



Academic Senate Meeting – Fall 2025

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

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

Senate Members: Chair M. Danforth, Vice-Chair D. Solano, CSU Senator C. Lam, CSU Senator N. Michieka (virtual), AH Senator T. Tsantsoulas, AH Senator M. Naser (Sabbatical; alt. D. Stockwell, virtual), BPA Senator D. Wu (virtual), BPA Senator S. Sarma (virtual), NSME Senator L. Kirstein, NSME Senator A. Stokes, SSE Senator Z. Zenko, SSE Senator S. Roberts, AV Senator K. Holloway (virtual), At-Large Senator H. He, At-Large Senator A. Grombly, 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 A. Reyes – ASI President, VP AA & Provost D. Thien, Senator J. Dong – Dean Representative, and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

Guests: V. Harper, C. Diniz, and S. Marks.

Virtual guests: A. Sixtos, A. Alva, A. Esparza, B. Mendiola, C. Stevensons, D. Stowe, D. Saini, D. Boschini, D. Cours, D. Wilson, D. Gancarz, R. Gearhart, E. Montoya, E. Kopp, E. Poole Callahan, E. Walker, E. Barnes, E. Garibay, F. Jenkins, H. Neimeyer, H. Pennella, J. Kim, J. Paschal, J. Cornelison, J. Clayton, J. Mabry, J. Nmah, K. Gagneja, K. Lopez, L. Clifton, L. Rey, L. Tafolla, L. Blodorn, L. Paris, L. Montano, L. Hernandez, L. Vega, M. Whisler, M. Chavez, M. Quarles, M. Ruiz, M. Manriquez, M. Kwon, N. Hayes, R. Penrose, R. Dawson, S. Bozarth, S. Marks, S. Gonzalez, S. Gamboa, T. Harmon, V. Kirkbride, V. Mayorga, Y. Achuleta, and Y. Morones.

- I. Call to Order and Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Vice-Chair Solano called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. August 28, 2025 (in progress) (deferred)
- III. Announcements and Information
 - a. President's Report – V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 AM**)
 - i. Report:
 1. Just returned from the Board of Trustees
 2. Athletics:
 - a. Regarding the arrest of a member of the coaching staff, the Bakersfield Police Department criminal investigation is ongoing. The events surrounding the arrest unfolded quickly.
 - b. President Harper recognized Bakersfield Police Department and University Police Chief Mari Gonzalez for their professionalism and swift response.

- c. President Harper expressed his commitment to holding individuals accountable and protecting student and campus safety. President Harper shared his newfound understanding and determination to combat human trafficking in the community, inspired by a conversation with a survivor.
 - d. Communication has been sent out to the campus community as well as a letter to student athletes and their families.
 - e. President Harper will be meeting with coaches, trainers, and staff in athletics to discuss accountability and cultural changes to take place.
 - f. A community announcement will be made next week detailing further actions
 - g. They will be preparing for the search for a new athletics director. Dr. Sarah Tuey has been appointed Acting Director of Athletics.
 - h. President Harper spoke with the Faculty Athletics Representative, Dr. Kyle Susa, regarding developing an MOU with the Survivors Network to conduct training on human trafficking on this campus. He is also seeking to expand the FAR role and responsibilities of the position to allow for more faculty oversight in athletics.
 - i. President Harper is also developing a commission on intercollegiate athletics with both external and internal stakeholders.
 - j. President Harper has spoken with the mayor, Washington DC, Chair of the Board, the CSU Chancellor who are supportive of the actions taking place and the plans for moving forward.
3. Discussion/ Q&A:
- a. Senator Stokes and Senator Tsantsoulas shared the concerns of the faculty surrounding the current and previous incidents in athletics which have raised the question of what can be done to ensure students are protected, specifically those in the athletics program.
 - i. President Harper: responded describing how influential leadership is and how they will address this by ensuring the full community is on board of the search process for the new director.
 - b. Senator Dugan discussed how there was an athletics commission in years past and how the commission disappeared without any communication. Senator Dugan also reiterates the need for more communication and proactivity.
 - i. President Harper expressed appreciation for the consultation and leadership of Chancellor Garcia and the chair of the Board of Trustees. He also recognizes and supports the need for more faculty involvement in athletics to bridge the cultural gap between academics and athletics.
 - c. Senator Sarma asked questions about how CSUB can reassure the community of our values as this incident is a huge breach of trust. President Harper responded that how CSUB reacts, and responds is important; such as being aware and engaged in ensuring people are held accountable.

- d. Senator Lauer asked if there was an anonymous hotline that students, staff or faculty can use for reporting, as this would help protect those who come forward. President Harper responded that they have hired two new investigators, and he is interviewing the civil rights attorney to build up the Title IX and DHR offices. A button will be deployed on the CSUB website for anonymous reporting of concerns that will go to the Title IX investigators.
 - e. Senator Lam suggested for information about where to seek help for abuse and human trafficking to be posted all over campus, particularly in bathrooms.
 - f. Senator Salisbury expressed serious concerns about CSUB athletics and the campus culture, particularly when it comes to racism on campus, and how the campus responds to crisis. President Harper spoke in support of the active involvement of ASI and the student body, as well as a clear grievance process for both faculty and students.
 - g. Vice-Chair Solano asked the Senate body to think about what can be done as a Senate through either resolutions or engagement with coaches to bridge athletics and academics and, if more responsibilities would be asked of the FAR, that they receive additional release time. President Harper said that he would consider supporting that.
 - h. Senator Roberts commented on the need for a re-vamped vision for Athletics and clear procedures for not only holding everyone accountable but also vision for attracting high-quality individuals.
4. Cancellation of the HSI Program Funding:
- a. I. Sumaya, AVP for GRaSP spoke regarding the HSI (Hispanic-Serving Institutions) program, which has provided tens of millions of dollars over the decades has been canceled by the federal administration. AVP Sumaya provided an update on the situation, explaining that while two of their Department of Education HSI grants are ending, Charles Lam's grant under the Title III program will continue, and the *Puedes!* grant will lose two years of funding. CSUB is able to ask for no-cost extensions for many of the grants that were on their last years of funding.
 - b. They are doing the best they can to adapt to the new federal landscape and seeking state-funded opportunities.
 - c. Senator Lam inquired about other programs, TRIO, CAMP and HEP. CAMP is on a no-cost extension. HEP grant is still operational; however potential legal actions being considered.
 - d. Senator Michieka asked if there were requests for titles, wording, or language to be changed; AVP Sumaya responded that it has happened in at least one situation, however, it was completely up to the P.I. on if they felt comfortable doing so and if it fits the needs of the review of the protocol.
- 5. MPA Student, Krissy Strode-Warren received the CSU Trustees' Award.
 - 6. Alumni Hall of Fame is upcoming
 - 7. President Harper thanked Dr. Shaylyn Marks for her leadership on the Strategic Plan.

b. Strategic Plan – S. Marks **(Time Certain: 10:20 AM)**

i. Report:

1. The second CSUB 5-year Strategic Plan Town Hall will be held virtually on Tuesday, September 16. Participants will be able to meet the consultants and participate in an interactive demo of the data collection tool.
2. They are acknowledging the work done with the previous Strategic Plan. It is housed on the Strategic Plan website: <https://www.csub.edu/strategicplan/planning-process.shtml>
3. Consultants are the collaborative partners who work with the steering and working committees. Steering committees involve leaders on the campus and working committees. Working committees will consist of 25-30 faculty, staff, and students.
4. Currently in Phase 1 Sense Making, which will take place from August through November. This phase involves extensive research and data collection, in which participation is encouraged to ensure equal representation of the plan and community engagement.

ii. Q&A and Discussions:

1. Senator Lauer expressed concern that the university had severe budgetary issues, yet considerable money was spent to hire consultants when it is apparent what their issues are. President Harper agreed that while it was expensive, it was carefully considered and stateside funds were not used.
2. Senator Salisbury disagreed with Senator Lauer. Senators Zenko, Horn and Reyes provided feedback for Dr. Marks regarding the website and suggestions for regular and boarder communications to allow and encourage more participation and higher turn-outs.

c. Information Technology Services – C. Diniz **(Time Certain: 10:30 AM)**

i. Updates on activities and initiatives regarding AI

1. A dashboard has been developed to access the data collected from the student surveys sent out last year. It will be posted next week.
 - a. CSU AI Initiative is the largest conducted so far and is lead by CSU San Diego who were very successfully.
 - b. Artificial Intelligence Committee (AIC) is getting ready to meet. Meetings have been delayed as they were waiting to see the direction of the Strategic Plan.
 - c. CSU Learn will be sunseting December 2027 and they are looking for a replacement.
 - d. CSUB NEXTTECH Kern will be held October 2
 - i. Website: <https://csub.edu/nexttechkern/>
 - e. Reduction of 7% in ITS service calls.

ii. Discussion and Q&A: None.

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

- i. See attached report. Calls to fill vacant and new positions will be sent out soon as the faculty rosters are finalized.

- IV. Approval of Agenda (**Time Certain: 10:05 AM**)
- a. Senator Zenko motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Senator Lauer. Agenda approved.
- V. Reports
- a. Provost's Report – D. Thien
- i. Strategic Plan: encouraged active participation from faculty in the Strategic Plan.
 - ii. H1B Visas and faculty challenges are on their radar with AVP D. Boschini.
 - iii. WASC Steering Committee – Interim AVP for Academic Operations and Dean of Academic Programs: WASC is proposing the removal of DEI efforts and principles from their standards. Public Comment is open until tomorrow.
 - iv. The searches for the SSE Dean and AVP for Academic Operations and Dean of Academic Programs have been approved by cabinet to move forward with the request that the searches be staggered.
 - v. Provost Thien spoke regarding resources for concerns about academic freedom to teach, research, etc. This as well as shared governance are core values.
 - vi. The inaugural Blue and Gold Bulletin has been sent out to celebrate achievements and events. Any submissions for achievements can be sent to provost@csub.edu.
- b. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka (handout)
- i. See attachment for report.
- c. ASI Report – Senator Reyes (deferred)
- i. Senator Reyes had to leave at time due to class schedule.
- d. Staff Report – Senator Gonzalez
- i. CSUEU: The CSUEU have negotiated with the CSU for step increases starting October 1, 2025. The CSU is currently only implementing partial steps, so they are back to the table and CSUEU is considering strike if the CSU does not follow through.
 - ii. CSUB Staff Forum will be hosting a donuts and coffee social on Tuesday, September 16 in the Tejon Ranch Plaza.
- e. Committee Reports: (deferred – see attached 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 Zenko (handout)
- f. CFA Report – Senator Salisbury
- i. Report: CFA is in support of the staff and proud of the leadership of the staff union. Concerns were raised regarding CSU Chancellor Garia and encouragement for all to join the unions.
 - ii. Concerns and warnings were given for all to be careful of what is posted on social media as faculty individuals have been targeted in wake of the Charlie Kirk shooting. Senator Salisbury shared that there talk of another “No Kings” march in October 2025 and to contact the CFA regarding faculty rights.

VI. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:45 AM)**

- a. Consent Agenda: no items.
- b. Old Business:
 - i. No items.
- c. New Business:
 - i. RES 252601- Renaming of the Faculty Leadership and Service Award – EC (handout)
 - 1. Chair Danforth presented the resolution for first reading. As required by the handbook, second reading cannot be waived.
 - 2. No additional discussion or feedback ensued.

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

- a. Senator Lam thanked Vice-Chair Solano for providing the treats.
- b. Chair Danforth reminded Senators of the Fall Budget Open Forum scheduled for September 18, 2025, at 8:30 AM in the Student Union MPR.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chair Danforth proposed the meeting be extended by five minutes. Majority in favor; motion carried. Meeting extended to 11:35 AM.
- b. Chair Danforth adjourned the meeting at 11:36 AM.