



ACADEMIC SENATE

CSU BAKERSFIELD

Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2025

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Zoom Link: <https://csub.zoom.us/j/89047995676?pwd=VEdFQVJkZTk5UUVzblQyNDR4UkZrUT09>

Senate Members: Chair M. Danforth, Vice-Chair D. Solano, Senator A. Hegde, Senator C. Lam (excused), Senator N. Michieka (excused), Senator T. Tsantsoulas (excused), Senator M. Naser (virtual), Senator D. Wu, Senator S. Sarma, Senator L. Kirstein, Senator A. Stokes (virtual), Senator Z. Zenko (virtual), Senator S. Roberts, Senator K. Holloway (virtual), Senator H. He, Senator A. Grombly, Senator E. Correa, Senator J. Deal, Senator R. Dugan, Senator T. Salisbury (absent), Senator J. Cornelison, Senator E. Pruitt, Interim Provost J. Rodriguez, Senator J. Dong and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

Virtual Guests: President V. Harper (virtual), E. Barnes, L. Blodorn, D. Boschini, S. Bozarth, K. Chavez, D. Cours, A. Gomez-Navarro, G. Guizar, N. Harris, L. Hernandez, M. Hernandez, T. Hickey, A. Jacobsen, V. Kirkbride, E. Kopp, K. Lattimore, C. Livingston, K. Lopez, M. Malhotra, S. Marks, V. Mayorga, B. Mendiola, Y. Morones, E. Navarrete Garibay, H. Neimeyer, J. Paschal, E. Poole Callahan, M. Quarles, M. Ramirez, M. Ruiz, E. Sanchez, D. Stowe, D. Valdez Arranaga, L. Vega, K. Warner, K. Watson, and M. Whisler.

- I. Call to Order and Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Vice-Chair Solano called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February 13, 2025 (handout) with Memos from PAAC
 - i. Senator Correa motioned to approve the minutes; Senator Dugan seconded. Motioned carried; majority in favor. The minutes from February 13, 2025, were approved.
 - b. February 27, 2025 (handout)
 - i. Senator Deal motioned to approve the minutes; Senator Kirstein seconded. Motioned carried; majority in favor. The minutes from February 27, 2025, were approved.
- III. Announcements and Information
 - a. President's Report – V. Harper **(Time Certain: 10:10 AM)**
 - i. Report:

1. Traveling for the Big West Tournament. Unfortunately, the men's basketball team lost, however, they did a great job and worked very hard.
 2. The CSUB Student Research Competition took place last week. He gave a special shout out to the Biology Department.
 3. President Harper thanked Interim Provost Rodriguez, the DCLC, department chairs, and faculty lecturers for their hard work during this challenging time.
 4. Met with the CFA last week and appreciated their efforts and requests for more communication from the administration.
 5. President Harper participated in social media efforts made to encourage students to register for classes as soon as possible.
 6. President Harper recognizes that there have been some painful separations. They are working to align resources to the budget as of July 1, which they are anticipating not having a structural deficit and facing an 8% reduction. President Harper announced that there would be more changes to come and that he would be in communication with ASI and EC.
 7. Information regarding the Budget Open Forum, Academic Affairs Town Hall, and Lecturer Town Hall, will be announced soon. There is an investigation underway in Athletics. A notification will be sent to the campus regarding the investigation as soon as well.
 8. The Provost Search is underway. Candidates have been invited and scheduled to come to campus. President Harper thanked Interim Provost Rodriguez for his work and efforts.
- ii. Q&A/ Discussion:
1. Senator Correa asked if there were ways to increase motivation and moral and for the campus community during this difficult time. President Harper recognizes that there are ways to address wellness and will be working with VP for People and Culture L. Blodorn. CSUB has been elevated as R2, which is great news as it encourages research and resources.
- b. Elections and Appointments – D. Solano (handout)
- i. Memo from FAC_AARC Composition for Associate Deans (handout)
 - ii. Report:
 1. See handout for details regarding current calls and elections.
 2. Vice-Chair Solano: An official referral will be made to FAC to address the language in the University Handbook clarifying the composition of the Academic Administrator Review Committee for the Associate Deans.
 3. Vice-Chair Solano explained that there was some miscommunication regarding ITC. The BPA position is currently filled, so the election has been canceled.
 - iii. Q&A/ Discussion:
 1. Senator Grombly: Asked why the AIC committee does not have a librarian? Senator Solano responded that the committee does, however, it is an

appointed position, and the call will be issued after the calls for elected committees are complete.

c. Events:

- i. March 24 – Spring 2025 Budget Open Forum; 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM in the Student Union MPR and virtual (handout)

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

- a. Senator Correa motioned to approve the agenda; Senator Dugan seconded. Agenda approved.

V. Reports

- a. Interim Provost's Report – J. Rodriguez

i. Report:

1. Academic Affairs Town Hall dates will be communicated with the campus shortly.
2. EEGO will begin working with the departments to begin building the summer schedule.
3. The Commencement Committee met yesterday. Student registration for graduation is tracking ahead of the numbers from last spring. Last spring commencement there was a record number of students participating in the ceremony, so if the trends continue, it will be another record year.
4. Interim Provost Rodriguez is working with C. Diniz and K. Watson regarding ensuring that as many classrooms and academic spaces will be available as possible. Some classroom spaces have been taken offline over the past few years, and they are working on getting those spaces back online.
5. No Q&A.

- b. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka (deferred)

- c. ASI Report – Senator Pruitt

i. Report:

1. The Student Solidarity March was well attended. Senator Pruitt thanked all who attended and participated.
2. Senator Pruitt recently traveled to Sacramento where they advocated to legislators for the reconsideration of the governor's proposed budget and shared student concerns on campus.
3. ASI is working to spread the word regarding information about registration.
4. ASI Students had concerns regarding the timeline of the passing the resolution for the Academic Calendar and it would have been better if the 5-day period could have been waived to allow for sooner communication. Senator Pruitt asked if Chair Danforth would be willing to come to ASI to discuss and explain the process.

5. Senator Pruitt will be in Sacramento with President Harper and Dr. Watson to meet with the governor and state legislators.
- ii. Q&A/Discussion:
 1. Senator Correa asked if there was anything that faculty could do to support students.
- d. Staff Report – Senator Cornelison
 - i. Report: Senator Cornelison shared that with the change in the advising date, the Academic Advisors will begin campaigning for students to make advising appointments. Senator Cornelison shared that the academic advisors have voiced concerns over the delayed publication date of the 2025-2026 catalog.
 - ii. Q&A/Feedback: No items.
- e. Committee Reports:
 - i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Solano (handout)
 1. Report: see attached handout.
 2. Q&A/Feedback: No items.
 - ii. Standing Committees:
 1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)– Senator Deal (handout)
 - a. Senator Deal, AAC Chair, provided a report on behalf of AAC. See attached handout.
 2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS)– Senator Holloway (handout)
 - a. Senator Holloway, Vice-Chair for AS&SS provided a report on behalf of AS&SS. See attached handout.
 - b. The memorandum written by AS&SS regarding the Canvas Course end dates will be included in the Senate agenda for the meeting on March 27.
 - c. Q&A/Discussion:
 - i. Senator Dugan asked a procedural question regarding how far in the future a faculty member could go to update the course end date, particularly for students that have an incomplete. Senator Kirstein said that A. Slabey had said to reach out to him directly for assistance.
 3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Wu (handout)
 - a. Senator Wu, BPC Chair, provided a report on behalf of BPC. See attached handout.
 4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Zenko (handout)
 - a. Senator Zenko, FAC Chair, provided a report on behalf of FAC. See attached handout.
- f. CFA Report – Senator Roberts

- i. Senator Roberts provided an update on behalf of CFA; reminded the senators that there are several upcoming town halls and encouraged attendance in person.

VI. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:35 AM)**

- a. Consent Agenda: no items.
- b. Old Business:
 - i. RES 242519 – Interim Director of Academic Advising Report Extension – AS&SS (handout)
 - 1. Vice-Chair of AS&SS, Senator Holloway, presented the resolution for second reading.
 - a. Amendment: Senator Hegde proposed an amendment for the removal of the third resolved. Senator Correa seconded the amendment.
 - i. Senator Hegde provided his rationale for the amendment and that it would not be appropriate to require the Director of Advising to provide recommendations for the Senate, as it is not their role. Some discussion ensued between Senator Correa and Senator Grombly regarding the proposed amendment and that the committee was looking to reaffirm the role of advising as an academic affair and under the Senate purview. Senator Grombly and Vice-Chair Solano confirmed that another referral was sent to AS&SS addressing this concern, which passed at the last senate meeting.
 - b. The senators voted on the proposed amendment to strike the third resolved. Two votes were recorded in opposition with no abstentions. Motion carried and the proposed amendment passed.
 - 2. Chair Danforth called a motion to vote on the resolution. The majority of senators voted in favor of the resolution as amended. Motion carried; RES 242519 passed.
- c. New Business:
 - i. RES 242521 – Composition of the Search and Screening Committees for Academic Administrators – FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko, FAC Chair, presented the resolution for first reading.
 - 2. Q&A and Feedback:
 - a. Senator Hegde: Thanked FAC and Senator Zenko for their hard work on this proposed resolution. Senator Hegde recommended reviewing the language, sub-section b of 309.5.3, “in consultation with Cabinet.” Senator Zenko confirmed that this language was a carry-over from a previous version and agreed that replacing “Cabinet” with “the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate” would be appropriate.
 - b. Vice-Chair Solano suggested specification in 309.5.1 regarding whether the positions for Department Chair would be appointed or elected.

Vice-Chair Solano suggested FAC consider the size of the committee and instead possible language for a necessary appointment of a department chair if the other faculty are not department chairs.

ii. RES 242523 – Faculty are Humans (AS&SS and FAC) (handout)

1. FAC Chair, Senator Zenko presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of FAC and AS&SS.
2. Feedback/Q&A:
 - a. Senator Correa proposed potential challenges with the use of the term “individual” and recommends the removal of the term “individual.”
 - b. Senator Hegde suggested that section 108 of the University Handbook may be a more appropriate place to address the objective of this referral. Senator Roberts asked for clarification from Senator Hegde regarding the reference to section 108 and if it would be a separate resolution or in addition to the current proposed resolution. Senator Hegde confirmed that it could be included in the current proposed resolution with a separate resolve. Senator Holloway spoke against Senator Hegde’s comment regarding the use of the term “individual.”
 - c. Vice-Chair Solano is hesitant to remove the portion regarding the Distributed Learning Committee, as she does not believe the committee has been meeting or has been consulted.
 - d. Senator Grombly is in support of this resolution; however, they voiced concerns regarding courses that may be impacted by this resolution such as self-paced courses.
 - e. Senator Sarma requested clarification regarding whether there were courses that were totally taught through AI, automated, or just a simulated course where there is no instructor at all? Senator Hegde and Senator Pruitt confirmed that there are courses, such as those in the MBA program, which are pre-requisite courses, that are self-paced, however, there is still an instructor of record to verify the grade roster.
 - f. Chair Danforth: Suggests “while these tools might be used to facilitate the course with the records of approval... faculty would be an instructor of record.”

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

- a. Senator Pruitt expressed appreciation and gratitude to all who were involved in making the Career Conference a success for students.
- b. Senator Correa voiced the on-going technology challenges on campus, made apparent at the most recent candidate visits for the provost search and the NACADA visit.
- c. Senator Dong thanked Senator Pruitt for her advocacy and recognition of the importance of standing together. The Dean’s group have also been advocating at the federal level.

- d. Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven: CSUB Emergency Preparedness will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the Don Hart East Lawn.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Chair Danforth adjourned the meeting at 11:29 AM.