë Linkins, A	Publicity, Samantha Jauregui, A
Budget Management, Vacant	Sustainability, Muhammadjon Usmonzoda, P
Basic Needs, Annabelle Garcia, A	ICC Chair, Vacant
Instructional Support, Jiale Ma, P	ICC Vice-Chair, Matt Frankel, P
Student Outreach, Daria Zharkova, P	ICC Communications Officer, Vacant
Equity and Diversity, Vacant	

Student Trustee, Audrey Liljegren, **A**

Dean of Community and Academic Relations, Dr. Kiersten Elliott, **P**

III. Public Comments (2 Minutes Per Speaker)

- Matthew Bakalinsky introduced himself as SSSCC Region 7 Regional Affairs Director and discussed SMC's participation in the Region 7 Delegate Assembly, upcoming meetings, and SSSCC conferences.
- David Dagne discussed the SMC Foundation's \$1 million donation, additional General Education courses, online course capacity, student modality surveys, and concerns regarding budget-planning recommendations.

IV. Approval of Minutes – 09/09/2026 and 09/14/202

- Motion to table minutes due to error, Motioned by ICC Vice Chair, Seconded by Activities
 - Motion approved without objection

V. Committee Reports & Informational Items –

5.1 Current Events (External Affairs)

- External Affairs provided updates on California's state of emergency and the El Niño climate pattern, as well as recent developments involving press access to the White House. They also discussed a meeting between President Trump and New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani and ongoing global conflicts addressed at the United Nations.

VI. Minor Action Items (Under \$1,000) – Consent Agenda – None

VII. Major Action Items (\$1,000 and over) –

7.1. Proposal 1008 Approval for Smart Sheets License Annual Renewal, by Office of Student Life Department

(Cost \$2,940.00. Requesting \$2,940.00 from A.S. Office – Dean of Community and Academic Relations, Dr. Kiersten Elliott)

- Dr. Elliott explained that SmartSheet is used to track proposals as they come in. She stated that she had received a revised quote and requested that the item be postponed so the proposal could be revised before returning to the Board.
- Motion to table **Item 7.1**, Motioned by Vice-President, Seconded by ICC Vice-Chair
 - Motion approved without objection

7.2. Proposal 1009 Approval for AGS Conference Fall 2026, by AGS Club

(Cost \$2,359.78. Requesting \$2,000.00 from A.S., \$440.30 from Club Special Amount – Co. President, Evelyn Gutierrez)

- Arezo Zereski, Co-President of the AGS Club and Honor Society, presented the proposal for the AGS Southern Regional Conference, scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Santa Monica College. Zereski stated that the conference will include approximately 11 AGS chapters, 100 non-SMC students, 40 SMC members, and 25 faculty and staff advisors, with workshops, meals, and activities. Non-SMC AGS attendees will pay a \$25 conference fee, while SMC members will attend free of charge. She also highlighted AGS's community service, campus involvement, and A.S. fee requirement.
- Motion to reduce **Item 7.2** requested funding to \$1,987.21, Motioned by ICC Vice-Chair, Seconded by Activities
 - Motion approved without objection
- Motion to edit line item to request their funds from AS conferences and memberships, Motioned by ICC Vice-Chair, Seconded by Vice-President
 - Motion approved without objection
- Motion to approve **Item 7.2**, passed without objection



Associated Students of Santa Monica College

A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting of **09/21/2026** at 3:00 p.m.,
Cayton Center Computer Lab (2nd Floor), Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405
The Public may join via: Zoom/Telephone: <https://smc-edu.zoom.us/j/89893070926>
Associated Students Office Phone Number: (310) 434-4250

Minutes

VIII. Discussion Items

8.1 Academic Senate and Senate Committees (Dr. Vicenta Arrizon)

- Motion to table **Item 8.1** due to Dr. Vicenta Arrizon not yet being present, Motioned by Vice-President, Seconded by Activities
- Motion to pull **Item 8.1**, Motioned by Instructional Support, seconded by Activities
 - Motion approved without objection.
- Dr. Arrizon, Academic Senate President and counseling faculty member, introduced herself and discussed opportunities for collaboration between the Academic Senate and A.S., including student participation on joint committees. She explained the Academic Senate's role in participatory governance and emphasized the importance of student representation and involvement. She noted that most committees have one student representative, with two student representatives on DPAC.
- Motion to correct the spelling of Dr. Arrizon's name, Motioned by ICC Vice-Chair, Seconded by Activities
 - Motion approved without objection

8.2 New Technology and Materials for A.S. Directors (President)

- The President proposed providing A.S. Directors with work laptops to separate A.S. work from personal devices and information. The laptops would also be available for use by commissioners in the A.S. office. Directors would have the option to use the work devices for A.S.-related work, particularly for matters involving sensitive information or potential investigations.

8.3 Budget Transparency and Finance Discussion (President)

- The President discussed providing regular public updates on the A.S. budget and spending. David Dever suggested monthly updates to allow time for funds to be processed, while the Board discussed transparency and the level of financial detail made public.

8.4 Anti-Harassment on Campus (President)

- The President discussed student-reported concerns regarding harassment involving an off-campus group. The Board encouraged students to report concerns to A.S. or appropriate campus resources such as Campus Police.

8.5 Status of Commissioner Applications (President)

8.6 SMC Campus Future Event Planning (Activities)

- Club Row name and Structure change to SMC Con
- Event Idea Series for the 2026-2027 Academic Year:
 - Emo Night – November 13, 2026
 - K-pop Valentine's – February 12, 2027
 - End of Year Party – June 2027
- The Director of Activities presented potential changes to Club Row, including renaming the event to SMC Con or SCC Fest and restructuring the event to include a student panel with club representatives. Proposed events for the academic year include Emo Night, K-pop Valentine's, and an End-of-Year Party. The Director explained that the goal is to increase student engagement and provide additional opportunities for students to learn about and connect with clubs.

8.7 ICC Ad Hoc Committee – Concerns – Updates (ICC Vice Chair)

- Club Olympics and Future events
- Club Awareness and Club Row
- The ICC Vice-Chair discussed the need for an ad hoc committee to assist with ICC operations and upcoming events. The Board discussed bringing back Club Olympics and incorporating it into future Club Row/SMC Con programming, as well as opportunities for club awareness and funding.
- Motion to revise **Item 9.2** to be presented by the ICC Vice-Chair instead of External Affairs, Motioned by External Affairs, Seconded by Vice-President.
 - Motion approved without objection.

8.8 Responsibilities (President)

- The President asked Directors to provide three available times to schedule individual meetings to discuss their responsibilities and work.



Associated Students of Santa Monica College

A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting of **09/21/2026** at 3:00 p.m.,
Cayton Center Computer Lab (2nd Floor), Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405
The Public may join via: Zoom/Telephone: <https://smc-edu.zoom.us/j/89893070926>
Associated Students Office Phone Number: (310) 434-4250

Minutes

8.9 Student Survey (External Affairs)

- External Affairs provided an update on the student survey, which has been promoted through social media. The Board discussed additional outreach through professors, Canvas, ICC, campus tables, and other campus communication channels. The goal is to collect and analyze approximately 1,200 responses by mid-October. Dr. Elliott suggested using campus TV screens to promote the survey with an October 15 deadline.

8.10 Brown Act and Roberts Rules of Order (President)

- The President provided a reminder regarding Robert's Rules of Order and explained that objections or questions should be raised when needed, even when a motion appears likely to pass unanimously.

8.11 Current Events (President)

- The President discussed assigning the Current Events report to a Director while the relevant position remains vacant. Activities volunteered to take on the role.

8.12 DPAC Committees (Vice President)

- The Vice-President provided an update on the process for appointing student representatives to DPAC and other committees. Applicants must complete required clearance and grade-check processes before appointments can be finalized. The Vice-President also reminded Directors to participate in their assigned committees as required by the Constitution.

8.13 International Students (President)

- The Board discussed advocacy and resources for international students. Members identified concerns regarding on-campus employment, tutoring, housing information, health insurance, and awareness of A.S. resources. The Board discussed creating a survey to better understand international students' needs. Dean Elliott noted that international students are included in VIP Day and that the International Education Center provides housing information and other resources.
- Motion to table **Item 8.13** for further discussion, Motioned by External Affairs, Seconded by Sustainability.
 - Motion approved without objection.

8.14 Student Trustee (President)

- The President provided an overview of the September 8, 2026 Board of Trustees minutes in the absence of the Student Trustee. Topics included the district budget and structural deficit, the \$126 million Bundy Student Housing Project, the presidential search, the Sexual Harassment Annual Report, staffing and budget impacts, international student concerns regarding in-person course availability, basic-needs funding, construction costs, and the increase in federal work-study wages to \$18.47 per hour.
- The President also highlighted the proposed Bundy housing project, which is planned to include approximately 250 apartments and 736 beds, with 69% configured for single occupancy.
- Motion to table **Item 8.14**, Motioned by ICC Vice-Chair, Seconded by Vice-President.
 - Motion approved without objection
- The Vice-President reminded Directors that Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public and that students may provide public comment.

8.15 Board and Finance Protocol & Updates (President)

- The President reminded Directors to prepare detailed budget breakdowns for Finance Committee review when submitting proposals. Directors requesting increased funding were asked to notify the Director of Budget Management before the Finance Committee meeting.

8.16 Current Events & Board of Trustees (President)

- Motion to revise the title to Board of Trustees Advocacy, Motioned by ICC Vice-Chair, Seconded by Instructional Support.
 - Motion approved without objection
- The President discussed the upcoming Board of Trustees election and potential opportunities to provide students with information about the election and voting process. The Board discussed potentially hosting a candidate forum or informational event on campus.

8.17 Trustee Report & Discussion (President)

- See **Item 8.14** notes.



Associated Students of Santa Monica College

A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting of **09/21/2026** at 3:00 p.m.,
Cayton Center Computer Lab (2nd Floor), Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405
The Public may join via: Zoom/Telephone: <https://smc-edu.zoom.us/j/89893070926>
Associated Students Office Phone Number: (310) 434-4250

Minutes

8.18 Giving Thanksgiving (President)

- The President provided background on Giving Thanksgiving, including A.S.'s \$50,000 contribution the previous year. The Board discussed restricted and unrestricted funds, reserve allocations, and discrepancies between approved and available funds. The President and Dean Elliott noted that the Finance Committee would review prior-year commitments and remaining funds to clarify the current budget.

8.19 Ad Hoc for Vacancy Positions (President)

- Motion to table Item 8.19, Motioned by Vice-President, Seconded by ICC Vice-Chair.
 - Motion approved without objection

IX. Other Action Items

9.1 November 3rd Election Ad Hoc Committee Appointment (External Affairs)

- External Affairs discussed the upcoming November 3rd election and the goal of promoting voter registration and election information to students. The Board discussed forming an ad hoc committee to assist with election outreach.
- Motion to table **Item 9.1**, Motioned by Student Outreach, Seconded by Sustainability
 - Motion approved without objection

9.2 ICC Ad Hoc Committee Appointment (External Affairs)

- See **Item 8.7** notes.

9.3 Constitution Ad-Hoc Committee (Vice-President)

9.4 SMC Board of Trustees Election – Ad Hoc Committee (President)

- See **Item 8.16** notes.

9.5 International Students Advocacy – Ad Hoc Committee Appointment (President)

- The President discussed forming an ad hoc committee for international student advocacy.
- Sustainability, Instructional Support, and the Vice-President expressed interest in participating.

X. Director Reports (2 Minutes Each)

- Vice-President: Reminded Directors about the upcoming forum for the superintendent/president finalists and encouraged attendance or staying informed through the recording. The Vice-President also raised concerns about the increasing number of ad hoc committees and suggested discussing alternative approaches at a future meeting.
- ICC Vice-Chair: Provided an update on the Club Awareness flyer, which was shared with relevant Directors and Dr. Elliott.
- Instructional Support: Reported that SMC's enrollment system is being tested, with direct enrollment targeted for winter or spring. Gemini has been approved for student and staff use, with training underway. The Director also provided updates on accessibility compliance and the AI policy revision, and raised concerns about campus air conditioning and energy use.
- Student Outreach: Announced plans to hold a Zoom meeting with Directors to discuss Homecoming, with the date expected to be either Wednesday or Thursday. Directors interested in participating were invited to join and provide input on the theme and event planning.
- President: Reminded Directors to submit their available times for one-on-one meetings as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the day.

XI. Student Trustee Report – None

XII. Advisor Reports

a. College Recruitment Event: Taste of Soul, Sat. Oct. 17

- Dean Elliott: Announced the upcoming Taste of Soul college recruitment event on Saturday, October 17, in the Crenshaw community and invited Directors to participate. A sign-up sheet will be provided. The Advisor also reminded Directors to report any issues receiving staff/faculty bulletins or accessing SmartSheets and Teams so technology access issues can be addressed.

XIII. Adjournment: 5:04 p.m. Motioned by ICC Vice Chair, Seconded by A.S. Director of Activities