



Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2026

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Dezember Leadership and Development Center, Room 409-411

Zoom Link: <https://csub.zoom.us/j/84669370314?pwd=gmLoywwMxQR4k7G0hUhv25vs0N8xr8.1>

Senate Members: Chair M. Danforth, Vice-Chair D. Solano, CSU Senator C. Lam, CSU Senator N. Michieka, AH Senator T. Tsantsoulas, AH Senator M. Naser, BPA Senator D. Wu, BPA Senator S. Sarma, NSME Senator L. Kirstein, NSME Senator A. Stokes, SSE Senator Z. Zenko (virtual), SSE Senator S. Roberts (alt. for Spring 2026 K. Henderson), AV Senator K. Holloway (virtual), At-Large Senator H. He, At-Large Senator A. Grombly (virtual), At-Large Senator A. Hays, At-Large Senator A. Lauer, At-Large Senator T. Salisbury (virtual), At-Large Senator R. Dugan, Lecturer Electorate Senator D. Horn (virtual), Senator H. Gonzalez – Staff Representative, Senator E. Reed, ASI – Executive Vice-President, VP AA & Provost D. Thien, Senator J. Dong – Dean Representative, and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

Guests: President Harper, S. Tuohy, Acting Director of Athletics, E. Adams and K. Warner.

Virtual Guest: see attached.

- I. Call to Order and Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Chair M. Danforth called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement was read, Senators were reminded of the Interruption Statement, and a moment of silence was observed in recognition of national and global events.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. December 4, 2025 (handout)
 - i. Senator Kirstien motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Gonzalez. December 4, 2025, minutes approved.
- III. Announcements and Information
 - a. President's Report – V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 AM**) (handout)
 - i. President Harper addressed national tensions and reaffirmed the University's commitment to protecting freedom and supporting students, faculty, and staff. The President announced that he was awarded the MLK Award and appointed as Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, that he met recently with the President's Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, and S. Tuohy, Acting Director of Athletics, is in attendance and will speak regarding the recent news. President Harper also provided updates on campus initiatives including the Energy Innovation Building project groundbreaking.
 - ii. Budget update: President Harper reported that the projected University deficit has been reduced from \$7.4 million to approximately \$2.6 million. President Harper noted anticipation

of an \$8.05 million increase in the Governor's proposed budget, with Academic Affairs as a top priority for new allocations.

iii. Discussion and Q&A:

1. Senator Tsantsoulas asked if there were updates regarding the staffing and leadership of the Multicultural Alliance and Gender Equity Center (MAGEC), as Jasmine Padilla is no longer at CSUB. President Harper provided assurance that the position would be filled as soon as possible.
 2. Senator Salisbury voiced concerns regarding the recent hiring of differing views of the budget situation, particularly from the CSU Chancellor, as well as the lack of action made towards recognizing Black History Month and progress toward becoming a formally recognized Black-Serving Institution.
- iv. S. Tuohy, Acting Director of Athletics, spoke, stating that they followed the campus processes with the hiring of the volleyball coach and asked faculty to reach out to their student athletes, especially after the challenges of the fall semester.

b. Elections and Appointments – D. Solano (handout)

- i. Vice-Chair Solano provided updates on ongoing Senate elections and upcoming deadlines. Faculty were reminded to submit nominations for open positions to avoid delays. See attached handout.

c. Upcoming Events: (handouts)

- i. January 30 – Spring General Faculty Meeting
 1. 8 am – 2 pm; Student Union MPR and Virtual
- ii. February 4 – CSUB Strategic Plan Town Hall
 1. 11 am – 12:30 pm; Student Union MPR
 2. Strategic Plan Survey: csub.edu/strategicplan/
- iii. February 6 – AV Campus Strategic Plan Town Hall
 1. 11 am – 12:30 pm; Virtual
- iv. February 20 – Committee on Professional Responsibility Town Hall
 1. 1-2 pm; Humanities 1107 and virtual
- v. March 16 – Spring Budget Open Forum
 1. 2-3 pm; Student Union MPR and virtual
- vi. April 8 – President's Open Forum
 1. 9 am; Student Union MPR

IV. Approval of Agenda (**Time Certain: 10:05 AM**)

- a. Senator Lam motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Senator Stokes. Agenda approved.

V. Reports

- a. ASI Report – Senator E. Reed, ASI – Executive Vice-President
 - i. ASI Executive Vice President E. Reed introduced herself and encouraged faculty to extend grace and support to students during the semester.
- b. Provost's Report – D. Thien (**Time Certain: 10:25 AM**) (handout)
 - i. Faculty Lines: Provost Thien reported that six new faculty lines have been approved to move forward.
 - ii. Administrative Searches: Searches are underway for Dean of Social Sciences and Education and Associate Vice President for Academic Programs.

- iii. Strategic Plan Engagement: The Provost reminded and encouraged everyone to participate in the strategic plan.
- iv. Course Scheduling: The Provost discussed student access issues related to course availability, particularly for graduation. Meetings with ASI have occurred, and additional schedule adjustments are being explored. A cross-divisional task force is evaluating alternatives to the 25Live scheduling system.
- v. Academic Affairs Staffing Updates: Course scheduling, curriculum, and catalog management responsibilities are transitioning to Academic Programs
- vi. ADA Compliance: Updates were provided on ADA Title II requirements with an April 24 deadline. Training and document accessibility improvements are in progress, though full compliance by the deadline may be challenging. AVP for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer, C. Diniz, will be providing more information at the General Faculty Meeting tomorrow.
 - i. Discussion and Feedback:
 - 1. Senator Dong expressed appreciation for the provost's advocacy for more faculty lines and encourages continued advocacy to strengthen all academic programs.
 - 2. Senator Wu thanked the President and Provost for prioritizing Academic Affairs in the budget model. Senator Wu also encouraged participation in the Strategic Plan Town Halls.
- c. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka (handout)
 - i. Senator Michieka provided brief updates on systemwide academic senate matters. See attached report for more details.
- d. Staff Report – Senator Gonzalez (handout)
 - i. Senator Gonzalez shared concerns regarding national events, labor negotiations, bargaining updates, and union activity. Human trafficking training opportunities were also announced.
- e. Committee Reports: (deferred- see submitted reports)
 - i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Solano (handout)
 - ii. Standing Committees:
 - 1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) – Senator Tsantsoulas (handout)
 - 2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS) – Senator Kirstein (handout)
 - 3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Grombly (handout)
 - 4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Stokes, FAC Vice-Chair (handout)
- f. CFA Report – T. Salisbury, CFA Bakersfield

VI. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:30 AM)**

- a. Consent Agenda:
 - i. RES 252623 – Changes to Fall 2026 Academic Calendar – BPC (handout)
 - 1. Approved with the agenda.
- b. Old Business:
 - i. RES 252618 – Special Review Committee for Anthropology – AAC and BPC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for second reading. No amendments or discussion ensued.
 - 2. Action: Approved with two abstentions.
 - ii. RES 252614 – Minor in Creative Writing – AAC and BPC (handout)

1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for second reading. No amendments or discussion ensued.
2. Action: Approved.
- iii. RES 252615 – Computer Science Cybersecurity Concentration– AAC and BPC (handout)
 1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for second reading. No amendments or discussion ensued.
 2. Action: Approved.
- iv. RES 252610 – Unit RTP and PTR Composition- Handbook Change – FAC (on HOLD)
- c. New Business:
 - i. RES 252620 – Transitioning to Online SOCLs-Handbook Change – FAC (handout)
 1. Senator Stokes, Vice-Chair of FAC, introduced the resolution on behalf of FAC.
 2. Feedback/ Discussion:
 - a. The Senate engaged in extensive discussion regarding response rates, access, bias, faculty workload, and cost savings. Concerns were raised about the low response rate of online-only evaluations, while others emphasized operational efficiencies. ITS will continue working with Senate leadership to ensure faculty receive both summary and individual response reports.
 - ii. RES 252621 – Department Chair Terms-Handbook Change – FAC (handout)
 1. Senator Stokes, Vice-Chair of FAC, introduced the resolution on behalf of FAC.
 2. Feedback/ Discussion:
 - a. Discussion focused on term length, recall processes, interim appointments, and training for chairs. Clarification was suggested regarding what the process is for when someone steps down, and expansion on the recall process. Per Senator Michieka, the CSU has training available at the state level. A workshop was held at CSUB last year for new department chairs; however, senators are unsure of the status. Provost Thien said she would investigate this matter further and provide an update to the Senators for the next meeting.
 - iii. RES 252622 – Academic Advising Structure Is an Academic Endeavor – AAC and AS&SS (handout)
 1. Senator Tsantsoulas, Chair of AAC, introduced the resolution on behalf of AAC and AS&SS.
 2. Feedback/ Comments for First Reading:
 - a. Discussion emphasized shared governance, faculty input in advising leadership, training needs, and collaboration between faculty and staff advisors. Suggestions were made to note that the Director of Academic Advising position was converted from an interim role without senate input and to address to the staff advisor relationship and vision for collaboration.

VII. Open Forum **(Time Certain: 11:15 AM)**

- a. Upcoming Events:
 - i. See items under “III. Announcements and Information.”
 - ii. Philosophy and Religious Studies will be hosting an event next Friday, February 6 at 6 pm regarding “Can Humans an AI Share a Moral World?”
- b. Continued Speakers List for President’s report:

- i. Concerns were raised regarding sustainability and how the Chancellor's Office dashboard energy and water usage data is incomplete. President Harper said he would meet with the sustainability group and talk with Dr. Watson about these concerns.
- ii. Senator Lam spoke regarding the Governor's budget, which is very predictive of the CSU budget. A scenario will be prepared based on the May revise and enacted budget in July; likely not moving toward reductions.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chair Danforth adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

Zoom Participants

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