



Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2026

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Agenda – Session 2

11:00 – 11:30 AM

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

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

2026-2027 Senate: 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, 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 Senator D. Horn (alt. D. Stowe), Senator TBA – Staff Representative, Senator N. Kaur – ASI Vice-President, VP AA & Provost D. Thien, Senator D. Cours – Dean Representative, and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Picture of the 2026-2027 Senate to be taken outdoors (**Time Certain: 11:00 AM**)
 - b. Information:
 - i. Academic Senate Orientation (handout)
- II. Introduction of Members (handout)
- III. Approval of Academic Senate Meeting Schedule 2026-2027 (handout)
- IV. Election of Standing Committee Chairs (Statements of Interest attached – see handout)
 - a. Academic Affairs Committee
 - b. Academic Support and Student Services Committee
 - c. Budget and Planning Committee
 - d. Faculty Affairs Committee
- V. Adjournment (**Time Certain: 11:30 AM**)



ACADEMIC SENATE
CSU BAKERSFIELD

Academic Senate 2026-2027

Position	Name	Department	Term
Chair*	Melissa Danforth	Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	May 2026-2028
Vice Chair*	Tiffany Tsantsoulas	Philosophy and Religious Studies	May 2026-2028
CSU Senator*	Charles Lam	Mathematics	May 2026-2029
CSU Senator*	Nyakundi Michieka	Economics	May 2025-2028
AH Representative	Maria Palaiologou	Philosophy and Religious Studies	May 2025-2027
AH Representative	Bianca Moreno	Communications	May 2026-2028
BPA Representative	Di Wu	Finance/Accounting	May 2026-2028
BPA Representative	Sumita Sarma	Management/Marketing	May 2025-2027
NSME Representative	Leslie Kirstein	Nursing	May 2026-2028
NSME Representative	Amber Stokes	Biology	May 2025-2027
SSE Representative	Zachary Zenko	Kinesiology	May 2025-2027
SSE Representative	Sarana Roberts	Special Education	May 2026-2028
Antelope Valley Representative	Kristine Holloway	Librarian	May 2026-2028
At-Large Representative	Heidi He	Nursing	May 2026-2028
At-Large Representative	Amanda Grombly	Librarian	May 2026-2028
At-Large Representative	Alice Hays	Teacher Education	May 2025-2027
At-Large Representative	Antje Lauer	Biology	May 2025-2027
At-Large Representative	John Deal	Economics	May 2026-2028
At-Large Representative	Rhonda Dugan	Sociology	May 2025-2027
Lecturer Electorate Representative	Dirk Horn	Political Science	May 2025-2027
Staff Representative	TBA	TBA	May 2026-2028
ASI President	Noor Kaur	ASI President	May 2026-2027
Dean Representative	Deborah Cours	College Dean of Business and Public Administration	May 2026-2027
VP for Academic Affairs **	Deborah Thien	Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs	
Administrative Contact**	Katherine Van Grinsven	Academic Senate Analyst	

* Executive Committee

** Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member

Academic Senate

California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Hwy. • 22 EDUC • Bakersfield, CA 93311



Fall 2026

August

8/17 All Faculty Due on Campus
8/21 Fall GFM
8/25 EC
8/27 Senate

September

9/3 Standing Committees
9/8 EC
9/10 Senate
9/17 Standing Committees
9/22 EC
9/24 Senate

October

10/1 Standing Committees
10/6 EC
10/8 Senate
10/15 Standing Committees
10/20 EC
10/22 Senate
10/29 Standing Committees

November

11/3 EC
11/5 Senate
11/12 Standing Committees
11/17 EC
11/19 Standing Committees
Fall Break: 11/26/2026 – 11/27/2026

December

12/1 EC
12/3 Senate
Winter Break: 12/19/2026 – 01/19/2027

General Meeting Information:

Executive Committee (EC)

- Day of week: Tuesdays
- Number of meetings: 8
- Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- Location: BPA Conference Room, BDC A 134

Standing Committees

- Day of week: Thursdays
- Number of meetings: 7
- Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- Locations: TBA
 - Academic Affairs Committee
 - Academic Support and Student Services
 - Budget and Planning Committee
 - Faculty Affairs Committee

Senate

- Day of week: Thursdays
- Number of meetings: 7
- Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- Location: DLDC Building D – Aera Combo Room, 409-411 and virtual.

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Spring 2027

January

- 1/20 All Faculty Due on Campus
- 1/ 22 Spring GFM
- 1/26 EC
- 1/28 Standing Committees

February

- 2/2 EC
- 2/4 Senate
- 2/11 Standing Committees
- 2/16 EC
- 2/18 Senate
- 2/25 Standing Committees

March

- 3/2 EC
- 3/4 Senate
- 3/11 Standing Committees
- 3/16 EC
- 3/18 Senate
- Spring Break: 03/22/2027 – 03/28/2027

April

- 4/1 Standing Committees
- 4/6 EC
- 4/8 Senate
- 4/15 Standing Committees
- 4/20 EC
- 4/22 Senate
- 4/29 Standing Committees

May

- 5/4 EC
- 5/6 Senate
- 5/11 EC
- 5/13 Senate Organizational Meeting
- 5/18 Summer Senate
(2026-27 and 2027-28 EC)

General Meeting Information:

Executive Committee (EC)

- Day of week: Tuesdays
- Number of meetings: 9
- Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- Location: BPA Conference Room, BDC A 134

Standing Committees

- Day of week: Thursdays
- Number of meetings: 7
- Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- Locations: TBA
 - Academic Affairs Committee
 - Academic Support and Student Services
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 - Faculty Affairs Committee

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Number of Nominations Received

Committee	Count
Academic Affairs	1
Academic Support & Student Services	1
Budget & Planning	1
Faculty Affairs	1

Academic Affairs (AAC) Statements of Interest

Academic Affairs (AAC) Statements of Interest

John Deal

I am writing to submit my name for consideration as Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the University Academic Senate for the 2026-27 academic year. I served on the Academic Senate during the 2023-2025 academic years, including serving on the Executive Committee in the 2024-25 academic year. I have served on the Academic Affairs Committee for three years, including as Chair during the 2024-25 academic year. In addition, I have contributed to curriculum development through two years of service on the General Education Committee. During my time on GECCo and as chair of ACC, we revised the general education program to incorporate the Cal-GETC requirements. I also served four years on the BPA Curriculum Committee, where I served as Chair for two years. Beyond committee work, I have made significant contributions to three program reviews and acted as assessment coordinator for the Economics department. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as the AAC chair and contribute to the important work of the Academic Senate.

Academic Support & Student Services (AS&SS) Statements of Interest

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Leslie Kirstein

I am interested in serving another term as Chair of the Academic Support & Student Services Committee, grounded in a continued commitment to shared governance and student success. Over the past year, our committee has advanced initiatives related to instructional technology, student support systems, and transparency in the use of automated decision-making tools, which has required collaboration across campus partners and alignment with systemwide expectations. Through this experience, I have grown in my confidence to lead the committee, navigate complex discussions and occasional conflict, and expand my understanding of university operations. I have also valued the opportunity to collaborate with faculty, staff, administrators, and to remain attentive to student voices in shaping policies that directly impact the student experience. I would like to continue this work by refining and advancing resolutions that were not passed this academic year, while maintaining a focus on clear, actionable policy development, meaningful collaboration, and a sustained commitment to equity, access.

Budget & Planning (BPC) Statements of Interest

Di
Wu

I would like to express my interest in chairing the Budget and Planning Committee of the 2026–2027 CSUB Academic Senate (AS-BPC). I believe my experience and commitment make me an ideal candidate for this role. I have actively contributed to shared governance through service on the Academic Senate and its standing committees (AAC, ASSC, and BPC, 2018–present), as a BPA senator representative (2022–present), and as BPC vice-chair (2022–2023) and chair (2023–2024 and 2024–2025). These roles have strengthened my leadership skills and deepened my understanding of institutional priorities and processes.

As a previous BPC chair (2023–2024 and 2024–2025), I have organized budget open forums, contributed to master planning and space management efforts, and served on the Academic Senate Executive Committee. These experiences have given me a strong understanding of our university's fiscal landscape and strategic challenges, as well as the importance of collaboration across campus stakeholders. My background in accounting, along with professional and community leadership roles, including past President of the Bakersfield Chapter of the California Society of CPAs and Global Board Director for the Institute of Management Accountants, has provided me with expertise in budgeting, financial planning, and performance evaluation. I bring these skills to support informed, transparent decision-making on campus.

I am fully prepared to continue serving in this capacity and understand the responsibilities and time commitment required. I am deeply committed to transparency, integrity, accountability, shared governance, and collaboration as I work to support our campus community.

Faculty Affairs (FAC) Statements of Interest

Faculty Affairs (FAC) Statements of Interest

Zachary
Zenko

I am submitting my interest in serving as Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee for the 2026–2027 academic year. I bring four years of direct Academic Senate experience to this role, including one year as a committee member, one year as a senator, and two years as Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee. While I had not initially planned to serve a third term as chair, recognizing the importance of shared governance and leadership rotation, I am nominating myself in response to current needs. I had regularly discussed finding the next FAC chair in our FAC meetings, and had clearly indicated that I did not anticipate nominating myself.

But, part of faculty leadership is serving when needed.

After consulting with several highly qualified and eligible colleagues who are unable to serve at this time, I believe it is important to provide continuity and experienced leadership during a period of transition. As 2026–2027 will be my final year on the Academic Senate, prior to a planned break, I am prepared to serve in this capacity with a clear commitment to supporting both the committee and the broader faculty.

During my time as Chair, I have led a highly productive and collaborative Faculty Affairs Committee, advancing a substantial portfolio of policy and handbook revisions that strengthen clarity, equity, and consistency in faculty processes. I am grateful to the Faculty Affairs Committee colleagues and friends that I have been able to work with.

This year alone, the committee has developed and advanced resolutions addressing sabbatical evaluation and feedback, lecturer electorate procedures, RTP and PTR committee composition, the transition to online SOCI, department chair terms, required elements and guidance for Unit RTP criteria, faculty workload and expectations for RSCA and service, the establishment of the Senior Lecturer honorific, WPAF content and timelines, periodic evaluation procedures, and acting appointments. In prior years, I led work on key initiatives such as evaluation of academic administrators, SOCI administration processes, and broader faculty-centered policy considerations. As a member of the Executive Committee, I have also contributed to major resolutions such as RES 252605, 252606, and 252624. Although some of our resolutions are still awaiting signature from the President, I believe that our work has been highly effective and will meaningfully improve campus processes.

My leadership approach emphasizes transparency, inclusivity, and thorough consultation. I have worked closely with campus constituencies, including DCLC, faculty across colleges, academic administrators, and Academic Senate leadership, to ensure that policies are both well-informed and broadly supported. I am particularly attentive to the complexity of faculty evaluation systems and have prioritized efforts to make RTP and periodic evaluation processes more navigable, consistent, and fair, while maintaining rigor and alignment with contractual obligations.

I also value clear communication and faculty development, advocating for improved guidance, training, and resources to support successful implementation of policy changes. I believe these statements are well supported by the activities of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

This is an ongoing process, and I hope that the future FAC will address some needs that have been identified in this and prior years, such as the RSCA reports (which I believe are areas that require perpetual attention), issues related to department chair and program director elections, and issues related to faculty honors and awards processes.

If selected, I will focus on maintaining the momentum of the committee's work while supporting a thoughtful transition to new membership. This includes mentoring emerging leaders who may not have served on the Faculty Affairs Committee previously, sustaining collaborative relationships, and continuing to refine faculty policies in ways that reflect both institutional needs and faculty needs and experiences.

I would be honored to serve in this role for the 2026–2027 academic year.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAKERSFIELD

The Academic Senate: How It Works

California State University, Bakersfield

Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU)

- Provides the official voice of the faculty in matters of system-wide concern
- Provides the means for faculty to participate in collegial forms of governance based on historic academic traditions as recognized by California law
- Promotes academic excellence
- Is the formal policy-recommending body on system-wide academic, professional, and academic personnel matters

Academic Senate CSU Constitution, Article 1, Section 1

<https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate>

Role of the ASCSU

Offers advice on all issues regarding system operations while respecting campus autonomy through:

- Resolutions
- Senate and CSU system-wide committee participation
- Position papers
- Direct communication with the administration

Promotes two-way communication to/from local senates

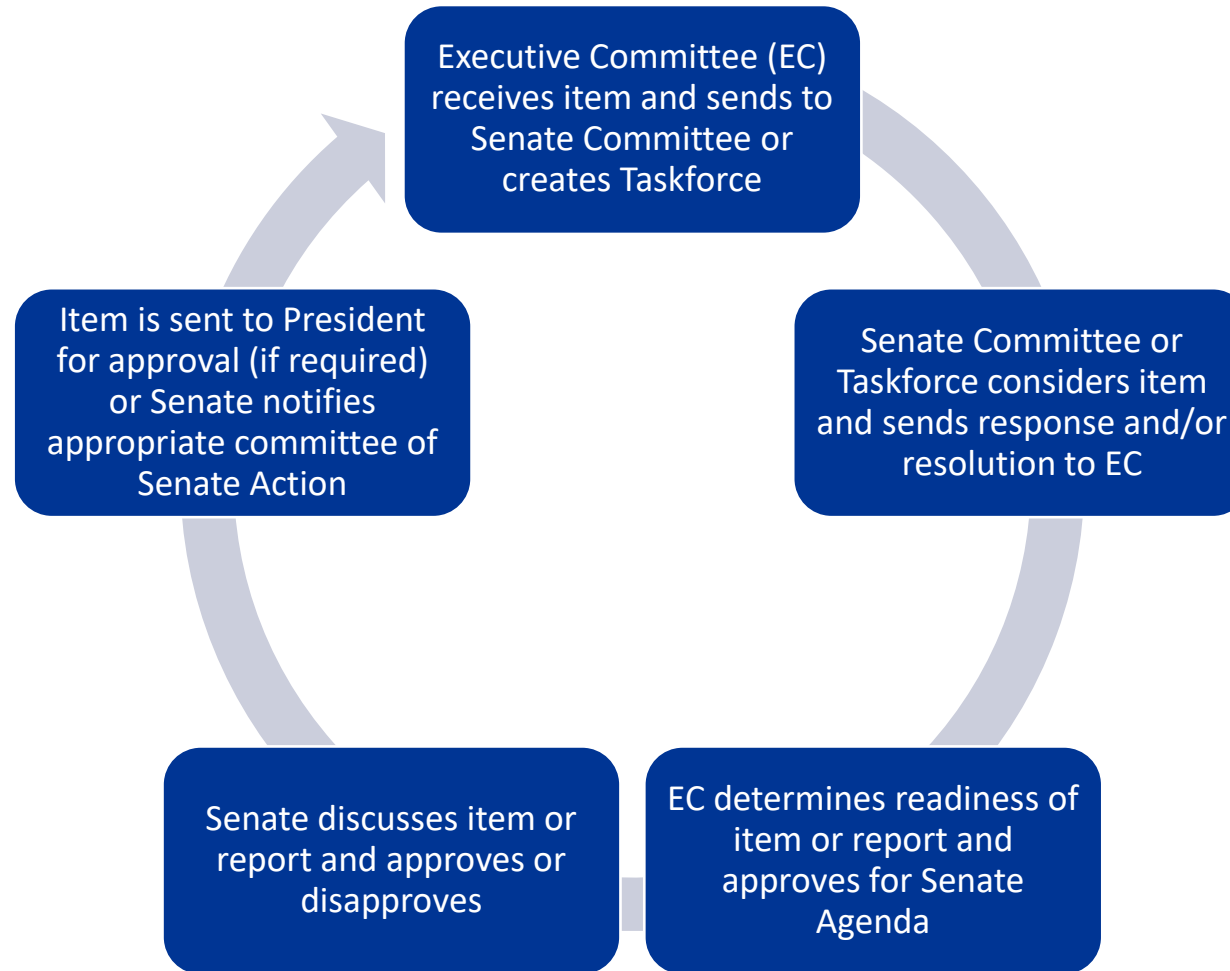
- Academic Senate Chairs Council
- Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) - Represents three systems

The CSUB Academic Senate

The purposes of this organization shall be:

1. to exercise the rights and authority specifically delegated to the Faculty by the Board of Trustees as well as the Chancellor of the CSU
 - developing policy that governs the awarding of grades and granting of degrees
 - making recommendations to the University President on matters including fiscal policies and budgetary priorities (added June 28, 2018)
2. to serve as the primary consultative body in the University in formulating, evaluating and recommending to the president policies concerning
 - curriculum & instruction
 - appointments, promotion, evaluation & granting of tenure to faculty members
 - academic administrative matters of the institution
3. to serve as the primary body through which members of the faculty may express opinions on matters affecting the welfare of the University

How Business Moves Through CSUB Shared Governance



See handout: [Detailed Process Map](#)

Procedures

The regular order of business subject to change by majority vote:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Announcements and Information (Guests: limited time/time certain; Floor: brief)
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Report from CSU Academic Senators
6. Provost's Report
7. Committee Reports (Can be suspended or delayed for urgent business)
8. Resolutions
 - a. Consent Agenda (automatically approved with agenda)
 - b. Old Business
 - c. New Business
9. Open Forum Items
10. Adjournment

Robert's Rules: Making a Motion

A motion is a proposal that the entire membership take action or a stand on an issue.

How to make a motion

1. Raise hand, get permission to speak
2. "I move that (BAS) CFO be added as an ex-officio non-voting member to BPC"
3. Wait for your motion to be seconded
4. Chair will restate if seconded
5. Expand your motion
6. Put question to Membership
7. Vote on motion

See handout: [Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order](#)

Resolution Process

Two reading rule

- Allows Senators time to reflect and consult on the issues
- Can be waived under certain circumstances

Facilitating rules move discussion within democratic process

- Reading materials before the Senate meeting
- Request to be added to the speaker list (Vice Chair maintains)
- Speaking only twice on an issue and not repeating comments
- Comments must concisely address the merits of the motion on the floor

Standing Committee Rules

- Standing Committee Chairs shall be elected by the Academic Senate from its membership at the Organizational Senate meeting at the end of Spring semester
- The Summer Senate shall appoint members of each Standing Committee, subject to ratification at the first regular Senate meeting of the Fall semester
- Topics for policy recommendations come to a Standing Committee only on Referral from the Academic Senate Executive Committee or the Senate Chair
- Notice of Referral shall be included in the Academic Senate Log, which shall be attached to the next Senate Agenda

Standing Committee Rules (Continued)

- Each Standing Committee Chair may appoint subcommittees without membership restrictions
- All Standing Committee meetings shall be open
 - Committees may, by simple majority vote, go into closed session to consider confidential matters, such as but not limited to appointments, recommendations concerning naming of facilities, or similar items
 - Regular business of each committee shall be in open session
- The presence of a majority of voting committee members constitutes quorum
- Standing Committee Chairs shall provide progress reports on the work of their committees at the regular meeting of the Academic Senate

Academic Affairs Committee Membership

Voting members

- Seven faculty members (one from each school and three at-large)
- One student appointed by ASI

Ex officio & non-voting members

- AVP for Academic Affairs & Dean of Academic Programs
- Director of Academic Operations
- GE Director

Academic Affairs Committee Functions

The Academic Affairs Committee functions shall be to review and report to the Academic Senate its recommendations regarding:

- All new academic policies, procedures, programs, and curricula having inter-school or all-university impact
- Proposed changes to the University Catalog that have inter-school or all-university impact
- The Academic Plan
- Proposed changes in the implementation of the General Education Program

In addition, the Academic Affairs Committee shall serve as the University Curriculum Committee for interschool programs that have required courses for majors and/or minors (i.e., not electives) in more than one school

Academic Support & Student Services Membership

Voting members

- Seven faculty members (one from each school, one librarian, and two at-large)
- One Student Services Professional
- One Staff member
- One Student - ASI Vice President (or designee)

Ex officio & non-voting members

- Associate Dean Undergraduate & Graduate Studies
- Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee)
- Executive Director of Associated Student, Inc. (ASI)
- AVP for Enrollment Management (or designee)
- Dean of Libraries (or designee)

Academic Support & Student Services Functions

The Academic Support and Student Services Committee functions shall be to make policy recommendations to the Academic Senate concerning:

- the library
- media services
- student services
- international students
- the cafeteria
- the bookstore
- the computer center
- the campus police

The committee shall monitor the University's academic support and student services programs and make recommendations to the appropriate administrator

Budget & Planning Committee Membership

Voting members

- Seven faculty members (one from each school, one librarian, and two at-large)
- One Staff member
- AVP for Student Affairs
- One Student - ASI President (or designee)

Ex officio & non-voting members

- Academic Senate Chair
- Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Chief Financial Officer (AVP for BAS)

Budget & Planning Committee Functions

The functions of the Budget and Planning Committee shall be to make recommendations to the Academic Senate on all policies and procedures related to:

- Setting institutional priorities
- Allocating and utilizing University resources
- Jointly with the Academic Affairs Committee
- Approve the Academic Plan
- Review new academic programs
- Review existing programs
- Respond to the needs of the University's service region

The committee shall monitor the University's planning processes and coordinate revisions to the Mission and Goals Statement.

Faculty Affairs Committee Membership

Voting members

- Seven faculty members (one from each school, one librarian, and two at-large)

Ex officio & non-voting members

- AVP for Faculty Affairs
- CFA Representative (CFA President, Vice-President, or Faculty Rights Chair as determined by the CFA President)

Faculty Affairs Committee Functions

The functions of the Faculty Affairs Committee shall be to:

- Make recommendations to the Academic Senate on all policies and procedures concerning appointment, promotion, tenure, retention, evaluation, and other closely related matters
- Review and propose revisions to all sections of the Handbook
- Review and prepare recommendations concerning policies on faculty development, such as the University Research Council



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Guiding Principles

California State University, Bakersfield is actively committed to academic and personal exploration through open and respectful discourse.

As Runners We...

- Celebrate academic excellence
- Value integrity & self-reflection
- Embrace individual differences
- Collaborate to build community
- Engage in sustainable practices
- Strive to be local and global citizens
- Welcome new ideas
- Pursue life-long learning

In order to honor our shared purpose, we dedicate ourselves to these guiding principles.

Great conversations are based on:

Mutual Respect – recognizing that everyone has valuable and important contributions to make and are valued for what they bring to the conversation.

Trust – having the ability to rely on each other because a safe environment exists in which dialogue can be shared freely without judgment or negative consequences.

Responsibility – recognizing the duty to uphold mutual respect, building trust, making contributions, and listening to colleagues.

Contribution – sharing your thoughts, experiences, and knowledge with others to enhance the conversation by providing various points of view, exploring many options, and highlighting potential solutions.

Listening - paying attention to the person speaking, giving everyone the opportunity to speak, and seeking clarity by asking questions to gain understanding.

Source: adapted from *iExcellencia in Education!*

The background features a large, light blue watermark of the Baker University seal. The seal is circular and contains the text "BAKER UNIVERSITY" at the top and "BAKER SEFIELD" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a sunburst design with rays emanating from a central point, flanked by two olive branches. The year "1879" is also visible within the seal's design.

**Thank you for your willingness to
dedicate your time and effort to
support shared governance.**

Your voices and concerns are important to the university community, as are those of the persons you represent.