



ASIACONNECT

Illinois State University

AsiaConnect Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025

Members Present: Jeongae Kang, Lawrence Lair, Suejung Han, Laura Finan, Lin Lin, Mayuko Nakamura, Rosie Hauck, Jin Park, Judi Khalilallah

1. Revisiting our mission & purpose
 - a. Social/belonging
 - b. Empowerment--cultural validation/celebration
 - c. Empowerment—address EDI issues, competence, etc.
2. Plans for 2025-2026 year
 - a. August: Picnic, Board meeting
 - i. Board meetings
 1. Suejung will send calendar invites for the highlighted board meetings below
 - b. September:
 - i. New faculty & staff networking and socializing
 1. “Brown bag lunch hours” and offer tea and cookies
 - a. Friday 9/12, noon-1p.m.
 - b. Suejung will check Bone Student Center 2 floor employee lounge
 - c. Multicultural Center may offer one of their meeting rooms?
 - d. Mayuko has list of new faculty, Suejung can draft email
 - e. New staff names are published monthly in the Openline Tip of the Hat feature: <https://news.illinoisstate.edu/?s=tip+of+the+hat>
 - f. Format: informal Board members as ‘mentors’?
 - c. October
 - i. Board meeting, Friday 10/10 noon-1pm
 - ii. Diwali celebration
 1. Laura will contact ISA and ISU for potential joint collaboration or avoid schedule conflict
 2. Office of International Engagement lobby
 3. Date: 17th (F) or 22nd (W) -the actual date is M, 10/20
 4. Time: 4-6pm if W
 5. Food: Indian catering
 6. More educational piece this year by Indian Student Association
 - d. December
 - i. E-board meeting, Friday 12/5 noon-1 (tentative)
 - e. February
 - i. Board meeting, Friday 2/6, noon-1pm
 - ii. Lunar new year celebration

1. International engagement office or Multicultural Center
 2. Date: 2/13 (F)—the actual date is M 2/17
 3. Food: Seoul mama, Chings (or board donations)
 4. More educational piece by K-club, Korean or Taiwanese Student Association
- f. March
- i. **New & mid-career faculty and staff networking and socializing happy hour** (pending the success of the first event), Friday 3/20, time and place TBD
 - ii. Scholarship announcement and review, Civic Engagement Award Application
- g. April
- i. **Board meeting**, Friday, 4/3 noon-1
 - ii. Election for the next E-Board
 - iii. **Asian Heritage Week event**
 1. Multicultural Center or Normal Public Library
 2. May 1st (Friday)—possibly from 4/30-5/2
 3. Cooking demo followed by story telling + dialogue (4/30), Turner hall
 - a. Vivian Kong Doctora had promised to do the demo this year, but Suejung will confirm
 4. Movie showing (recommendations)
 - a. Normal theater or MC followed by panel: ask Li and her recommendations for panels or could potentially show on campus for free (potentially Office of International Engagement. Suejung to confirm with Roopa)
 - b. Blue bayou - As a Korean-American man raised in the Louisiana bayou works hard to make a life for his family, he must confront the ghosts of his past as he discovers that he could be deported from the only country he has ever called home. (amazon)
 - c. Joy Ride - Follows four Asian American friends as they bond and discover the truth of what it means to know and love who you are, while they travel through China in search of one of their birth mothers. (amazon)
 - i. Not considered “appropriate”
 - d. Better luck tomorrow - A group of over-achieving East Asian American high school seniors enjoy a power trip when they dip into extracurricular criminal activities. (amazon)
 - e. Tigertail - In this multigenerational drama, a Taiwanese factory worker leaves his homeland to seek opportunity in America, where he struggles to find connection while balancing family and new-found responsibilities. (netflix)
 - f. Gook - Two Korean-American brothers run a shoe store in L.A. county. Their friend, black eleven-year-old Kamilla, drops in and helps. On this day, the Rodney King verdict ignites the 1992 L.A. riots. (amazon)
 - g. George takei’s allegiance - Allegiance illuminates one of American history’s lesser known chapters as it tells the story of Sam Kimura, transported back nearly six decades to when his younger self and his sister Kei fought to stay connected to their heritage, their family and themselves after Japanese Americans were wrongfully imprisoned during World War II. An important story told with great resonance and intimacy,

Allegiance explores the ties that bind us, the struggle to persevere and the overwhelming power of forgiveness and, most especially, love (amazon)

h. Suejung will add recommendations from the EDI committee

h. May

i. Board and presenter appreciation lunch, 2nd week of May

3. Budget report

AsiaConnect				
FY23 Affinity Group Funding Disbursement Report				
For the Period 07/01/2024 to 06/30/2025				
Date	Vendor/Payee	Description	Amount	Balance
			2,500.00	2,500.00
8/23/2024	Office Max	AsiaConnect Welcome Back - Badge	103.29	2,396.71
7/10/2024	Town of Normal	AsiaConnect Welcome Back - park rental	50.00	2,346.71
8/23/2024	Spice Venue	AsiaConnect Welcome Back - grocery	50.00	2,296.71
8/23/2024	Great Wall	AsiaConnect Welcome Back - lunch	404.24	1,892.47
11/12/2024	Sichuan Rest	Advocacy and Opportunity = Dinner with the Speaker	100.02	1,792.45
11/12/2024	Jewel Osco	Advocacy and Opportunity = sandwich Tray, pretzel	104.97	1,687.48
11/5/2024	Signature India	Diwali Event - Tadka, paneer, Chicken, vegetable, rice	450.00	1,237.48
10/30/2024	Hobby Lobby	Diwali Event - Art Materials	16.29	1,221.19
10/29/2024	Target	Diwali Event - supplies	22.84	1,198.35
1/29/2025	Seoul Mama, Inc.	Pick up food for Lunar New Year Celebration	230.00	968.35
1/29/2025	Seoul Mama, Inc.	Popcorn Chicken - Lunar New Year Celebration	50.85	917.50
4/16/2025	c/o Jessica Murphy	Scholarship for Justin Janos	300.00	617.50
3/10/2025	Affidavit	Diwali Festival	100.00	517.50
4/10/2025	Affidavit	Asian Heritage Week - Multicultural Rent	140.00	377.50
4/11/2025	Costco	Asian Heritage Week - Ewing Manor	63.73	313.77
5/6/2025	Imperial Buffet	Appreciation Lunch for Asian Heritage Week's participants	218.00	95.77
5/27/2025	Meijer	AsiaConnect - supplies hand sanitizers and bottled water	72.08	23.69
5/27/2025	Meijer	AsiaConnect - bottled water	21.66	2.03
				2.03
				2.03
				2.03

a.

b. Budget is tighter because previous department sponsors had budget cuts and cannot help as previous

i. Suejung and Lawrence will ask Byron Craig of President's Diversity Inclusion Advisory Council for options for additional funds

c. Projected expenses:

AsiaConnect 2025-2026 Budget		
Items	Budget	
Tote Bags	400	351
Welcome Back Party	450	park rental 50+ foods
New faculty & Staff networking meeting	100	
Diwali	400	foods
Lunar New Year	400	foods
faculty & staff networking/social	100	
Student scholarship	600	2 students
Asian Heritage Week -movie screening	200	may not need it
Asian Heritage Week -cooking demo	100	honorarium for Vivian
Asian Heritage week- snacks	200	
Board appreciation lunch	200	
	3150	

- i.
- ii. Suejung already placed new order of tote bags, some already distributed at new faculty orientation

4. Picnic preparation

- a. 34 sign-ups so far, along with Provost, CAS associate deans, COE dean, Angell Howard from Association of Black Academic Employees, Byron maybe
- b. Food & drinks
 - i. Catering: Laura and program committee
 - ii. Pick up: Jin
 - iii. Water: Suejung
- c. Games
 - i. Gonggi, jegi, ddakji
- d. Swag items
 - i. Eva
 - ii. Laura, Jeongae, Jin & Rosie?
 - iii. Jin has some swag from his department
 - iv. Jeongae has some swag from her department to bring
 - v. Judi can bring Multicultural Center swab
 - vi. Laura will reach out to Athletics to acquire free tickets to some sport events

5. Member outreach/ marketing ideas

- a. Member listserv 'cleanup' and update