



# ACADEMIC SENATE

CSU BAKERSFIELD

## Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2025

Thursday, May 8, 2025

### **Agenda – Session 2**

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

**Zoom Link:**

**2025-2026 AY Senators:** Chair M. Danforth, Vice-Chair D. Solano, CSU Senator C. Lam, CSU Senator N. Michieka, AH Senator T. Tsantsoulas, AH Senator M. Naser, 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 T. Salisbury, At-Large Senator R. Dugan, Senator H. Gonzalez, Senator ASI President, VP AA & Provost D. Thein, Senator J. Dong and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

I. Call to Order

- a. Picture of the 2025-2026 Senate to be taken outdoors (**Time Certain: 11:00 AM**)
- b. Information:
  1. Academic Senate Orientation (handout)

II. Introduction of Members

III. Approval of Academic Senate Meeting Schedule 2025-2026 (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 2025-2026

Position	Name	Department	Term
<b>Chair *</b>	<b>Melissa Danforth</b>	<b>Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</b>	<b>May 2024-2026</b>
<b>Vice Chair *</b>	<b>Danielle Solano</b>	<b>Chemistry and Biochemistry</b>	<b>May 2024-2026</b>
CSU Senator *	Charles Lam	Mathematics	May 2023-2026
CSU Senator *	Nyakundi Michieka	Economics	May 2025-2028
A & H	Tiffany Tsantsoulas	Philosophy and Religious Studies	May 2025-2027
A & H	Md Abu Naser	Communications	May 2024-2026
BPA	Di Wu	Finance/Accounting	May 2024-2026
BPA	Sumita Sarma	Management/Marketing	May 2025-2027
NSME	Leslie Kirstein	Nursing	May 2024-2026
NSME	Amber Stokes	Biology	May 2025-2027
SSE	Zachary Zenko	Kinesiology	May 2025-2027
SSE	Sarana Roberts	Special Education	May 2024-2026
Antelope Valley Rep	Kristine Holloway	Librarian	May 2024-2026
At Large	Heidi He	Nursing	May 2024-2026
At Large	Amanda Grombly	Librarian	May 2024-2026
At Large	Alice Hays	Teacher Education	May 2025-2027
At Large	Antje Lauer	Biology	May 2025-2027
At Large	Tracey Salisbury	Ethnic Studies	May 2024-2026
At Large	Rhonda Dugan	Sociology	May 2025-2027
Staff Representative	Horacio Gonzalez	Procurement	May 2025-2026
ASI	TBA	ASI President	May 2025-2026
Dean Representative	Jane Dong	College Dean of NSME	May 2025-2026
VP Academic Affairs **	Deborah Thein	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



# ACADEMIC SENATE

CSU BAKERSFIELD

## FALL 2025

### August

8/18 All Faculty Due on Campus  
8/22 Fall GFM – *tentative*  
8/26 EC  
8/28 Senate

### September

9/4 Standing Committees  
9/9 EC  
9/11 Senate  
9/18 Standing Committees  
9/23 EC  
9/25 Senate

### October

10/2 Standing Committees  
10/7 EC  
10/9 Senate  
10/16 Standing Committees  
10/21 EC  
10/23 Senate  
10/30 Standing Committees

### November

11/4 EC  
11/6 Senate  
11/13 Standing Committees  
11/18 EC  
11/20 Standing Committees

*Fall Break: 11/27-28/2025*

### December

12/2 EC  
12/4 Senate

*Winter Break: 12/19/2025 – 01/13/2026*

### General Meeting Information:

#### Executive Committee (EC)

- Tuesdays
- Number of meetings: 8

#### Standing Committees

- Thursdays
- Number of meetings: 7

#### Senate

- Thursdays
- Number of meetings: 7

**All Meeting times:** 10 - 11:30 AM

**Locations:** Refer to Outlook calendars

### ACADEMIC SENATE

California State University, Bakersfield  
9001 Stockdale Hwy. • Mail Stop: BDC 20 • Bakersfield, CA 93311

[academicsenatechair@csub.edu](mailto:academicsenatechair@csub.edu) [csub.edu/senate](https://csub.edu/senate)

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# SPRING 2026

## January

1/15 All Faculty Due Back  
1/20 EC  
1/22 Standing Committees  
1/27 EC  
1/29 Senate  
1/30 Spring GFM- *tentative*

## February

2/5 Standing Committees  
2/10 EC  
2/12 Senate  
2/19 Standing Committees  
2/24 EC  
2/26 Senate

## March

3/5 Standing Committees  
3/10 EC  
3/12 Senate  
3/19 Standing Committees  
3/24 EC  
3/26 Senate

*Spring Break: 3/30/26-4/5/26*

## April

4/9 Standing Committees  
4/14 EC  
4/16 Senate  
4/23 Standing Committees  
4/28 EC  
4/30 Senate

## May

5/5 EC  
5/7 Senate (Organizational Mtg)  
5/12 Summer Senate (*outgoing and incoming EC*)

## General Meeting Information:

### Executive Committee (EC)

- Tuesdays
- Number of meetings: 9

### Standing Committees

- Thursdays
- Number of meetings: 7

### Senate

- Thursdays
- Number of meetings: 8

**All meeting times:** 10- 11:30 AM

**Locations:** Refer to Outlook calendars.

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IV. Election of Standing Committee Chairs: Statements of Interest

Responses: 6

Number of Nominations Received	
Committee	Count
Academic Affairs	1
Academic Support & Student Services	1
Budget & Planning	2
Faculty Affairs	1

Academic Affairs (AAC) Statements of Interest

Tiffany  
Tsantsoulas

I would like to express my interest in chairing the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). As a senator, I served on the AAC in AY23/24, and I am currently completing a year serving as chair of the AS&SS committee (AY24/25). These experiences have granted me deeper insights into the academic policies and procedures that govern our campus. As a committee chair and member of the executive committee of the Senate, I also understand the value of shared governance and have a practical understanding of how best to engage in this work. Since June 2024, I have served as Director of Interdisciplinary studies, which has allowed me to form a broader familiarity with programs across the four Colleges and to have direct experience dealing with cross-disciplinary matters. For these reasons, I believe that I am well suited to chair the AAC and would be honored to continue serving our campus in this role. Thank you for the consideration.

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

Leslie  
Kirstein

I am writing to express my interest in chairing the Academic Support and Student Services Committee. Supporting students both academically and personally has been a central part of my work at CSUB, particularly through my roles in teaching, mentoring, and coordinating clinical placements for our nursing students. I see firsthand how essential it is for students to have access to reliable academic and student services, and I am committed to contributing to efforts that make those resources stronger and more equitable. My interest in this committee stems from my ongoing work supporting students in both academic and co-curricular settings. I currently serve as the Academic Advisor for the Nursing Class of 2027 and coordinate senior practicum placements, which allows me to guide students through critical transitions from nursing education into the workforce. I also advise our California Nursing Students' Association (CNSA) chapter, supporting students engaged in service learning, leadership development, and advocacy through legislative processes and resolution writing workshops. Previously, I served a two-year term as the Undergraduate Student Success Coach, where I worked one-on-one with nursing students to help them navigate academic challenges and stay on track toward graduation. These experiences have given me a well-rounded perspective on the systems that influence student success and the importance of collaboration across departments and with community partners to enhance the student experience. I would bring an organized, collaborative approach to the chair role, with a focus on ensuring our discussions remain grounded in the student perspective. I am comfortable facilitating meetings, coordinating across departments, and following through on shared goals. It would be a privilege to help guide the committee's work in shaping policy and strengthening support structures that directly impact students across the university. Thank you for considering my interest. Leslie Kirstein Department of Nursing California State University, Bakersfield

Budget & Planning (BPC) Statements of Interest

Budget & Planning (BPC) Statements of Interest

Di  
Wu

I am writing to express my interest in serving as Chair of the Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) for the 2025–2026 academic year. My background in financial management and deep commitment to shared governance make me well-prepared to serve in this role. Since joining CSUB, I have served on the Academic Senate and multiple standing committees, including the ASSC and BPC (2019–2021), and held the roles of BPC Vice-Chair (2022–2023) and Chair (2023–2024, 2024–2025). These roles have strengthened my understanding of institutional planning and budgetary processes. As Chair, I've helped lead budget forums and served on the Academic Senate Executive Committee—broadening my perspective on CSUB's operational challenges and priorities. I also bring over a decade of professional experience in budgeting, accounting, and strategic planning in both private and nonprofit sectors. I currently serve as President of the Bakersfield Chapter of the California Society of CPAs and as a Board of Regents for the Institute of Management Accountants. In light of the budget challenges facing CSUB, I hope to continue contributing constructively and collaboratively. I remain committed to transparency, accountability, and shared governance, and I look forward to the opportunity to support our campus in the year ahead.

Amanda  
Grombly

My name is Amanda Grombly, and I am an Associate Librarian on the Bakersfield campus. I have served on the Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) since 2017 except for Spring 2023 while I served as Interim Director of Library Services and Operations and Fall 2024 while I was on sabbatical. I am currently an At-Large member of the Academic Senate entering the second year of my term. I work as the collection development and management coordinator within the library tracking and acquiring resources for the campus library each year. This includes proposing budgets, analyzing use trends and cost data, and negotiating pricing for books, journals, videos, and other media in physical and electronic formats. I also serve on the California Faculty Association Bakersfield chapter executive board to keep abreast of campus issues and further engage in shared governance and advocacy for students and faculty. Because of the nature of my job and the other service commitments I engage in, I have a vested interest in the campus budget process, new initiatives, and short- and long-term planning for programs and services at the university.

Faculty Affairs (FAC) Statements of Interest

Zachary  
Zenko

I am writing to express my strong interest in continuing to serve as Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC). My experience, institutional knowledge, and collaborative leadership approach uniquely position me to contribute meaningfully in this role. My service on the FAC began as a non-Senate faculty member and has continued through my time as an Academic Senator, culminating in my current role as Chair during the 2024–2025 academic year. As I enter my second term on the Academic Senate, I would be honored to continue my service as FAC Chair and build on the progress we have made. I have learned from many faculty mentors, both informally and formally, and believe I bring these experiences forward and apply them to our work on the FAC. This decision to nominate myself was carefully considered after thoughtful and honest evaluation of my workload to ensure that I can contribute effectively to multiple roles without spreading myself too thin. Over the past two years, I have also served as Faculty Rights Chair for the California Faculty Association, Bakersfield Chapter. These experiences have given me a deep familiarity with the University Handbook and the Collective Bargaining Agreements that govern faculty rights and responsibilities; this is critical knowledge for leading FAC effectively. I take pride in the committee's accomplishments during my current term as Chair. I've been fortunate to work with an effective, efficient, thoughtful committee. Working collaboratively with the committee and in consultation with guests, we have facilitated rich discussions on a range of issues and advanced numerous important resolutions. In total, there are more than 10 meaningful resolutions put forward. Many of these were joint efforts with other Senate Standing Committees, and I believe I've helped foster the communication and teamwork necessary to make those collaborations productive. This includes managing work both online and offline. I'm especially proud of our work on the SOCI process and timelines, and of our pending resolutions addressing long-standing campus concerns around academic program discontinuance and Unit RTP committee composition. I anticipate that these efforts will result in positive, meaningful, and impactful change. In addition, I led a Task Force on Scholarship and Creative Activities during the 2024-2025 academic year, charged with evaluating Weighted Teaching Unit (WTU) allocations and support for scholarship across colleges. Our work addresses structural workload issues and disparities that affect many faculty, and our final report and recommendations are expected by the end of Spring 2025. Continued leadership of FAC would enable me to help ensure that these recommendations translate into real, collaborative change through shared governance. Finally, I strive to manage our meetings in a way that is inclusive and productive, balancing the needs of guests, alternates, and regular members. While I often take the lead in drafting resolutions, I am committed to ensuring that every voice is heard, and every perspective considered. Shared governance is most effective when it is participatory and inclusive, and that is the philosophy I bring to my work as FAC Chair. I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving as Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee and to support the vital work of shared governance at our university.



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# The Academic Senate: How It Works

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California State University, Bakersfield

# Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU)

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- 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

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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

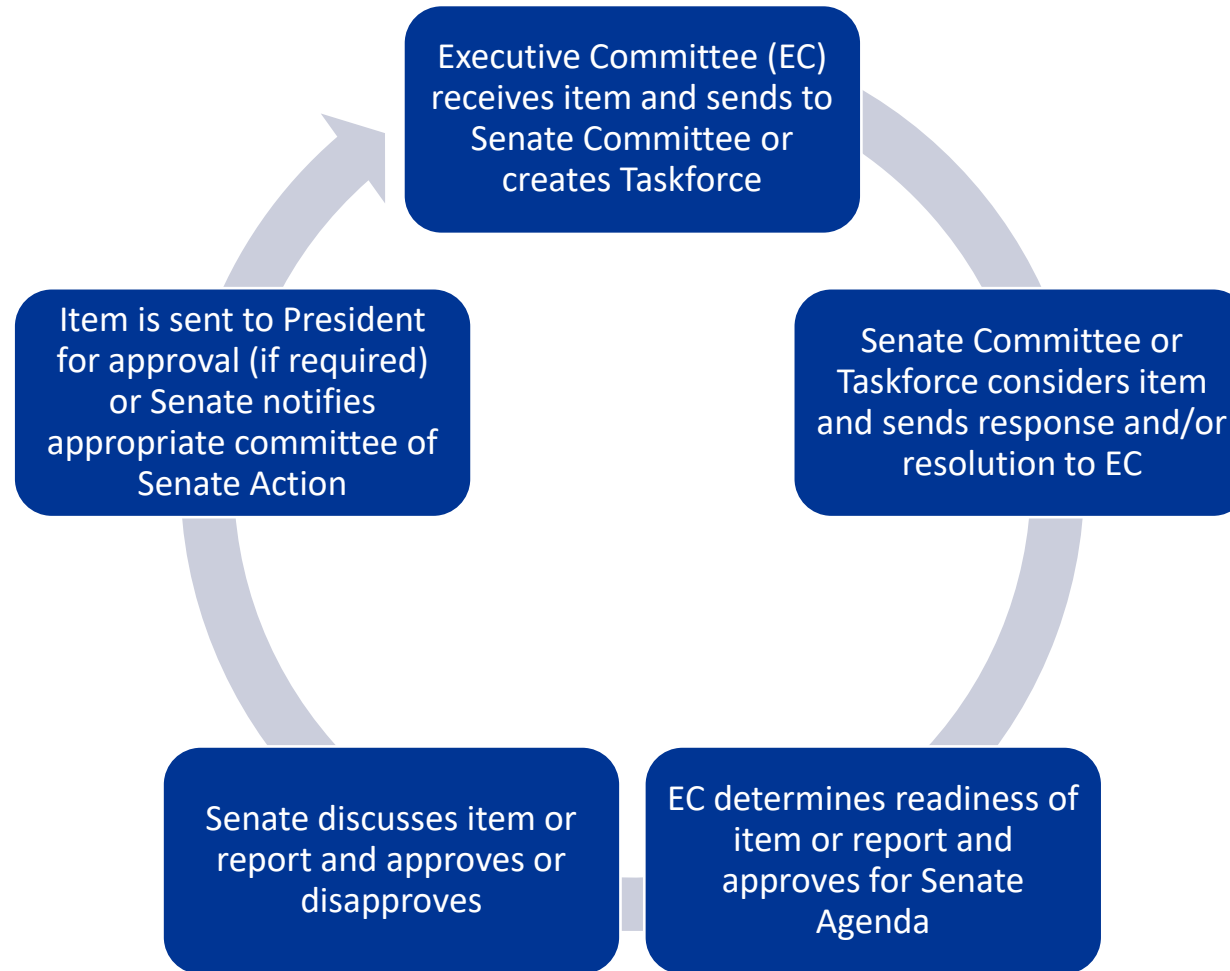
- Academic Senate Chairs Council
- Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) - Represents three systems

# 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

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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

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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





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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 *iExcelencia in Education!*

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of Baker University. The seal contains the text "BAKER UNIVERSITY" around the top and "1870" in the center, with a sunburst design below the year. The seal is light blue and serves as a watermark for the slide.

# **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.