ACADEMIC SENATE
CSU BAKERSFIELD

EC Approved: October 20, 2026

Academic Senate: Executive Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
10 – 11:30 AM

Location: BDC 134- BPA Conference Room and virtual
Zoom Information:
Meeting ID: 826 4022 7199
Passcode: 166430

Members: M. Danforth (Chair), T. Tsantsoulas (Vice-Chair), D. Thien (Provost), C. Lam (ASCSU Senator), N. Michieka (ASCSU Senator), J. Deal (AAC Chair), L. Kirstein (AS&SS Chair), D. Wu (BPC Chair), Z. Zenko (FAC Chair), and K. Van-Grinsven (Senate Analyst).

Guest: V. Morris, Interim VP for People and Culture (virtual).

1. **Call to Order**
    a. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

2. **Announcements and Information:**
    a. Naming Opportunity **(Time Certain: 10:10 AM)**
        i. EC discussed the proposed naming opportunity and draft letter. The item was tabled pending clarification.
    b. Extra EC Meeting September 29
        i. EC agreed to hold an additional meeting on September 29. The meeting will focus on the Handbook and Bylaws project and referrals. The committee reports and the Provost Report will be deferred.
    c. V. Morris - Interim VP for People and Culture **(Time Certain: 10:15 AM)**
        i. Discussion: EC welcomed Interim VP for People and Culture, Dr. Morris to discuss operations changes in the division. Dr. Morris shared that she has been assessing the three areas under her purview: HR/Payroll, Civil Rights and Compliance, and Safety and Risk Management, noting that the immediate priority has been to implement process efficiencies within HR/Payroll.
        ii. EC discussed the need for more staff in this area, and it was noted that a position has been posted for a new Payroll Technician. At Dr. Morris' request, EC shared faculty concerns about slow turnaround times, inconsistent follow-through on payroll and HR

issues, difficulty tracking additional payments, and difficulties obtaining employment verification documents in a timely manner. EC briefly discussed the consideration of the implementation of a ticketing system to help keep track of HR/Payroll requests. EC also noted a need to streamline faculty onboarding, especially for part-time lecturer faculty who are hired shortly before the start of semester, and to make medical accommodation procedures for faculty more efficient. It was also shared that a request was made regarding for the Senate Staff Representative to have access to email campus staff. EC also raised concerns about clinical-site procedures, and nighttime student safety, some of which are outside of the Division of People and Culture.

iii. VP Morris shared that Civil Rights and Compliance is performing very well under the leadership of AVP Williams, and the plan is to assess Safety and Risk Management next.

d. Future Meeting Guests:
    i. Senate- Fall 2026
        1. October 8 - D. Cantrell, VP for SASEM, to discuss Census Day enrollment reports
    ii. Unscheduled:
        1. September 24 - I. Sumaya, AVP for GRaSP
            a. No guests were scheduled for September 24. I. Sumaya was confirmed for a Senate meeting in November. K. Van Grinsven will contact K. Susa and R. Weller regarding possible presentations on October 22.
        2. R. Weller, FTLC (possible October 22 guest)
        3. K. Susa, FAR (possible October 22 guest)
        4. E. Adams, AVP for AA and Dean of Academic Programs, WSCUC Logistics and Updates (no discussion)
        5. Chief of Police (no discussion)

3. <u>Approval of Agenda</u> (Time Certain: 10:05 AM)

a. The agenda was approved.

4. **<u>Approval of Minutes</u>**:

a. May 20, 2026 – Summer Senate Retreat (handout)
b. August 25, 2026 (handout)
c. September 1, 2026 (handout)
d. September 8, 2026 (handout)
e. Z. Zenko motioned to approve all minutes, seconded by L. Kirstein. All minutes approved.

5. <u>Continued Items</u>

a. Standing Committees: Senate Log (handout)
    i. AAC – J. Deal
    ii. AS&SS – L. Kirstein
    iii. BPC – D. Wu

1. D. Wu and J. Deal will contact AVP E. Adams so AAC and BPC can start work on the Academic Master Plan (AMP).

iv. FAC – Z. Zenko
1. Z. Zenko reported that FAC and AAC are working on the referral regarding teaching modalities and discussed forming a subcommittee to address CSUB 1029 and related GE governance concerns.

b. Provost Report – D. Thien **(Time Certain: 10:50 AM)**
i. Academic Administrator Reviews:
1. Provost Thien reported that the AARC rosters were nearly complete and that the AH Associate Dean and Antelope Valley Executive Director search processes could proceed. The Antelope Valley search is expected to result in a hire by the beginning of the next academic year. Provost Thien also confirmed that updated MOUs regarding revised confidentiality language is in progress and that updates regarding campus door-locking work by Facilities and UPD would be forthcoming as well as upcoming telecommuting-policy reminder, RTP workshops. Some discussion ensued regarding the progress towards implementing Interfolio, with a possible spring pilot and full implementation anticipated by next fall.
2. 2026-2027 AARC Rosters (handout)
a. Provost Thien reported that the appointed positions will be announced soon.

ii. Search & Screening Committees for Academic Administrators:
1. SSE Associate Dean - faculty calls scheduled
2. AH Associate Dean - EC agreed to proceed with the search committee call.
3. Executive Director for Antelope Valley - EC agreed to proceed with the search committee call. The search is expected to result in a hire by the beginning of the next academic year.

c. Calendar Committee – D. Wu (deferred)
i. Additional issues with calendar (handout)
ii. Review membership, particularly the SASEM representatives (handout)
iii. Emergency Evacuation days (handout)

d. CA Legislation – C. Lam
i. AB 2694 - Community College Baccalaureate Degree Programs.
1. C. Lam reported that it was signed; amendments created a tiered system based on graduation and transfer outcomes and regional workforce need.

ii. AB 2301 - Community Colleges Nursing Pilot Program
1. C. Lam reported that it was vetoed.

iii. AB 2212 - Updates to Student Training for Harassment & Intimidation Training
1. C. Lam reported that it was signed with ASCSU monitoring implementation.

iv. AB 2068 - CSU Campus President Hiring Process
1. C. Lam reported that it did not pass this session.

6. **New Discussion Items**
    a. Elections and Appointments – T. Tsantsoulas
        i. Appointments Needed: **(Time Certain: 10:40 AM)**
            1. Search and Screening Committee- AVP for Strategy & Institutional Engagement
                a. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas and K. Van Grinsven reported that the second call is in progress.
            2. Search and Screening Committee: AVP for Student Success
                a. EC appointed Dr. Juterh Nmah, Advanced Educational Studies, to the Search and Screening Committee for AVP for Student Success.
            3. IOC (all colleges).
                a. SSE: EC appointed Dr. Juterh Nmah, Advanced Educational Studies.
                b. The second calls for the other colleges, AH, BPA and NSME, are in progress.
        ii. Upcoming Calls - At-Large:
            1. AARCs (D. Boschini and I. Sumaya)
            2. University Council
            3. Exceptional Service Awards Committee
    b. Curriculum: (AAC/BPC) (deferred)
        i. Environmental Science (HOLD)
        ii. Mathematics Concentration Re-naming (HOLD)
    c. Handbook & Bylaws Summer Working Group **(Time Certain: 11:00 AM)**
        i. Updates to Handbook & Bylaws (handout)
            1. EC reviewed the proposed changes and agreed that the Bylaws portion was ready to move forward, while the broader Handbook revisions required additional review. The goal is to present the Handbook materials for first reading on October 8. Bylaws updates were reviewed and include incorporating the approved Robert's Rules resolution, clarifying committee memberships and designees, and making targeted terminology changes from schools to colleges. It was noted that the handbook needs descriptions of associate dean roles to be added.
        ii. New Referral Discussion Items (handout): (deferred)
            1. Potential inconsistencies with the CBA
            2. Appendix D (graduate grievance procedure and definition for student ombuds)
            3. Appendix E (refers to Banner)
            4. Academic Integrity Violations Committee (see email from E. Callahan)
            5. Subcommittee Membership
            6. Committee List
            7. Committee proliferation (how committees are formed/ disbanded) (also carry-over)
            8. Officers of the University
            9. Faculty Coordinator of Online Instruction
            10. Four colleges to “all colleges”

11. Schools and School Directors
12. Executive Director of AV campus
13. Staff representative on Senate (also carry-over)

d. Carry Over from 2025-2026:
   i. Academic Tuition/ Scholarship Waiver (handout) - Tabled for further consideration. Provost Thien explained that the issue is complex and may require coordination beyond the Senate.
   ii. Instructional Budget Model and Faculty Participation (deferred)
   iii. Senate Release time (deferred)
   iv. Faculty recruitment/ involvement for the Student Success Framework (deferred)
   v. Referrals for Consideration for FAC:
      1. Classroom Observation Expectations / Teaching Expectations and Rigor
         a. Z. Zenko requested an EC referral to FAC for classroom-observation and teaching-expectation issues, including expectations for tenured faculty.
      2. Department Chair Elections and Appointments / Program Director Elections and Appointments
      3. Department Chair Reviews and Program Director reviews
      4. Faculty Awards and Recognition Processes
      5. Faculty Mentorship and Professional Development
      6. Authorship and Scholarly Ethics
      7. Unit RTP Criteria Transparency
         a. Z. Zenko confirmed that this item can be removed from the request for referral because Unit RTP criteria are being posted on the Faculty Affairs website.
      8. Creation of a Service-Learning University-wide Committee – AAC (handout)
      9. Academic Senate / CPR / Faculty Affairs "Summit" – FAC (handout)
      10. Updating IRB description, membership and roles. (handout)
         a. Z. Zenko requested an EC referral to FAC.
      11. Student Ombudsperson description, role, duties (handout)
         a. Z. Zenko requested an EC referral to FAC.
   vi. IACUC and HSIRB Updates (HOLD; more information needed)
e. SOCI concern raised at Senate, September 10, regarding courses with fewer than six students (deferred)
   i. Handbook 305.4.4 “Student Role in the Performance Review Process for Instructional Faculty.”

7. <u>Agenda Items for Senate</u> (Time Certain: 11:15 AM)

Agenda
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. Thein and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

Guests: President Harper

I. Call to Order
   a. Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
   b. Robert's Rules of Order
   c. Interruption Statement

II. Approval of Minutes
   a. September 10, 2026 (handout)

III. Announcements and Information
   a. President's Report – V. Harper **(Time Certain: 10:10 AM)** (handout)
   b. Elections and Appointments – T. Tsantsoulas (handout)
   c. Upcoming Events/ Information:
      i. October 19 - Fall 2026 Budget Open Forum
         1. 11 AM to 12 noon; Student Union MPR and virtual

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

V. Reports
   a. Provost's Report – D. Thien **(Time Certain: 10:30 AM)**
   b. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka
   c. ASI Report – Senator Kaur
   d. Staff Report – Senator C. Zúñiga-Prado (handout)
   e. Committee Reports:

i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas (handout)
    1. 2026-2027 Senate Log
ii. Standing Committees:
    1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) – Senator Deal, Chair (handout)
    2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS) – Senator Kirstein, Chair (handout)
    3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Wu, Chair (handout)
    4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Zenko, Chair (handout)

f. CFA Report – D. Horn, CFA Bakersfield

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

a. Consent Agenda: No items.
b. Old Business:
    i. RES 262702 – Transitioning to Online SOCIs – FAC (handout)
c. New Business:
    i. RES 262703 – Policy on Global Announcements on the Canvas Dashboard – AS&SS (handout)
    ii. RES 262704 – Updates to Bylaws – EC (handout)

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

VIII. Adjournment

8. <u>Adjournment</u>

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