



ACADEMIC SENATE

CSU BAKERSFIELD

Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2025

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

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

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

Guests: C. Diniz.

Virtual Guests: E. Adams, E. Barnes, D. Boschini, D. Cantrell, L. Clifton, S. Gamboa, S. Gonzalez, L. Hernandez, T. Hickey, E. Knopp, K. Lattimore, C. Livingston, J. Luna, J. Mabry, M. Malhotra, S. Marks, V. Mayorga, B. Mendiola, E. Navarrete Garibay, H. Niemeyer, D. Stowe, K. Warner, K. Watson, M. Whisler, and Y. Zhong.

- I. Call to Order and Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Some technical issues regarding limited audio and visual delayed the meeting start. Chair Danforth called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM and read the Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 13, 2025 (handout)
 - i. Senator Deal motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Sarma. Motion carried; minutes approved.
 - b. March 27, 2025 (handout) (deferred)
- III. Announcements and Information
 - a. President's Report – V. Harper (deferred)
 - b. Elections and Appointments – D. Solano (handout)

- i. Vice-Chair Solano provided updates regarding Elections and Appointments. See attached handout for details.
- c. Events:
 - i. President's Open Forum – Wednesday, April 23
 - 1. Time: 9:00 -10:30 AM
 - 2. Location: Student Union MPR; [Zoom Link](#)
 - ii. Emeriti – Tuesday, May 6, 2025
 - 1. Time: 3:00- 4:30 PM
 - 2. Location: Dezember Reading Room, WSL

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

- a. Senator Zenko proposed to amend the agenda to limit debate on both old and new discussion. The motion was seconded by Senator Hegde. Motion carried.
- b. Senator Wu motioned to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Senator Kirstein. Motion carried; amended agenda approved.

V. Reports

- a. Interim Provost's Report – J. Rodriguez
 - i. Report:
 - 1. Academic Affairs held the Lecturer Town Hall last Friday. Provost Rodriguez thanked the CFA for their ongoing efforts and Dr. Horn for facilitating.
 - 2. Interim Provost Rodriguez met with the Executive Board of ASI last week. ASI will be sponsoring an Academic Affairs town hall on April 20; location to be announced.
 - 3. The Student Research Poster Competition took place earlier this week which was a very impressive and successful event.
 - 4. The 38th Kegley Memorial lecture was held in the Dore Theatre, which had great turn out and provided a positive spotlight to the university and brought in the community.
 - 5. Arts and Humanities Dean Search is moving forward. Three finalists were invited and scheduled to come to campus, however two of the finalists withdrew. Interim Provost Rodriguez met with the Arts and Humanities search committee, department chairs, President Harper, as well as the Academic Senate Executive committee. It was decided and agreed upon to for the search to move forward.
 - 6. Regarding the schedule build, Interim Provost Rodriguez met with the DCLC yesterday and the college deans will be working with the department chairs in regard to finalization and order of assignments. Once the dean has approved, and the AVP for Faculty Affairs approves, the schedule will go to the Interim Provost for final approval. They have initiated a meet and confer with CFA. The

Chancellor's Office is involved, as this is a statewide process. The second meet and confer with the CFA will take place later today. The summer schedule work continues to take place, and they will work to have as many courses as possible available to students by April 28.

7. There have been quite a few significant grant cancellations, such as NIH and NEH, as well as library and museum grant cancellations. Dr. I. Sumaya is working with grant P.I.s and various leaders on campus regarding any developments.
 - ii. No discussion or questions.
- b. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka
 - i. Senator Lam communicated that there are no additional reports at this time aside from the updates below regarding Assembly Bill 1361 of 2025 Endorsement. ASCSU will be meeting tomorrow, Friday, April 11, 2025.
- c. ASI Report – Senator Pruitt (deferred)
 - i. Currently traveling and in DC for Hill Week. They met with Congressman Whiteside, Congressman Vince Fong, and Congressman David Valadao. They are advocating for the Pell grant and protection for students. ASI elections are taking place. There is also a pop-up petting zoo for de-stressing set up outside the Student Union. All are welcome to stop by.
- d. Staff Report – Senator Cornelison
 - i. Senator Cornelison voiced that there were no items to report.
- e. Committee Reports:
 - i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Solano (handout)
 1. Vice-Chair Solano provided a brief report. See attached handout.
 - ii. Standing Committees:
 1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) – Senator Deal (handout)
 - a. Senator Deal provided a brief report. See attached handout for additional details.
 2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS) – Senator Tsantsoulas (handout)
 - a. Memo from ITS regarding Referral 2024-2025 29 (handout)
 - b. Senator Tsantsoulas provided a brief report. See attached handouts for additional details.
 3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Wu (handout)
 - a. Senator Wu provided a brief report. See attached handout for additional details.
 4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Zenko (handout)
 - a. Senator Zenko provided a brief report. See attached handout for additional details.
- f. CFA Report – Senator Salisbury

- i. Senator Zenko thanked Interim Provost Rodriguez and AVP Boschini for listening to the suggestions made by CFA and for the productive Lecturer Town Hall. Senator Salisbury thanked Dana Stowe and Dirk Horn for their efforts and leadership.

VI. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:20 AM)**

- a. Consent Agenda: no items.
- b. Old Business:
 - i. RES 242524 – Committee on Professional Responsibility, Revisited – FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko presented the resolution for second reading.
 - 2. Chair Danforth called for a vote. Majority of Senators approved; motion carried with one abstention. Resolution approved.
 - ii. RES 242525 – Evaluation of Academic Administrators, Part II – FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko presented the resolution for second reading.
 - 2. Chair Danforth called for a vote. Majority of Senators approved; motion carried. Resolution approved.
- c. New Business:
 - i. RES 242527 – Standardizing the Unit RTP Composition Process – FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko, Chair of FAC, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of FAC.
 - 2. Q&A/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Grombly suggested more clarification, particularly for when multiple committees per unit are allowed.
 - b. Senator Naser asked a question regarding the number of unit committees allowed to be formed per department as he had thought only one unit committee was allowed. Senator Zenko confirmed that multiple unit committees can be formed.
 - c. Senator Holloway asked clarification questions regarding the rank of those under review and who is allowed to serve. Senator Zenko provided explanation and further clarification.
 - d. Senator Wu voiced that it might be helpful to add clarification regarding the different cycles.
 - e. Senator Tsantsoulas suggested that consideration be given to the language provided that says faculty members undergoing post tenure review may serve unless they are requesting promotion, and conflict of interests as this can be challenging in the smaller departments.
 - f. Senator Dong provided some feedback regarding bullet three and ensuring representation and eligibility for voting for full-time faculty.
 - g. Senator Hegde provided feedback on “d. i. and i. Eligibility iii. 2.” Explaining that the language is somewhat contradictory.

- ii. RES 242528 – Updating the Bylaws to Create an Interruption Statement and Add Clarity to Procedures – FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko, Chair of FAC, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of FAC.
 - 2. Q&A/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Hegde asked if the proposed language is to be included in the agenda or not. Senator Hegde suggested possibly having a link to be included in the agenda since agendas can get quite long.
 - b. Along similar lines, Senator Solano suggested possibly having the statement read once at the start of the semester, then having a link included in the agendas instead of reading the full statement as introductions at Senate meetings can get quite lengthy.
- iii. RES 242529 – Updating the CSUB Policy on Discontinuance of Academic Degree Programs – FAC and AAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko, Chair of FAC, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and FAC.
 - 2. Q&A/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Pruitt requested that there be student representation on the Special Review Committees formed.
 - b. Senator Hegde recommends 14 days for the Academic Senate Executive Committee in step three to allow for full review and discussion.
 - c. Chair Danforth suggested considering the definition of calendar days as the current definition does not include winter break or summer break, but it does include spring break. Perhaps consider changing the definition to exclude any non-academic period that may be happening during the process. Spring break was excluded in the current Special Review Committee for Anthropology, but we would want to ensure it was formalized.
 - d. Vice Chair Solano asked if any discussion took place yet with UPRC? Senator Zenko confirmed that they have spoken with members that have served on UPRC. Senator Deal also agreed that they have spoken with various individuals that have served on UPRC.
 - e. Senator Hegde provided additional comments on the timeline, such as the inclusion of a statement to allow for deadline extension upon approval by the President.
- iv. RES 242530 – Class Cancellation Guidelines – AAC and BPC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Deal, Chair of AAC, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and BPC. Senator Wu recognized that the resolution and guidelines will not cover all situations, scenarios, but will hopefully grant some consistency between the colleges.

2. Q&A/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Hegde spoke in support of more faculty involvement in class cancellations and suggests the consideration for a statement regarding the need for reference or statement regarding the expectation for data, particularly historical data.
 - b. Senator Zenko suggested adding language to refer to all relevant articles in the CBA instead of only listing the specific ones since it changes.
 - c. Vice-Chair Solano provided feedback regarding prerequisite challenges, particularly independent studies.
 - d. Senator Dong suggested to include language referencing collaboration with Enrollment Management and how some decisions may be dependent on admission and enrollment.
 - e. Chair Danforth added that there are other conditions where pre-requisites may not be waivable, such as for accreditation requirements, so there should be some clause included to address this.
 - f. Interim Provost Rodriguez shared that many of the best practices presented in this resolution are already in place. The extraction of Enrollment Management from Academic Affairs will have various impacts on processes. Provost Rodriguez supports fuller consideration of how that reorganization will impact the resulting broader implications.
- v. RES 242531 – Assembly Bill 1361 of 2025 Endorsement – EC (handout)
 1. Chair Danforth and Senator Lam presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of the Academic Senate Executive Committee.
 2. Q&A/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Lam added that this resolution is the second step in response to the bill that was passed last year. The ASCSU Fiscal Government Affairs Committee is looking in which bills CSU can consider supporting. Senator Dong, Senator Hegde and Senator Stokes asked some clarification questions and spoke in support of the resolution.
- vi. RES 242532 – Support for Cidi Labs Accessibility Checker Software – AS&SS (handout)
 1. Senator Tsantsoulas, Chair of AS&SS, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AS&SS.
 2. Q&A/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Hedge motioned to waive first reading; Senator Wu seconded. Motion to waive first reading carried with one abstention.
 - b. No additional discussion for feedback for second reading. Chair Danforth called for a vote on the resolution. Majority of Senators voted in favor with two abstentions. Motion carried and resolution passed.

- vii. RES 242533 – Faculty Hiring Prioritization and Funding for Student Services – BPC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Wu, Chair of BPC, presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of BPC.
 - 2. Q&A/ Feedback:
 - a. Senator Dong thanked BPC for creating this resolution and spoke in support of the resolution. Senator Dong was very surprised to find that there was such a large reduction in operating expenses for instruction and wanted to ensure inflation was recognized and considered.
 - b. Senator Zenko requests the consideration of including a minimum proportion of the University Budget to be allocated to Academic Affairs, which would be more than 53%.
 - c. Senator Hegde encouraged the consideration of tenure density as opposed to just the faculty to student ratio. Senator Hegde explained how in the past the student-to-faculty ratio has been lowered by hiring part-time faculty. Tenure density is low in the CSU system and needs to be higher, specifically in the disciplines where hiring is difficult.

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

- a. No additional items.

VIII. Adjournment

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