BHE Meeting (Public) Minutes
May 12, 2026 / 10:00am
MPC Auditorium / American Samoa Community College

A quorum being present, the BHE meeting was called to order at 10:02am by Madam Chair Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton.

Members Present: *Pualani Pulu Fui, Sesula F. McMoore Tufele, Brigitte Taeatafa-Moala, Loata Sipili, Toalei Toelupe*

Regrets Relayed: *Dr. Lina Galeai Scanlan*
Maefau Dr. Mary L. Taufete'e

Public Present: *Teresita S. Almendras, Rosevonne Pato, Sonny Leomiti, Letupu Moananu, Lorena Seu, Karina Helsham, Rosalee Shoulders, Faafua Faatoafe, Ioapo Taua'i, Tala Ropeti Leo, Maria Luardo, Emilia Le'i, Estell Levu-Saelua, Jessie Su'esu'e, Dolly Tovio, Alieta Tofa*

Approval of the Agenda
Motion: Chairperson Dr. Mapu Crichton moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. Seconded and carried without dissent.

The following agenda items were discussed:
**Members of the audience were allowed to comment/ask questions.*

I. **Commencement Exercises: May 15, 2026**
   A. Inquiry was made on the availability of the program for Board review and approval. At the time of the meeting, members of the Board had yet to receive the program for final review and approval.
      1. President Dr. Pato informed the Board that the drafted program was sent to the Board for review via email. This was confirmed and was sent via on May 11 at 4:13pm. Due to the timing of the email, some members had yet to review it.
   B. Executive leadership advised to provide programs and reports for review in a timely manner allowing for Board review, discussion, and approval. It was advised that receiving items for review the day before or the day does not produce a thorough review from the Board.

II. **ACCJC Standards**
   A. Chair Dr. Mapu Crichton spoke to the importance of adhering to ACCJC standards for the good of the institution and upcoming accreditation. Because of the Board's confirmation and final approval as Trustees, it was important that the Board take time to review ACCJC Standards along with ASCC Governance policies and reports. Due to this,

the Board scheduled an upcoming retreat, May 21 to 23, 2026 that would allow for sufficient study of standards and policies.

B. Trustees Sipili and McMoore Tufele commented on the importance of the Board to be knowledgeable of the standards and the Board's role in the upcoming accreditation process.
   1. Trustee Sipili commented on the Board's commitment to being transparent with their activities and to work with leadership in assuring ASCC's institutional operations.

III. Board Governance

A. Chair Dr. Mapu Crichton reiterated Board Governance in that the Board's employee is the President and from there the President operates the college through the policies and regulations set forth and approved by the Board.

B. Trustees Pulu Fui also noted this - the importance of the Board's role and relationships with outside entities - especially with the local government. While ASG is legally bound to K to 12 students, it was important for the Board to be an advocate for ASCC in all things - academically, financially, and as the only institution for higher learning on island.

IV. Student Trustee's Role

A. Trustee Toelupe spoke to the importance of the student voice on the Board. He noted that while interest is low to serve on the Board, serving as a Student Trustee gives students a critical voice in seeing that ASCC's needs are being addressed.

B. Trustee Sipili also strengthened this by noting that the student provides a perspective into ASCC that the Board may not be aware of - that of students taking courses, first hand accounts of the classroom experience on ASCC campus, and so forth.

C. An inquiry from the audience was if the Student Trustee shares updates from the Board with his peers to which Trustee Toelupe noted that he does - specific to updates that were allowed to be shared as he respected that some matters discussed during meetings were confidential. This was also confirmed by the student services dean who was in the audience that the Student Trustee is given time to discuss and share Board updates during Student Government meetings and forums.

V. Other Concerns and Inquiries:

A. Trustee McMoore Tufele voiced her concern about the lack of participation from the general public during the meeting.
   1. This led to further discussions and public comments that the timing of the meeting was a challenge as well as the advertisement of the meeting.
      a) It was noted that this meeting was planned earlier in May and President Dr. Pato was informed. Again, the Board made it clear that the protocols

of the Board informing the President and the President to the public was followed.
b) Dr. Pato did inform those in attendance that the public notice was done via Samoa News on May 5.

2. The Board acknowledged that the timing possibly could have been better due to this being finals week and graduation and would seek avenues to improve timing for future public meetings.
    a) Suggestions from the public were to possibly hold Board activities during student activities or festivities week for more engagement and participation from students as well to possibly schedule public meetings earlier in the semester.
    b) Improvement in advertising the meeting was also a concern. One inquiry to the Board was if the Board informed the public of the meeting. However, it was noted again, that the protocol was followed by the Board informing the President and it is the President's responsibility to inform the public. The Board did note that it would look into improving advertising with the President next time a public meeting is called.

B. Inquiry from the Board was asked after the Bachelor's program from IEM as members of the Pacific Center were in the audience. It was shared that it was currently on hold but specific reasons why were not known yet.

C. An inquiry to the Board was made on the Board's overall goals and if those could be shared with ASCC at this time. Chair Dr. Mapu Crichton acknowledged this and informed that audience that because the Board is a fairly new Board in its memberships, it had not had enough time to fully meet to finalize their collective goals for the institution. The upcoming retreat for the Board from May 21 to 23 would certainly provide the initial steps to allow for this to happen and once confirmed, these would officially be shared with ASCC at a later date.

General comments were offered by members in the audience noting their appreciation for the meeting, the improvement in communication of the meeting, the importance of having transparent and accountable leadership, the crucial role students play at ASCC, and the critical relationships between the Board and ASCC leadership for the improvement of the institution. Chair Dr. Mapu Crichton offered closing remarks by thanking those in attendance and those who offered comments and questions. Of note was her speaking to a Trustee's obligation to fulfill their fiduciary role to ASCC - an obligation not taken lightly. ***Motion was moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded and passed without dissent. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.***

Minutes prepared and submitted by Pualani Pulu Fui
June 11, 2026 / Reviewed and approved on July 7, 2026