



## Academic Senate Meeting – Fall 2025

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**Location:** Dezemember 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 (excused), CSU Senator N. Michieka (excused), AH Senator T. Tsantsoulas, AH Senator M. Naser (F2025 alt. D. Stockwell), BPA Senator D. Wu (virtual), BPA Senator S. Sarma, NSME Senator L. Kirstein, NSME Senator A. Stokes, SSE Senator Z. Zenko, SSE Senator S. Roberts (virtual), AV Senator K. Holloway (virtual), At-Large Senator H. He (virtual), At-Large Senator A. Grombly (virtual), At-Large Senator A. Hays, At-Large Senator A. Lauer, At-Large Senator T. Salisbury (absent), 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:** President Harper, GE Director E. Montoya, E. Adams, and K. Warner.

**Virtual Guests:** See attached.

- I. Call to Order and Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
  - a. Chair Danforth called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and read the Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement.
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. October 9, 2025 (handout)
    - i. Senator Lauer motioned to approve the minutes, second by Senator Dugan. October 9, 2025, minutes approved.
  - b. October 23, 2025 (deferred)
- III. Announcements and Information
  - a. President's Report – V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 AM**) (handout)
    - i. President Harper discussed his attendance at HACU's 39th Annual Conference, the new CSUB/OpenAI collaboration, his appointment as incoming Chair of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce and invited senators to an event at his home. He announced the university's first seven-figure gift from The Wonderful Company and commented on an upcoming opportunity with the Shafter Research Station project, which will be revisited in the spring. The President's Open Forum will be held in early December with an announcement to be sent out soon.
    - ii. Discussion/ Q&A:

1. Senator Lauer asked about how the university plans to address concerns regarding increased energy costs with increased use of AI. President Harper responded that CSUB is not adding a new data center and there are no technical or software infrastructure expenses expected, but rather more training and opportunities for students.
2. Senator Tsantsoulas asked about the upcoming OpenAI Collaboration and benefits for students. President Harper responded that they plan to open an academy on campus to give constituents and students training opportunities for the latest OpenAI products, a cohort of students will be developed called SPARKS who will use their AI knowledge to support local non-profits. CSUB will be the first in the CSU system to do an MOU with OpenAI.
3. Senator Reyes asked about the sizeable donation and how it will benefit students. President Harper said that more information will be announced soon.
4. Senator Lauer expressed concerns over the development of more lawsuits and settlements likely to take place and how that will impact the budget. President Harper responded that all institutions are insured.
5. Senator Sarma asked if more information could be shared on the Shafter Research Station. President Harper responded that he encourages others to research and explore; however, it will hopefully be a transformative development for CSUB. More information and a presentation will be scheduled for the spring.
6. Vice-Chair Solano asked about the recent KGET article where it was mentioned that K. Mays used a CSUB Enterprise account for car rental. President Harper replied that a promo code for a discount was used (which is available to all state employees), however, stateside dollars were not used (this was subsequently confirmed by K. Watson). The local news stations were asked to pull the items related to this as there was erroneous information.
7. Senator Lauer commented on the bonuses faculty and staff are to receive as a result of the loan from the Chancellor's Office and the appropriateness during a time of budgetary crisis.

b. GE Director – E. Montoya **(Time Certain: 10:20 AM)**

- i. General Education Presentation – see handout.
- ii. 2024-2025 GECCo Report (handout)
  1. GE Director, Dr. E. Montoya presented the 2024–2025 GECCo Report and discussed the CSU GE structural changes that were worked on in 2024-2025, drawing attention to Area 5, which has been a common area of concern.
- iii. Discussion/ Q&A:
  1. Vice-Chair Solano asked about recent systemwide guidance on exceptions to CSU General Education Requirements and how they will affect CSUB General Education Modifications (GEMs). Dr. Montoya replied that there are two types of GEMs. Course-level GEMs, such as CHEM 1003, have been determined by GECCo to meet or exceed Area 5A requirements. This GEM was designed for nursing students, but if those students change majors, Area 5A will still be fulfilled. Program-level GEMs are more complex as they involve a series of courses collectively designed to meet learning outcomes. AVP E. Adams added that the CSU Chancellor's Office has asked that, by

2027, for program-level GEMs, campuses must identify which courses meet the GE learning outcomes. The Chancellor's Office wants students to be certified by the CSUs as having met GE requirements and for them to be transportable across institutions.

- c. Elections and Appointments – D. Solano (handout)
  - i. Vice-Chair Solano reported on the completion of the search and review committees for administrators and the open calls for appointed positions. See attached handout.

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

- a. The agenda was approved as presented; majority in favor. Agenda approved.

V. Reports

- a. ASI Report – Senator Reyes
  - i. Senator Reyes reported on student participation in shared governance and dining plan concerns, as well as the Runner Care Drive.
- b. Provost's Report – D. Thien
  - i. Provost D. Thien reported on attending the Tenured and Promoted Faculty Recognition ceremony and recently returned from the Provost Academy and shared that thirteen (13) requests were received for the four (4) tenure-track positions available. Provost Thien brought attention to the topic of Academic Freedom mentioned in the Blue and Gold bulletin and possible workshops and expansions. Provost Thien also encouraged participation in the Strategic Plan Survey.
- c. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka (deferred; at the ASCSU Plenary)
- d. Staff Report – Senator Gonzalez (handout)
  - i. Senator Gonzalez provided a brief verbal report highlighting Staff Forum's participation in the Runner Care Drive, which will start on Monday, and reported on CSUEU bargaining updates, the SEIU Teach-in (Nov. 12), and Runner Care Drive. See the handout for more information.
- e. Committee Reports: (deferred- see handouts)
  - 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; D. Solis, CFA Bakersfield Vice-President (deferred)

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

- a. Consent Agenda: No items.
- b. Old Business:
  - i. RES 252606 – Call for a CSU Chancellor's Office Investigation Regarding Recent Incidents in Athletics – EC (handout)
    - 1. Chair Danforth presented the resolution for second reading.

2. Some discussion ensued regarding next steps and how many individuals from the Chancellor's Office would be involved, or if it would only be one. Provost Thien stated that it would likely be two or three individuals based on her experiences.
3. Chair Danforth called for a vote, majority in favor. Resolution passed.
- ii. RES 252604 – Minor Policy Changes – AAC (handout)
  1. AAC Chair, Senator Tsantsoulas, presented the resolution for second reading and highlighted the changes made.
  2. Some discussion ensued; Vice-Chair Solano proposed an amendment to allow for upper-division cognate exceptions, which was seconded by Senator Hayes. Chair Danforth called for a vote on the amendment; majority in favor, motion carried.
  3. Chair Danforth called for a vote on the amended resolution; motion carried and resolution passed as amended.
- c. New Business:
  - i. RES 252611 – Minor in Applied Mathematics – AAC and BPC (handout)
    1. AAC Chair, Senator Tsantsoulas, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and BPC.
    2. Discussion/ Q&A: none.
  - ii. RES 252612 – Concentration in Nonprofit Management in MPA Degree – AAC and BPC (handout)
    1. AAC Chair, Senator Tsantsoulas, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and BPC.
    2. Discussion/ Q&A: none.
  - iii. RES 252613 – Concentration in Healthcare Administration in MPA Degree – AAC and BPC (handout)
    1. AAC Chair, Senator Tsantsoulas, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and BPC.
    2. Discussion/ Q&A: none.
  - iv. RES 252609- Clarifying ASCSU Lecturer Electorate Procedures – FAC (handout)
    1. FAC Chair, Senator Zenko, presented the resolution for first reading.
    2. Some discussion ensued regarding when a special election would be appropriate, such as when a lecturer is no longer employed by the university. Senator Zenko and Chair Danforth confirmed that it would be an appropriate case for a special election.
  - v. RES 252610- Unit RTP and PTR Composition- Handbook Change- FAC (handout)
    1. FAC Chair, Senator Zenko, presented the resolution for first reading.
    2. Extensive discussion ensued with feedback provided to FAC regarding the requirement to have exactly three members on the committee, faculty workload, Periodic Evaluation of Faculty (PEF), candidate-specific committee composition (including when a fourth member is added), who is responsible for ensuring correct unit committee composition, URC's involvement for conflict resolution, URC workload concerns, workload equity, asking faculty outside the unit to serve on committees, how the chair of the committee is identified, and changing "conflict resolution" to "reconstitution of a unit committee." Additionally, senators asked clarifying questions and inquired about the rationale for certain items in the resolution. Acknowledgement was made by multiple senators for the extensive work FAC has put into the resolution.

- vi. RES 252608- Sabbatical Rubric and Feedback- Handbook Change- FAC (handout)
  - 1. FAC Chair, Senator Zenko, presented the resolution for first reading.
  - 2. Extensive discussion ensued and feedback was provided to FAC regarding the rubric and categories, including expansion, clarification, and consistency. Appreciation was expressed for adding that constructive feedback would be provided to the applicants.

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

- a. Senators Reyes and Gonzalez commented on the increased need due to the government shutdown with the CSUB Food Pantry and the development of the Runner Care Drive, which will be starting on Monday. ASI is working with Staff Forum to establish different collection points across campus and Staff Forum will be putting together a social for donation collection.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chair Danforth adjourned the meeting at 11:32 AM.

Topic	ID	Host
Academic Senate 2025-26	84669370314	Katherine Van Grin
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