



# ASUC Student Union Board of Directors

## Agenda & Minutes

**Monday, November 30th**  
**1 PM | Virtual Meeting via Zoom |**

<https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/95684264871?pwd=WHVvZVZpMy9XODNFZjlqSjVUVmpHZz09>

Title	Name	Present
<b>ASUC Student Union Board Members</b>		
Title	Name	
Chair	Brian Zhou	Yes
Vice Chair	Michelle De Guzman	Yes
ASUC President	Victoria Vera	Yes
ASUC Executive Vice President	Melvin Tangonan	Yes
GA President	Luis Tenorio	Yes
GA Internal Vice President	Liz Lawler	Yes
Undergraduate Representative	Kevin Yi	Yes
Graduate Representative	Martin Siron	Yes
University Representative	Emily Liu	Yes
University Representative	Fabrizio Mejia	Yes
Faculty Representative	Greg Aponte	Yes
Faculty Representative	Jennifer Miller	Yes
ASUC Student Union Executive Director	Bahar Navab	Yes



## Community Agreements

- Everyone participates, no one dominates - share airtime
- Honor time limits; staying on schedule is everyone's responsibility
- Speak your truth without blame or judgment
- Articulate hidden assumptions; challenge cherished beliefs
- Listen for understanding - inquire (ask) before you advocate (persuade)
- Remain open to outcome and innovation
- Critique ideas, not people or actions
- Recognize participants' contributions
- Be fully present at meetings and prepared
- Have fun!

*Call to order at 1:07 pm*

- I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes 1 min
  - A. Michelle moves to approve the agenda; Kevin seconds
  - B. Fabrizio moves to change agenda item Latinx Caucus to Latinx Community; Bahar suggests tabling and working with Nick to get a more accurate heading.
- II. Public comment 20 mins
  - A. Cap at 2 minutes per speaker
  - B. Ana Medel here representing her org (Mariachi Luz de Oro) to show support for the space
  - C. Lydia Vasquez-Trucios showing support on behalf of Leadership Seminar that's sponsored through the Chicanx Latinx Student Development Office to show for their students that there is a space for them
    1. Jennifer asked how Lydia imagines the space
    2. Lydia explains that having a physical space makes it easier for



students to find each other, rather than hoping to find each other in classes. Feels that there is currently not a space on campus that suits these needs.

D. Carolina Flores here on behalf of Latinx Caucus; mentions that there is a lot of excitement about the potential for such a visible space for students and make it clear that campus is here for them.

E. Adan Martinez, Graduate student showing support as co-chair of Graduate Association of Latinx Students, there is a gap between the grad and undergraduate communities and this space will be really important for collaboration between Latinx undergrads and graduate students

III. Chair updates 3 mins

A. Undergrad Rep officially confirmed; Kevin Yi

IV. Executive director updates 5 mins

A. Continue to have Cal Student Store, Amazon and Basic needs open; offering individual workrooms.

1. Workrooms offered through 12/18 and have been able to support over 700 requests

B. This past week was a test of what winter break might look like as far as safety and security over breaks with limited staffing; no security incidents occurred

C. Winter Week is coming up with virtual programs and the Art Studio pop-up shop (<https://studentunion.berkeley.edu/winterweek/>); Art studio is



also posting spring and winter classes now

- V. Budget updates 5 mins
  - A. Brian motions to table for later; Fabrizio seconds
- VI. Reports and recommendations from committees 10 mins
  - A. [Organization & Governance](#)
    - 1. Discussed the PMC proposal on the agenda; trainings for the Board both on anti-racism and on role and purview of Board, should be on schedules soon. Still a couple of long term projects; staff title changes were approved. PMC proposal was recommended to the board for vote pending notification to student groups impacted. Megan reached out to those student orgs about 1.5 weeks ago. No response was received.
  - B. [Business & Finance](#)
    - 1. Requested cost information for getting an ASUC sign added to the Eshleman Lobby to represent the history of the ASUC
  - C. [Operations & Facilities](#)
    - 1. Did not cover the PMC proposal as assigned to Org and Gov Committee; recommend voting yes on the bridges MOU; discussed possible vendors on the first floor; talked about creating standard practices for potential vendors on the first floor moving forward. Discussed Latinx proposal. Ops committee had several questions regarding the LRC proposal which were sent to the ED



to share with the authors of the proposal. The responses to those questions were emailed to the Board.

VII. [PMC proposal](#)

10 mins

- A. Formal vote required
- B. Megan Fox reached out to the PMC impacted student orgs about 10 days ago to share the proposal and asking if they wanted to discuss concerns or come to the Board meeting, and they did not respond with any concerns or questions. This is to transition just the administrative student staff and not the programming being done. Bahar says we can either table this for the next meeting or vote now
  - 1. Katelyn comments that this is based on conversations with PMC students from the previous year
  - 2. Victoria wants to give the students more time to reply since the break means some students may not have been checking their emails. Fabrizio agrees with the caveat that we make sure they're aware there will be a formal vote in the next email.
  - 3. Bahar and Megan will follow up students from previous emails and clarify there will be a vote next meeting
  - 4. Vote is tabled until next meeting.

VIII. [Bridges MOU](#)

10 mins

- A. Formal vote required
- B. bridges is currently housed in MLK. They will be moving to HFA in the



next year or so, but still have event needs that cannot be met in their new space. They have been working with the Student Union to have certain event spaces agreed to have on hold for them for specific events for the next two years. Only for two years since we are currently revising our Events policies and want a chance for the new Events team to flesh out those policies before guaranteeing the space; but there is the intention to have this MOU extended or modified after the two years once the event policies are solidified.

- C. Brian recognizes Millie from bridges to speak; they explain there is already an agreement with the Student Union and bridges, and so this is to formalize and solidify these agreements, as well as to make them more long term for a couple of years
- D. Vote to approve this MOU between bridges and the ASUC Student Union.

11 Board members voted to approve. There were zero votes against.

IX. 4th floor MLK proposal informational brief 25 mins

- A. Latinx Caucus presents proposal
  1. [Presentation slides](#)
  2. Cap at 10 min.
  3. Presenters: Savannah Rodriguez, Nick Araujo, Melyssa Oviedo, and Ivan Hernandez with sponsorship from VCEI and VCSA.
  4. Brian invites presenters to speak regarding the proposal;  
Savannah and Nick speak; Nick explains the request to change



the name to Latinx Community from Latinx Caucus in order to appropriately reflect the different leaders and groups who are involved in this work.

- a) They are requesting space because of the deliberate retention goals of campus; 1 in 4 members of the Latinx community surveyed expressed poor mental health. Graduation rates of Latinx students have never exceeded 90% since the passing of Prop 209. This is important to recognize while campus is admitting more Latinx students. This space would be a retention initiative, and highlight that Latinx students have a place to go on campus. Savannah provides history and context about the proposal, this work has been happening for multiple years. There have been several ASUC Senate Bills that highlight and prioritize the need for this space. Having space on the 4th floor of MLK specifically is very visible
- b) Fabrizio moves to extend the comment by 5 minutes; Liz seconds
- c) Savannah continues, their goal is to provide services for 2000 students per week, and nearly 400 students per day. Nick explains funding goals for proposal. Planning to apply for additional funding via grants. Top priority of the HSI



task force was to create a space for Latinx students; there is a need to address the lack of visibility for Latinx students. Currently have about \$90k from CACSSF, another recurring \$60k from CACSSF, \$20k from Wellness, \$600k from a donor. These funds add up to almost \$1 million in order to develop a sustainable funding model for this space. If approved, there is the intention to create an MOU for a 6 year space agreement; this will allow for more longitudinal research about the impacts of the space. After 6 years the goal is for campus to have a capital strategies plan that will include resource centers for students.

- d) Kevin moves to extend time by 2 minutes; Victoria seconds
- e) There will be professional, undergraduate, and graduate student staff. Main stakeholders will be undergraduate and graduate Latinx students. For undergrads, offering academic tutoring, wellness counselling, and space for Latinx RSOs. The space will serve multiple groups of students. Melyssa emphasizes that the Latinx community is not a monolith, so it is important to make it clear the space is not supporting one community or group, but multiple. The space will also be open to allies.





## B. Potential board discussion

1. Luis asks how that space would be different from an RSO space due to the inclusiveness being emphasized. Also asks about graduate specific staff, and specific resources for graduate students.

a) Nick answers: this is not a proposal for open RSO space.

There have been a lot of students who currently do not feel welcome in Latinx spaces and that is due to a lack of literal space and bandwidth. This larger space gives them the opportunity to be more inclusive and expand more for different populations. Since this is seeking a great deal of student input, it will adjust based on what students need/ask for. Even though the intention is not for it to be an open RSO space, if that is what is asked for from students, they will do their best to help accommodate that

b) Adan follows up: They are working in collaboration with Office of Graduate Diversity

2. Luis follows up and clarifies concern with the proposal because it seems that the graduate student experience is in the form of labor to support undergraduates. Also concerned that the proposal is from E&I, but being presented by students. There is already a lot of data about how to study Latinx students.



3. Victoria echoes what Luis said. Is also really disappointed that Oscar and other university reps are not here to present and discuss this effort. It feels to her that campus made this commitment to support the Latinx community and is not here and is not pushing for permanent space, but rather a 6 year space agreement. Also concerned about the Student Union being a space for all students, and a specific community being allocated space. How do we support this work and message being done by students, while also challenging admin and holding them accountable for not supporting this more themselves?
4. Jennifer: Asks Victoria to clarify some of her comments, and what would she like to see from campus.
  - a) Victoria: What is campus' actual clear plan? Do they have a permanent plan rather than temporary fixes?
5. Jennifer: Luis brought up a lot of interesting points. The space is needed but there's anxiety about how the space will be used. Potential concern that she wants to know more about how the space will be used before agreeing. Concerned about providing space that might not have a full plan yet. There is also more need for graduate specific space that serves their needs. Would be more in support of a proposal that highlighted graduate students more. It's 3k square feet; how clear can we make what the space



will be used for?

a) Bahar: there is a floor plan that was sent out. Will resend.

6. Greg: Appreciates the presentation and the questions being brought up. Concerns about how this space will work when the needs are so different based on identity. Since the Latinx community is not a monolith, how are they going to support a Latina from Argentina compared to a Latina from Guatemala, for example? Also feels like administration is pushing the work onto students, and is disappointed there is no one here to represent them and speak. Believes campus should also commit more to the funding, rather than having these students already doing the work apply for grants.

a) Savannah: To address why is this falling onto the students, yes but also what are repercussions of denying the space. What does it say if the Board says no and the students don't have an alternative space for this?

(1) Luis: Clarifies that they do not agree with the response. Not once has campus admin talked about this proposal before with them. This makes them feel like campus is using the students and pushing them into a difficult position.

7. Bahar: From an operational standpoint, would like more detail



about the renovation budget. Since MLK is a historic building, it can be very expensive. Also wants to remind the Board that from a code perspective, there are public restrooms that need to remain public because they serve various event spaces. So when thinking about what the space looks like, that must be taken into account.

8. Melvin: Supports the need for space. If the master plan includes a space for the Latinx community, how can we support students when the plan might take 10 years? To address some Board concerns, really important to acknowledge the work done by all of these students, and where are the campus administrators who said they are supporting this initiative? Also, as we admit more Latinx students, will this temporary space be large enough or will we run out of space before there is a permanent space. How do we challenge this cycle of campus pushing this work on students?

- a) Nick: Re-emphasize that this project did not start this year, but has been worked on since approx 2016. They have been searching for space for that whole time, and are working for that permanent space, but this is about supporting these students now. There is no space now, and these needs have to be addressed now rather than waiting without space for 10 years or more. But this has



been helpful context and they can help provide additional information.

C. No vote in this session

X. RFP vs. Broker discussion

10 min

- A. Discussion with the Board about what to do with the commercial space on the first floor of MLK. Have been in discussions about best practices (e.g. should we pursue an RFP, hire a broker?), also should we continue current discussions while doing this? Traditionally used an RFP, but campus real estate uses a broker.
- B. Michelle: an RFP has been used before, but that doesn't work as well for commercial space with potentially multiple vendors. For a broker, they are paid out of the signed contract once you have a lease and when you start construction, rather than during the marketing period. Brokers tend to focus more on credit tenants (i.e. chain vendors). We can be more specific with what we want, and brokers can also give suggestions on what will make space more marketable. A lot of our current spaces are not well designed for tenants depending on what they need, so the broker can help them envision what the space could look like with renovations/changes. There is currently a lot of available commercial space that is already built out, and so that makes filling the space more difficult for us. There are also new spaces being built in Berkeley, with housing having a first floor commercial space that are more affordable for



tenants.

C. Bahar: Couple questions before the Board. We have been in discussions with one specific vendor and so do we want to move that towards a contract? Also do we want to hire a broker for the first floor space, or move forward with an RFP? Either way will take time, and so we should decide sooner rather than later.

1. Brian: Is the second question dependent on the answer to the first space?
2. Bahar: Likely not because it would mean either moving forward with them and then trying to fill the remaining space, or trying to fill all of the spaces.
3. Liz: are you looking for a recommendation from the Board or make a decision in December
4. Bahar: we can vote in December, but keep in mind the next meeting is only an hour, so we are already tight on time.
5. Michelle: there is also a proposal for the ground floor of Eshleman correct?
6. Bahar: yes but I would separate that out from the MLK plan
7. Brian: At time, but we need to make sure we're really clear on what we're voting on.

XI. Active commercial negotiations

20 mins

A. Was wrapped into previous discussion, further discussion will happen on



committee level and with the Board next meeting

XII. Meeting adjourned at 3:02pm

A. Brian moved to adjourn; Fabrizio seconded

Useful links for today:

[Minutes from SU Board vision meeting](#)

[bridges MOU](#)

[PMC Letter of Intent](#)

[LRC Proposal](#)