



Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2026

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Minutes

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Location: Dezember 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 (alt. E. Montoya, virtual), CSU Senator N. Michieka (excused), AH Senator T. Tsantsoulas, AH Senator M. Naser (virtual), BPA Senator D. Wu, BPA Senator S. Sarma, NSME Senator L. Kirstein, NSME Senator A. Stokes, SSE Senator Z. Zenko, SSE Senator S. Roberts (alt. for Spring 2026 K. Henderson), AV Senator K. Holloway (virtual), At-Large Senator H. He (alt. L. Punsalan), At-Large Senator A. Grombly (alt. K. Lattimore, virtual), At-Large Senator A. Hays, At-Large Senator A. Lauer, At-Large Senator T. Salisbury, At-Large Senator R. Dugan, Lecturer Electorate Senator D. Horn, Senator H. Gonzalez – Staff Representative, Senator E. Reed – ASI Executive Vice-President, VP AA & Provost D. Thien, Senator J. Dong – Dean Representative, and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

In-person Guests: President Harper and K. Warner.

Virtual Guests: See attached.

- 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 10:04 am following the resolution of technology issues and read the land acknowledgement and reminded Senators of Robert's Rules of Order. Chair Danforth stated that Senator Zenko would be serving as Timekeeper.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. April 16, 2026 (handout)
 - i. Senator Kirstein motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Zenko with a few abstentions recorded. Minutes approved.
- III. Announcements and Information
 - a. President's Report – V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 am**) (handout)
 - i. President Harper reported on the following items:

1. Campus Events and Recognition:
 - a. Recognition of faculty/staff service awards (20+ years of service).
 - b. Successful President's Associates event that highlighted high-achieving students and donor support.
 - c. Service Awards recognized faculty and staff service. President Harper congratulated Chair Danforth on her 20 years of service at CSUB.
 2. Strategic Initiatives:
 - a. President Harper reported on the ongoing efforts to expand CSUB's regional impact and reputation and upcoming announcement regarding clinical trials in partnership with a startup. There will be potential to bring significant funding (millions) to the region and it is aimed at advancing precision medicine and expanding the university scope. President Harper also shared updates on the status of the "Kern's University Campaign" which included the installation of a Rowdy mascot statue at the airport and another on campus to be unveiled in the fall.
 3. Administrative Updates and Searches:
 - a. Athletics Director Search: The search committee is being finalized, and the search is expected to continue over summer with candidates expected in the fall. There is an anticipated start date of January 2027. The report from the commission will be used to guide their work.
 - b. VP for People and Culture: President Harper announced the departure of VP L. Blodorn and congratulated her on her new role at Oregon State. An interim external appointment is planned. A national search will be conducted over the summer with faculty involvement expected (with compensation).
 - c. VP for University Advancement: President Harper also announced VP H. Niemeyer's departure as he has accepted a position in Texas. The transition plan includes an external interim appointment with a national search to begin soon.
 - i. VP H. Niemeyer thanked the President and Senate Executive Committee for their advocacy and work.
- ii. Q&A/ Discussion:
1. Senators raised concerns about the high turnover in leadership positions and the ability to recruit equally strong replacements. Concerns were also voiced regarding transparency and shared governance, as well as the direction and effectiveness of People and Culture. President Harper responded that departures are typical in competitive environments and efforts are underway to ensure strong replacements. The searches will be national and inclusive.
 2. Additional concerns were raised regarding workload, compensation, and campus climate as contributing factors to departures.

3. Senator Lauer asked if more details could be shared regarding the clinical trials initiative. President Harper responded that more information will be released publicly in upcoming news coverage.
- b. Elections and Appointments – D. Solano (handout)
 - i. Vice-Chair Solano briefly reminded Senators to complete the Qualtrics survey regarding service on the Standing Committees. If any Senators are interested in chairing a subcommittee, they will need to complete the additional Qualtrics Survey to specify their interest in chairing.
 - c. Upcoming Events:
 - i. May 7 – Senate Meeting
 1. Session 1: Final Senate Meeting of 2025-2026
 - a. Time: 10 -11 am
 2. Session 2: 2026-2027 Senate Organizational Meeting
 - a. Time: 11 – 11:30 am
 - b. 2026-2027 Senators Only
 - c. Picture of 2026-2027 Senate taken outside (Time TBA)
 - ii. May 16 – Commencement, Dignity Health Arena
 1. 8:30 am – AH, BPA, NSME and Criminal Justice
 2. 1:30 pm – SSE
 3. csub.edu/commencement
 - d. Submitted Reports for 2025-2026 (*written reports only*):
 - i. Faculty Teaching & Learning Center Activities – R. Weller (handout)
 - ii. GECCo Report – E. Montoya (handout)
 - iii. Faculty Ombuds Report – A. Hegde (handout)
 - iv. URC Report – No recommendations; no report.
 - v. Chair Danforth asked Senators to review the submitted reports from FTLC, GECCo, and the Faculty Ombuds.

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

- a. Senator Zenko motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Senator Kirstein. Agenda approved, including consent agenda item RES 252649 Commencement – Spring 2026.

V. Reports

- a. ASI Report – Senator Reed (deferred)
- b. Provost’s Report – D. Thien (**Time Certain: 10:25 AM**) (handout)
 - i. Provost Thien highlighted the ongoing “season of celebration” recognizing student achievements across campus and also reported on the following:
 1. Instructional Budget Model Debrief: Provided an update on the Instructional Budget Model held the previous week, which drew strong participation. The central principle emphasized in that discussion is that resources should follow students and their needs, with a focus on improving access,

progression, and degree completion. She noted that ongoing feedback is being gathered from multiple campus groups and that improving student access to needed courses, particularly through better scheduling, is a key priority, with potential implementation of enhanced scheduling software under consideration.

2. Faculty Lines Requests: Updated the Senate on the faculty lines request process, noting that department chairs have submitted requests to deans, with dean recommendations forthcoming. Final authorizations, pending budget considerations, are expected to be announced the week of May 11.
- ii. Due to time constraints, discussion and questions were deferred to the Open Forum.
- c. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka (deferred)
- d. Staff Report – Senator Gonzalez (deferred)
- e. Committee Reports: (deferred)
 - 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)
 - a. Memo – Recommendation on Referral #04 Time Blocks
 4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Zenko (handout)
 - a. Memo - Guidance on RTP Processes, WPAF Expectations, and Evaluation Practices
- f. CFA Report – T. Salisbury, CFA Bakersfield (deferred)

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

- a. Consent Agenda
 - i. RES 252649 – Commencement, Spring 2026 – EC (handout)
 1. Resolution approved with the agenda.
- b. Old Business:
 - i. RES 252638 – New Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering – AAC, BPC (handout)
 1. Senator Tsantsoulas and Senator Lauer presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AAC and BPC.
 2. Motion carried; majority voted in favor. Resolution passed.
 - ii. RES 252639 – Program Name Change from a Bachelor of Arts in Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (CAFS) to a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) – AAC, BPC (handout)
 1. Senator Tsantsoulas and Senator Lauer presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AAC and BPC.
 2. Motion carried; majority voted in favor. Resolution passed.

- iii. RES 252640 – Department Name Change from Human Development and Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies (HD-CAFS) to Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) – AAC, BPC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Tsantsoulas and Senator Lauer presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AAC and BPC.
 - 2. Motion carried; majority voted in favor. Resolution passed.
- iv. RES 252641 – Readmission Requirements Following Academic Disqualification - AAC, AS&SS (handout)
 - 1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AAC and AS&SS.
 - 2. Senator Zenko motioned to vote; seconded by Senator Dugan. Motion carried; majority voted in favor. Resolution passed.
- v. RES 252629 – Academic, Curricular, and Student Support Software Governance – AS&SS (handout)
 - 1. Senator Kirstein presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AS&SS.
 - 2. Discussion/ Amendments:
 - a. Amendment proposed by Vice-Chair D. Solano regarding the current Elections and Appointments cycle. Senator Kirstein motioned to accept the amendment, seconded by Senator Zenko. Majority voted in favor; amendment passed.
 - b. Provost Thien asked questions regarding the process and Senator Henderson shared some of the work done on the committee and the faculty contribution.
 - 3. Majority voted in favor; resolution passed as amended.
- vi. RES 252644 – Guidance on WPAF Contents and Timelines for Review – Handbook Change- FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of FAC and related memorandum from FAC (refer to Standing Committee reports).
 - 2. Discussion:
 - a. Provost Thien emphasized the importance of clarity and consistency in RTP processes, noting the importance of these processes for faculty. She stated that sufficient time will be needed to ensure effective implementation of any changes and that it is unlikely new RTP-related changes would be fully implemented in the upcoming academic year.
 - b. Senator Zenko responded by referencing the FAC memorandum accompanying the agenda, which highlights the complexity of RTP processes and the need for clearer guidance. The memo also calls for ongoing training and support for faculty, department chairs, and administrators involved in the review process. It was further noted that the rollout of Interfolio will require additional coordination and training,

and that its implementation is not expected to impact the immediate review cycle.

- c. Senator Dong: Wanted it noted for minutes that faculty going into review this year will not be penalized and that there is a grace period.
Chair Danforth: Answered that yes, there will be a grace period.
- 3. Motion carried; majority voted in favor. Resolution passed.
- vii. RES 252647 – Acting Appointments – Handbook Change – FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of FAC.
 - 2. Motion carried; majority voted in favor. Resolution passed.
- viii. RES 252624 – Expressions of the Senate- Bylaws Changes – EC (handout)
 - 1. Chair Danforth presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of EC.
 - 2. Vote: Majority voted in favor; motion carried. Resolution passed with one abstention.
- ix. RES 252628 – Inventory of Automated Decision-Making Software for the Classroom – AS&SS (handout)
 - 1. Senator Kirstein presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AS&SS.
 - 2. Discussion/ Amendments:
 - a. Friendly amendment proposed by Chair Danforth regarding formatting.
 - b. VP and Chief Information Officer, C. Diniz confirmed that ITS will not be monitoring software use, just gathering data.
 - 3. Motion carried; majority voted in favor. Resolution passed.
- x. RES 252648 – Teaching Modality – Handbook Changes – AAC, FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AAC and FAC, noting that updates were made in response to feedback from first reading. The revisions clarify that departments and programs are primarily responsible for determining course modality during scheduling, while also affirming that college deans retain a management role to ensure alignment with institutional priorities such as access, mission, and resource constraints. Additional language emphasizes that any deviations from departmental recommendations should be documented and justified based on these considerations.
 - 2. Discussion:
 - a. Senator Dugan: Suggested clarifying that the requirement to maintain a sufficient proportion of face-to-face courses applies specifically to stateside programs, particularly in light of fully online programs.
 - b. Due to time constraints, discussion was paused for New Business time certain (and ultimately deferred until the next meeting).
- c. New Business: **(Time Certain: 11:05 AM)**
 - i. RES 252643 – Policies & Procedures for Establishing New Schools – EC (handout)

1. Chair Danforth presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of Executive Committee.
2. Discussion/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Hays commented that edits were needed under “B. ii. 1.” regarding credentials.
- ii. RES 252642 – Post-Enrollment Requirement Checking (PERC) Timing Alignment for Prerequisite Verification and Enrollment Stability – AAC, AS&SS (handout)
 1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and AS&SS.
 2. Discussion/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Tsantsoulas: encouraged Senators to turn in grades on time
 - b. Chair Danforth: Fall PERCs will be generated from the spring PERC report?
 - c. Senator Henderson: Question about how this process currently happens on campus; happens. Chair Danforth noted that for some programs (e.g., ABET-accredited programs) prerequisite reinforcement is required and that emails go out to staff (ASCs) who generate preliminary reports.
 - d. Vice-Chair Solano: concerns voiced regarding the fourth resolve that students need to be notified and given opportunity to meet with an advisor, but if they haven’t met with an advisor, they still need to be dropped.
 - e. Senator Dong: Agreed with Vice-Chair Solano. The intention is good, but suggested some rewording, such as “to allow students to have an opportunity to meet with an advisor.”
 - f. Chair Danforth stated that additional feedback can be sent to Senator Tsantsoulas and Senator Kirstein.

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

- a. Senator Lauer and others commented on issues with trash cans being emptied particularly outside Science I and butterfly garden and concerns with facilities/custodial operations. Senator Gonzalez encouraged staff to contact him regarding union related concerns in response to Senator Lauer’s comments and recommended Service Now to report and record issues. Other Senators commented on animals being dumped on campus, and conversation continued regarding people walking dogs on campus and not picking up after them and the dogs not being leashed, which is an endangerment to the kit foxes.
- b. Senator Gonzalez expressed appreciation to those that attended the Athletics listening sessions and encouraged participation in the Staff Forum Golf Classic mentioning that there are volunteer opportunities. Senator Gonzalez also reported that Staff Forum has sent out the call for staff representative for Academic Senate and that the call outlines the process.

Senator Gonzalez encouraged anyone with questions regarding the process to contact himself or Staff Forum Co-Chairs Tabitha and Merry Coder.

- i. Senate Analyst Van Grinsven asked if Staff Forum will still be hosting staff listening sessions regarding the Staff Senator. Senator Gonzalez responded that no, they will not be as the deadline is too quickly approaching.
- c. President Harper expressed appreciation for the Senator and Standing Committees work this year.
- d. Senator Salisbury reported that CFA bargaining remains stalled, with limited movement from the CSU on key issues. She noted that proposals across multiple areas (including salary, workload, artificial intelligence, childcare, and healthcare) are either being met with status quo responses or potential cuts. Concern was raised about the direction of AI-related policies and broader system-level decisions coming from the Chancellor's Office. Senator Salisbury emphasized that the union is moving toward impasse, which could lead to renewed discussions of strike action. She cautioned that the campus should take these developments seriously, especially given prior challenges in mobilizing for collective action. Additional concerns were raised about job security, including the loss of lecturer positions and the broader impact on departments. She encouraged increased awareness, engagement, and participation from faculty moving forward, noting the need for more individuals to step into leadership and support roles within the union.

VIII. Adjournment

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

Academic Senate 2025-2026 AY

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