



# ACADEMIC SENATE

## CSU BAKERSFIELD

### Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2025

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**Location:** Dezimmer Leadership and Development Center, Room 409-411

**Zoom Link:** <https://csub.zoom.us/j/89047995676?pwd=VEdFQVJkZTk5UUVzblQyNDR4UkZrUT09>

**Senate Members:** Chair M. Danforth, Vice-Chair D. Solano, Senator A. Hegde, Senator C. Lam, Senator N. Michieka, Senator T. Tsantsoulas (virtual), Senator M. Naser, Senator D. Wu, Senator S. Sarma, Senator L. Kirstein, Senator A. Stokes, Senator Z. Zenko (virtual; alt. E. Enos in person), Senator S. Roberts, Senator K. Holloway (virtual), Senator H. He, Senator A. Grombly, Senator E. Correa (virtual), Senator J. Deal, Senator R. Dugan, Senator T. Salisbury, Senator J. Cornelison, Senator E. Pruitt, Interim Provost J. Rodriguez, Senator J. Dong and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven (excused).

**Guests:** President V. Harper, C. Diniz, K. Warner, L. Hernandez, and D. Cantrell.

**Virtual Guests:** C. Livingston, S. Bozarth, J. Mabry, L. Blodorn, K. Lopez, E. Barnes, V. Mayorga, M. Whisler, M. Monge, M. Chavez, H. Niemeyer, M. Malhotra, E. Adams, D. Boschini, A. Rodriguez, L. Vega, K. Watson, D. Cours, T. Hickey, S. Marks, J. Self, A. Sixtos, A. Sanchez, E. Garibay, M. Ruiz, E. Poole Callahan, S. Gamboa, F. Jenkins, M. Quarles, V. Kirkbride, Y. Morones, K. Deford, S. Gaitan, L. Tafolla, M. Kwon,

- I. Call to Order and Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
  - a. Senate Chair Danforth called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM and read the Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement.
  
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. December 5, 2024 (handout)
    - i. Senator Lam motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Deal. Minutes approved with one abstention.
  
- III. Announcements and Information
  - a. President's Report – V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 AM**)
    1. President Harper expressed that there is much to be grateful for, despite the feelings that CSUB's values, beliefs, and mission are under attack. President Harper expressed appreciation for President Wood's visit to campus and for

sharing his inspirational story. The CSUB Men's basketball and Women's basketball are doing very well.

2. President Harper is aware of the challenges that CSUB and the CSU are facing regarding the federal administration, the state of the budget, and concerns about how undocumented and LGBTQ+ students will be treated. He will defend them all and CSUB will stand behind the students.
  3. Administration Updates:
    - a. CFO Thom Davis has left university. Thom Davis and President Harper had a divergence regarding shared values. Dr. Kristen Watson will be taking over as Interim CFO and will be in the role for an extended period. The search for a new CFO will be on hold until more information is received after the July budget.
    - b. Dr. Dwayne Cantrell has been elevated to Vice-President of Strategic Enrollment Management.
    - c. The Provost and VP for Academic Affairs administrator search is underway.
  4. 100 Days Update: President Harper's 100 days are almost up. More changes will be announced.
  5. There are many concerns about layoffs and closures, particularly after seeing what is happening at CSU Sonoma State. Sonoma State has different population challenges; enrollment dropped 40% and CSUB's is 4% above target.
  6. Special Budget Open Forum: The CSU system is looking at a 375-million-dollar reduction; about 8%. There was the hope that the compact would be restored at the end of the fiscal year, however, the Governor has moved that out another year. Challenges include inflation, reduction in budget, and growing enrollment.
  7. Encouraged attendance for the General Faculty Meeting tomorrow, January 30. If there is a desire for another Special Budget Open Forum, he will work with Dr. Watson to see if it can be organized.
  8. President Harper expressed appreciation for the Academic Senate and the work being done and for shared governance.
- ii. Q&A/ Discussion:
1. Senator Holloway: Asked for direction on how to respond to students when they ask about the budgetary cuts and issues.
    - a. President Harper: Discussed the current Kern County service area. CSUB will do everything they can to prevent any impact on students' ability to get to graduation.

2. Senator Hegde: Appreciated the update regarding the CFO and the impact of such changes. Are there any thoughts or plans for a fiscal audit (whether it is internal or external)?
  - a. President Harper: CEO for the Chancellor's Office's duties include audit. The Vice-Chancellor spoke to him at the Board of Trustees meeting regarding providing an audit service and advisory assessment service. He asked if President Harper would like to use either of those services. CSUB has undergone a fiscal audit recently (3-4 months ago). The issue with the departure of the CFO was a personnel issue. He will consult with Dr. Watson regarding it and there is still the potential for that action.
3. Senator Naser: Thanked President Harper for the candid and honest updates and discussion. Senator Naser requested more information and details regarding the plan for the difficult times ahead.
  - a. President Harper: His heart goes out to those effected by the terrible wildfires in Los Angeles. He recognizes the devastation and expects the State of California to incur sizable expenses associated with those losses and damages. There may be an adjustment to the Governor's budget and the 8% cut due to these additional and unexpected expenses.
4. Senator Lam: The campus has a lot of federal grants and many of them have an HSI label on them and were on the "freeze" list. It is only a matter of time before another executive order from the White House goes out. Engagement with Congress to protect this funding is very important. In terms of persuading the Congress to protect the funding, CSUB would play an important role because of the congressional district that might help to balance in protecting the funding. Senator Lam encourages the administration to engage with DC to help keep the funding. There are many success stories that can be shared by CSUB staff and students that were made possible by these grants.
  - a. President Harper: Agrees with the need for advocacy. He has been working with Interim Provost Rodriguez and the AVP for GRaSP I. Sumaya, to discuss the grants that are in danger. President Trump's Press Secretary indicated that there would be a rethink of the memorandum and executive order. Guidance will be provided from the Chancellor's Office. President Harper encourages the grant P.I.s to remain steadfast. They are in discussion with Vince Fong and Valladao. Federal advocacy, when Presidents go to Washington DC, is on the calendar and will be confirmed by the CSU Chancellor.
5. Senator Salisbury: Believes it is time for passion, action and engagement. Senator Salisbury is very concerned about President Trump's administration

including the Defense Intelligence Agency's order for a pause on all activities and events related to Black History Month, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and DEI initiatives. The email that was sent out to the department chairs regarding the schedule build was vague. Faculty will be asked to make cuts, and tough changes will need to be made. Lecturers' jobs are at risk.

- a. President Harper: Will ask the Budget Advisory Committee to consider having their meetings on zoom where there can be a gallery to allow for transparency and openness. President Harper and Interim Provost Rodriguez have coordinated their comments for the General Faculty Meeting tomorrow to ensure they are providing as much information in the meeting as they can.
  - b. Senate Chair Danforth: Have an agenda item for the Executive Committee regarding if the Senate should reinstate the Public Affairs standing committee, which would perhaps be considered a Government Affairs Committee. This committee is listed in the University Handbook; however, it is not currently active.
  - c. Senator Hegde: Some may not be willing to speak out against the government because of their citizenship status. For example, he is a naturalized citizen and experienced an issue at CSUB with HR where his application was rejected and there was an investigation. There are many international faculty on campus and being vocal may not be feasible for everyone, however, the fear is very real, especially in this county.
  - d. Senator Roberts: Made a call for action and engagement to all faculty. Regarding the General Faculty Meeting, Senator Roberts asked for assurance that there will be adequate time for faculty to ask questions after the President and Provost's updates. Senator Roberts also asked for questions to be fully answered, as opposed to the past few meetings where there has not been adequate time for faculty to ask their questions.
- b. Elections and Appointments – D. Solano (handout) (deferred)
    - i. See attached handout.
  - c. Events:
    - i. January 31 – General Faculty Meeting, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, MPR
    - ii. March 17 – Spring Budget Forum; time and location TBD.

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

- a. Motion to approve the agenda seconded by Senator Dugan Agenda approved.

#### V. Reports

- a. Interim Provost's Report – J. Rodriguez (deferred)
- b. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka (handout) (deferred)
  - i. See attached handout.
- c. ASI Report – Senator Pruitt (deferred)
- d. Staff Report – Senator Cornelison (deferred)
- e. Committee Reports: See attached handouts (deferred)
  - i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Solano (handout)
  - ii. Standing Committees:
    - 1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)– Senator Deal (handout)
    - 2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS)– Senator Tsantsoulas (handout)
    - 3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Wu (handout)
    - 4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Sarma, FAC Vice-Chair (handout)
- f. CFA Report – Senator Salisbury (deferred)

VI. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:35 AM)**

- a. Consent Agenda: No items.
- b. Old Business:
  - i. RES 242514 – Resolution on the CSU Interim Time, Place, and Manner Policy – EC (handout).
    - 1. Senate Chair Danforth presented the resolution for second reading. The CSU has revised their policy regarding masking for health and safety, so that has been removed from the resolution.
    - 2. Discussion/ Feedback:
      - a. Senator Salisbury spoke in support of the resolution. The CFA has only met with Labor Management and have not yet met to discuss this issue.
    - 3. Senator Salisbury motioned to approve the resolution; multiple Senators seconded. Motion carried; resolution passed.
  - ii. RES 242510 – Process and Timeline of SOCI Administration – FAC and AAC (Hold; in committee for revision).
- c. New Business:
  - i. RES 242509 – Search and Screening Procedures for Administrators – FAC and BPC (handout).
    - 1. Senator Wu, BPC Chair, presented the resolution on behalf of BPC and FAC for first reading.
    - 2. Discussion/ Feedback:
      - a. Chair Danforth clarified that this resolution was drafted in response to the resolution that was not signed by President Zelezny in 2023-2024.
      - b. President Harper confirmed that although the original resolution was not signed, they are attempting to follow the spirit of the resolution for

the current Provost search. President Harper requested that Senator Hegde, as Chair of the Provost Search Committee, share more details and feedback with the Senate.

- i. Senator Hegde confirmed that they are working within the spirit of the resolution with the search firm. They have followed the resolution, primarily the items under 309.12; all except 309.12.b. The Provost Search Committee have not received a copy of the contract from the search firm. President Harper has asked K. Warner to confirm if a copy of the contract can be shared with the Search Committee or not.
  - c. Vice-Chair Solano suggested adding clarification language regarding the college-specific positions and what should happen if the calls are unanswered. Normally, unfilled college positions after two calls would revert to at-large, then appointment if necessary.
  - d. Senator Hegde suggested that 309.6.c should be clarified to make obvious that the President is the individual who would appoint the designee.
- ii. RES 242515 – Bylaws and Handbook Changes in Response to ASCSU Constitution Ratification – FAC (handout)
1. Senator Sarma, FAC Vice-Chair, presented the resolution for first reading. Senate Chair Danforth added that this is a time sensitive resolution. The ASCSU needs to be notified of who would be the lecturer electorate representative by early March.
  2. Discussion/ Feedback:
    - a. Senator Holloway: Asked for clarification regarding who would be eligible to vote for the Antelope Valley Senator.
    - b. Senator Hegde: The verbiage, “Center” can be removed as it is no longer relevant.
    - c. Senator Holloway and Senator Grombly: Language should be clarified to ensure the inclusion of librarians and coaches for Antelope Valley.
    - d. Senator Hegde: Suggested clarification regarding the process for election to CSUB Senate and ASCSU. The ASCSU constitutional change requires a lecturer to be selected from and by the lecturer pool at CSUB.
    - e. Senator Hedge: Suggested edits to the distribution list to be campus-wide or only those impacted. Senate Chair Danforth: confirmed that because this resolution is a bylaws change, that distribution campus wide would be appropriate.

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

- a. President Harper:
  - i. Expressed appreciation for lecturers and their commitment to the students and institution.
  - ii. Dr. K. Watson will retain her role as Chief of Staff, in addition to her new role as Interim CFO. Kristen Warner has been elevated to Interim Deputy Chief of Staff to support Dr. Watson. She is taking leave from her current role as Administrative Analyst and Assistant to the President.
  - iii. President Harper has been asked by undocumented students to not draw attention to them; however, it does not mean he is not thinking about them. Senator Salisbury suggested communication with the African Student Association, who do not feel the same way. President Harper: In reference to immigrant communities, there is not one ethnic group being discussed, but all. He wishes to clarify that he is communicating with them and is being careful respect wishes and not put any students at risk.
- b. Senator Wu: Discussed the challenges for international faculty and the requirement to apply for a H-1B visa every year, which adds to the challenges with family reunion, applying for loans, renewing drivers' licenses, and limiting professional development opportunities. He hopes there is discussion and solutions.
  - i. Senator Salisbury: CFA will be taking this up as a key issue and are demanding a three-year process. The CFA needs two international faculty representatives to help build a coalition for this issue.
- c. Senator Pruitt: Wanted to say something as the ASI Report was deferred last Senate meeting. ASI is concerned about the freeze on federal grants and how it impacts students and have multiple advocacy days at both the State and Federal levels where they will be talking with legislators.
- d. Senator Dong:
  - i. Event: Engineering Day will be held on February 21. Bakersfield College is also holding the same event and on the same day. Senator Dong would encourage more coordination with the community colleges partners to avoid major time conflicts.
  - ii. Senator Dong is working with T. Anthony to organize the Black Student Engineering Day on March 28. This event will be co-sponsored by the Black Student Success Center and NSBE.
- e. Senator Michieka:
  - i. CSU Funding: For 2024, CSU was granted 812 million dollars in expenditures or research funds. Out of that 812 million, 500 million comes from Federal funding, which is the money that is at risk. 80 million for Hispanic Serving Institutions, 48 million from the Department of Education, 20 million from NSF, and 10 million from the USDA.
  - ii. About 52 members from the CSU lost their homes due to the Los Angeles wildfires. The CSU is working to find ways to support them and about 1,200 employees were affected.

- f. Senator Lam: Question for Senator Pruitt regarding the AB 82 election and if there is any voter drive or voter education. Senator Pruitt is working with the VP for Legislative Affairs and will get back to Senator Lam on the game plan and action.
- g. Senator Pruitt: Asked for clarification regarding President Harper's statement of not wanting to draw attention to undocumented students and if by students, he is referring to specific individuals or a group of students. Several students she's spoken to want to have an external expression of their feelings with this and stand in solidarity. Many students have asked whether there is a statement from CSUB.
  - 1. President Harper: A statement of solidarity was sent out in December 2024 and they have worked to ensure resources and policies related to immigration resources on campus have been well distributed. Dr. Marks is pulling together the affinity groups for conversations. He has a special responsibility as CSUB President and will do everything he can to protect the students.
  - 2. Senator Salisbury: This will become an important topic for the activism by the Students for Quality Education and ASI. Activism often puts people in danger and a conversation needs to take place about that.
- ii. Senator Stokes: Wondering what the process is if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) comes to campus and if there will be any real-time alerts?
  - 1. President Harper: The UPD Chief can provide more information regarding this. When ICE or Borders and Customs decide to undertake an operation in a particular region, the region is typically defined in a very broad way. Members of law enforcement, including UPD, are alerted, however, in most cases, communications are required to be confidential. There are several statewide representatives working to pass a law that would allow for that information to be broadcasted.
- iii. Senator Grombly: CFA will be meeting immediately following the General Faculty Meeting. Senator Grombly encourages attendance in person, questions and activism.
- iv. Dr. Cantrell: From an enrollment standpoint, there were concerns about if students would be afraid to physically come to campus. Current campus enrollment has increased. There are 10,007 students enrolled on campus total, which is higher than last year. Dr. Cantrell would be interested to know if attendance begins to drop. They are not trying to target students, just would be interested to know if those numbers are really representative.

#### VIII. Adjournment

- a. Senator Salisbury motioned to extend the meeting by ten minutes; seconded by Senator Grombly. One abstention. Motion carried.
- b. Senator Lam motioned to extend the meeting by an additional ten minutes; seconded by Senator Salisbury. Motion carried.
- c. Chair Danforth adjourned the meeting at 11:49 AM.