



Academic Senate Meeting – Fall 2026

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Zoom Information:

[Zoom Meeting ID: 811 3080 8590](#)

Passcode: 674081

Senate Members: Chair M. Danforth, Vice-Chair T. Tsantsoulas, CSU Senator C. Lam, CSU Senator N. Michieka, AH Senator M. Palaiologou, AH Senator B. Moreno, BPA Senator D. Wu, 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, At-Large Senator A. Grombly, At-Large Senator A. Hays, At-Large Senator A. Lauer, At-Large Senator J. Deal, At-Large Senator R. Dugan, Lecturer Electorate Representative – D. Horn, Senator C. Zúñiga-Prado – Staff Representative, Senator N. Kaur – ASI President, Senator D. Cours – Dean Representative, VP AA & Provost D. Thien and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

In-Person Guests/ Attendees: President Harper, E. Adams, and K. Warner.

Virtual attendees: See attached list.

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
 - b. Robert's Rules of Order
 - c. Interruption Statement
 - d. Chair Danforth called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM, read the land acknowledgement, and reviewed Robert's Rules of Order, the interruption practice, and the process for joining the speakers list.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. May 7, 2026 (handout)
 - i. Senator Kirstein motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Horn. The minutes were approved, with two abstentions.
- III. Announcements and Information
 - a. President's Report - V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 AM**) (handout)
 - i. President Harper welcomed the Senate and introduced Interim Vice President for People and Culture V. Morris and SSE Dean B. Wu. He also recognized the successful Rowdy statue unveiling and faculty and staff honorees from University Week and University Day.

- ii. Shafter Research Center: Kern County approved the sale of the facility to the university. Escrow was expected to begin within several weeks, with the University Foundation taking possession after closing.
 - iii. Athletic Director Search: The search is underway, with candidate open forums forthcoming and an appointment anticipated in mid-October.
 - iv. Q&A/Discussion: Senator Lauer relayed concerns about the condition of trees and irrigation at the Shafter property. President Harper explained that the university could not maintain the property before taking possession.
- b. Update on the Handbook and Bylaws Summer Project - M. Danforth
 - i. Chair Danforth reported that the summer working group completed their review and work. Forthcoming proposed updates will be shared with the Senate and address outdated references, organizational changes, and inconsistencies between the General Faculty and Academic Senate constitutions. Handbook and bylaw revisions will follow the standard two-reading Senate process and, if approved, will be forwarded to the President. Constitutional revisions also require a 30-day General Faculty review period and a faculty ratification vote. An executive summary and the proposed revisions will be presented at a future Senate meeting.
- c. Elections and Appointments - T. Tsantsoulas (handout)
 - i. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas reported that updated faculty rosters were not expected until approximately the second week of September because of late faculty onboarding. The Senate Office will begin the election cycle as soon as the rosters are available.
 - ii. Senators were asked to report known vacancies, contact their college election committees regarding college-level calls, and submit nominations for university service opportunities.
- d. Information
 - i. Chair Danforth reminded Senators that potential Senate business generally begins with a referral to Executive Committee or a standing committee. She also reviewed the alternating Senate/standing-committee meeting pattern, noted the two consecutive committee meetings before Thanksgiving, and asked Senators to submit their alternates.
 - ii. Senate Orientation PPT (handout)
 - iii. 2026-2027 Senate roster and alternates (handout)
 - iv. 2026-2027 Senate meeting schedule (handout)

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

- a. Senator Kirstein motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Senator Lam. The agenda was approved, including the consent agenda items.

V. Reports

- a. Provost's Report - D. Thien **(Time Certain: 10:25 AM)** (handout)
 - i. Communications and Leadership: Provost Thien announced that the Blue and Gold Bulletins would resume September 14 and encouraged faculty to submit news and photographs. She emphasized clear communication as an Academic Affairs priority and welcomed SSE Dean B. Wu, AVP for Academic Programs E. Adams, Acting Executive

Director of the Antelope Valley campus S. Frye, Honors Director M. Palaiologou, and ASI President N. Kaur.

- ii. Strategic Plan: Academic Affairs initiatives will focus on strengthening academic community, positioning programs for the future, and supporting student-centered, data-informed decisions aligned with the recruit, prepare, retain, and achieve priorities.
- iii. Tenure-Track Lines: Six new tenure-track faculty began in 2026-2027, and 13 additional searches - the 'Bakersfield Dozen' - were authorized for the coming year. Search committees are encouraged to report barriers that could impede successful recruitment.
- iv. Faculty Resources and Student Success: Provost Thien reviewed the prior 20% increase to Faculty Development Fund amounts and sought volunteers to develop a faculty survey concerning broader professional-development needs. She also reported on approximately eight funded service-learning projects, and plans to develop support for AI-related course revision, a faculty data fellows program, and an initiative addressing high DFW rates in gateway courses.
- v. Shafter Research Center and Planning: Provost Thien recognized A. Hegde and I. Francis for developing preliminary curricular and research, scholarship, and creative activity pathways related to agronomy and plant science. Additional opportunities for faculty input will be developed during the fall.
- vi. Class Waitlists: Provost Thien recognizes the need for broader campus discussion to clarify waitlist practices and develop a more consistent, student-friendly approach, particularly for courses offered by multiple departments.
- vii. Q&A/Discussion:
 - 1. Senator Lauer asked whether professional-development funding could support attendance at events when faculty are not presenting. Provost Thien explained the current funds' connection to tenure and promotion and noted that complementary, expanded opportunities are being explored. She clarified that awards are made from a shared fund on a rolling request basis rather than as individual allocations.
 - 2. Senator Lam asked whether a question concerning work authorization could be removed from faculty applications. The administration will review the issue.
 - 3. Senator Wu suggested incorporating the new Strategic Plan into faculty recruitment materials. Provost Thien supported the suggestion and noted that a concise Strategic Plan document could be included in searches.
 - 4. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas and Senator Michieka raised concerns about lengthy travel-reimbursement processing. Provost Thien acknowledged the concern, discussed staffing constraints and the importance of complete Concur submissions, and agreed that the issue remains a significant pain point.
- b. ASCSU Report - Senators Lam and Michieka (deferred)
- c. ASI Report - Senator Kaur (handout)
 - i. Written report attached. Senator Kaur reported on New Student Convocation and Week of Welcome activities, invited the campus community to the first ASI Board meeting, and

announced 35 scholarships of \$1,000 each. Scholarship information and promotional materials will be distributed to students and faculty.

- d. Staff Report - Senator C. Zúñiga-Prado
 - i. Senator Zúñiga-Prado introduced herself as the newly appointed Staff Representative and identified A. Slabey as the alternate. She recognized staff supporting students during extended opening week hours.
- e. Committee Reports
 - i. Summer Senate and Executive Committee - Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas (handout)
 - 1. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas summarized Summer Senate discussions and work and Executive Committee discussions. See attached report for details.
 - 2. Senate Resolution and Referral Log 2025-2026 (handout)
 - ii. Standing Committees (deferred)
 - 1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) - Senator Deal, Chair
 - 2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS) - Senator Kirstein, Chair
 - 3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) - Senator Wu, Chair
 - 4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) - Senator Zenko, Chair
- f. CFA Report - T. Salisbury, CFA Bakersfield (deferred)
 - i. Dr. Salisbury or designee not in attendance.

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

- a. Consent Agenda
 - i. 2026-2027 Standing Committee Membership (handout)
 - 1. The standing committee membership was approved with the agenda.
 - ii. RES 262701 - Changes to 2026-2027 Academic Calendar - EC (handout)
 - 1. The resolution was approved with the agenda. Changes included beginning the fall SOCI period on November 16 to provide at least 10 class meeting days; renaming the March 31 holiday to Farm Workers Day; correcting the chronological placement of spring break; and moving July 2027 New Student Orientation from the observed Independence Day holiday to July 6.
- b. Old Business: None.
- c. New Business: None.

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

- a. Senator Lauer asked about Runner Aquatics' use of the CSUB pool and concerns raised in the community regarding the university's handling of the relationship. President Harper explained that the organization is not affiliated with the university and that facility-use agreements require compliance with safety, insurance, coaching, and risk-management standards. He disputed claims that the rental rate had doubled, acknowledged that university communications during the process could have been better, and noted that other organizations were pursuing access to the pool.
- b. Senator Sarma raised emergency-preparedness concerns for evening courses and asked how faculty should respond when offices are closed. Provost Thien reported that Chief Gonzalez was

willing to provide additional training, including sessions focused on part-time faculty and evening instruction, and invited suggestions regarding scheduling.

- c. Senator Wu asked about training at the Antelope Valley campus, requested updates on improvements made since the prior year's threats, and suggested surveying part-time lecturers about training availability. Provost Thien reported that Antelope Valley training was planned for fall and suggested inviting Chief Gonzalez to brief the Senate on updates, including the new emergency communication platform.
- d. Senators Zenko and Grombly discussed facility and building-specific safety considerations, including internal locking options, fire and building codes, and the importance of site-specific emergency training. President Harper stated that funding had been committed to emergency communications, training, and facility improvements, while acknowledging that some building changes are constrained by fire code requirements.
- e. Senator Horn commented on Fresno State advertising in Bakersfield and encouraged the university to reinforce confidence in CSUB's identity and achievements. President Harper emphasized partnership with neighboring institutions, CSUB's national ranking, and the goal of making CSUB the first choice for students in the region.
- f. President Harper announced that the Powwow would return to CSUB after a six-year absence and thanked the tribal and campus partners supporting the event.
- g. Senator Moreno encouraged consistent use of official university colors and Rowdy imagery when creating AI-assisted promotional materials and noted the timeliness of the emergency-preparedness discussion as Porterville College was currently locked down.
- h. Senator Horn announced an upcoming campus presentation by a CSUB alumnus working in national security and intelligence. The event was scheduled for Wednesday from 12:30-2:00 PM in the Student Union Multipurpose Room.
- i. Senator Cours announced BPA and NSME college welcome activities for students.

VIII. Adjournment

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

Academic Senate Meeting – Fall 2026

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Zoom Attendees

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Name (original name)	Email
Adriana Van Grinsven	avan-grinsven@csub.edu
Adrianna Hook	ahook@csub.edu
Alex Alva	aalva6@csub.edu
Alex Slabey	aslabey@csub.edu
Alicia Rodriguez	arodriguez@csub.edu
Allan Williams (he/him)	awilliams122@csub.edu
Andrea Weikel	aweikel@csub.edu
Andrew Dickenson	adickenson@csub.edu
Annabelle Sanchez She, Her, Hers	asanchez160@csub.edu
Atieh Poushneh	apoushneh@csub.edu
Bohsiu Wu	bwu8@csub.edu
Chris Diniz (CSUB)	cdiniz@csub.edu
Dahna Stowe	dstowe@csub.edu
Danielle Solano	dsolano@csub.edu
Debbie Boschini	dboschini@csub.edu
Deisy Mascarinas	dmascarinas@csub.edu
Dr. Amy Gancarz, CSUB (she/her)	agancarz@csub.edu
Dr. Nora Cisneros	ncisneros9@csub.edu
Dwayne Cantrell	dcantrell2@csub.edu
Emily Kopp	ekopp@csub.edu
Emily Poole Callahan	epoole1@csub.edu
Heath Niemeyer	hniemeyer@csub.edu
Jaimi Paschal	jpaschal@csub.edu
James L. Rodríguez	jltrodriguez@csub.edu
Jane Dong	jdong2@csub.edu
Janine McCormick	jmccormick11@csub.edu
Jeannie Ballestero	jballestero1@csub.edu
Jennifer Mabry	jmabry2@csub.edu
Jennifer Self	jself@csub.edu
Jeremiah Sataraka, CSU Bakersfield	jsataraka@csub.edu
Joel Haney (he/him)	jhaney@csub.edu
Juterh Nmah	jnmah@csub.edu
K K	kgagnej@csub.edu
Kane Keller	kkeller4@csub.edu
Karlo M. Lopez	klopez@csub.edu
Katrina Gilmore	kgilmore2@csub.edu
Katy Larson	klarson8@csub.edu
Kelly O'Bannon	kobannon@csub.edu
Kirstin Lattimore (she/her)	klattimore1@csub.edu

Kris Grappendorf (she/her/hers)	kgrappendorf@csub.edu
Laura Clifton	lclifton@csub.edu
Lena Taub Robles	ltaub@csub.edu
Leticia Marquez	lmarquez17@csub.edu
Lindsay Nelson-Burkert	lnelson11@csub.edu
Lori Paris	lparis@csub.edu
Luis Hernandez	lhernandez1@csub.edu
Marci Whisler	mwhisler@csub.edu
Marta Ruiz, CSUB	mrui14@csub.edu
Martha Manriquez	mmanriquez5@csub.edu
Matthew Woodman	mwoodman@csub.edu
Michelle Monge	mregalado@csub.edu
Monica Malhotra (CSUB)	mmalhotra1@csub.edu
Natasha Hayes	nhayes1@csub.edu
Rebecca Weller (she/her)	rweller@csub.edu
Sandra Bozarth	sbozarth2@csub.edu
Senator Kristine Holloway (Kristine Holloway)	kholloway2@csub.edu
Senator Roberts (Sarana Roberts)	sroberts21@csub.edu
Shaylyn Marks	smarks2@csub.edu
Sonya Gaitan	sgaitan@csub.edu
Tanya Snyder	tsnyder@csub.edu
Tiffany Tsantsoulas (she/her)	ttsantsoulas@csub.edu
Tommy Holiwell	tholiwell@csub.edu
Vanessa Mayorga	vmayorga@csub.edu
Veronica Bethea-Amey	vbethea@csub.edu
vmorris@csub.edu	vmorris@csub.edu
Yvette Morones	ymorones@csub.edu