

Good evening ASUCM Senate and members of the public,

I would like to take this time to update all of you on some of the projects I've been working on for the past few months. As many of you know, I created a Student Union Advisory Board under the Office of the President and I'm currently in the process of notifying the applicants who were chosen by the selection committee to sit on the board. The Student Union Advisory Board will consist of 5 general undergraduate students, two ASUCM Senators, and two Executives, one of which includes myself. I'm charging the board with looking into the prospects of having a student union, gathering feedback from undergraduates, and looking into the possibility of a referendum campaign to raise the funds necessary to begin the project. Jane Lawrence, our previous Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, created a task force in 2008 in order to explore the possibility of having a Student Union Building. The task force recommended that the University begin the next phase in the 2008-2009 academic year, but we have yet to form a comprehensive plan to move forward with. The ASUCM Student Union Advisory Board will be responsible for asking tough questions, researching student opinion, and building student support for the project. By the end of the year, the board will have a comprehensive report that will serve as the official recommendation of the student body to campus administrators.

As many of you know, we have an incredible amount of roll over funds for this year. The case in the past was that we would just use that money to fund more activities and events, but I implore the Senate and other officials of ASUCM to look at the bigger picture this year. We have an amazing opportunity to spend this money on impactful purchases that can benefit students in significant ways for years to come. This relates to what I talked about last week in regards to what we do, and what type of services we can offer students that aren't just annual. I will let David get into the numbers, but I ask that at the end of my speech a senator, if willing, could motion to create an ad hoc committee on Strategic Investments. This is a big decision for us because we can provide funding for services that undergraduates can repeatedly use. I would like to ask the Senate to create this committee so we that can institute a formal bidding process for campus departments who might be interested in partnering with us for these services. I intend to meet with the Directors of the various Student Affairs units, but I would really appreciate your support now because I believe this is a decision that we need to make together as the Executive and Legislative branches.

Next weekend the Execs and I will be attending a mini retreat in Merced, most likely at the Tri-College Center. We will meet and discuss our goals and vision for this school year. I'm looking forward to reporting back here after the retreat to share the ideas and plans that come from the weekend.

Finally, I would like to use my last couple of minutes to address any questions that you all may have about the projects and initiatives of my office. I want to use my President's report to update everyone each week, but not to talk so much about legislation. I trust that you all will legislate to the best of your ability.

As Senators, have you heard of any pressing student issues that you would like me to bring up to campus administrators? Is there anything you all need of me in order to strengthen the work you are doing? If there aren't any questions, then I look forward to reporting back next week on the fruits of our Executive Retreat. Thank you, and have a great meeting.

Best,

Ivan Flores

ASUCM President