



Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2025

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Minutes – Session 1

10:00 AM – 11:00 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 (virtual), 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, Senator A. Grombly, Senator E. Correa (virtual), Senator J. Deal, Senator R. Dugan, Senator T. Salisbury, Senator J. Cornelison, Senator E. Pruitt (virtual), Interim Provost J. Rodríguez, Senator J. Dong and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

Guests: President Harper, C. Diniz, H. Gonzalez, A. Hayes, D. Horn, L. Vega and K. Warner.

Virtual guests: E. Adams, D. Boschini, S. Bozarth, K. Chavez, L. Clifton, D. Cours, S. Gaitan, A. Gómez-Navarro, S. Gonzalez, L. Hernandez, M. Hernandez, T. Hickey, E. Knopp, K. Lattimore, A. Lauer, C. Livingston, K. Lopez, J. Mabry, M. Malhotra, S. Marks, B. Mendiola, E. Montoya, Y. Morones, H. Niemeyer, J. Nmah, C. Padilla, L. Paris, J. Paschal, A. Rodriguez, M. Ruiz, E. Sanchez, J. Self, D. Stowe, and K. Watson.

- I. Call to Order and Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Chair Danforth called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. April 10, 2025 (handout)
 - b. May 1, 2025 (handout)
 - c. Senator Kirstein motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Dugan. Motioned carried; minutes for April 10 and May 1 approved.
- III. Announcements and Information
 - a. President's Report – V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 AM**)
 - i. Report:
 1. President Harper recognized the various celebrations taking place on campus, including the various college honors ceremonies. He has entered the celebration season with the theme of "purpose." The institution's purpose would not be

possible without the work of the faculty, especially the Senate body. President Harper thanked the EC for their leadership and candor, as well as the Senate, for their service to the university.

2. The new Provost, Dr. Deborah Thien, will begin on July 1, 2025, remotely. President Harper also thanked Provost Rodriguez for his service to the university, particularly during this difficult year.
 3. Campus Visits: The Lieutenant Governor, Eleni Kounalakis, visited CSU Bakersfield, who shared that the visit was the best she has had in the 30 campuses she has visited. A few members of the CSU Board of Trustees also visited the campus and were very impressed. They were able to attend the Veterans event. Students conveyed some concerns regarding tuition increases, reduction in federal funding, and AI.
 4. Upcoming events:
 - a. Commencement celebrations and Juneteenth. Dr. Shaylyn Marks is leading the planning for Juneteenth. Emeriti Ceremony is also coming up and will celebrate faculty with between 20-55 years of service. The selection for Outstanding Student has also been made, which was a difficult one as there were many exceptional candidates.
 5. Budget: The May Budget Revise will be coming up next week. CSUB has been working hard towards meeting the 8% reduction. CSUB is trending towards a balanced budget for July 1 and focusing on building reserves. Roughly 17 MPPs and a similar number of lecturers are no longer part of the CSUB community, which were very difficult decisions, but necessary ones. If there will be any material changes in CSUB's financial future, President Harper will ask for a convening of the Summer Senate keeping shared governance in mind and in practice.
- ii. Q&A/ Open Forum: No discussion.
- b. Faculty Honors and Awards Recommendations for 2025-2026
 - i. Chair Danforth announced on behalf of the Faculty Honors and Awards Committee (FHAC), the Faculty Honors and Awards Recommendations for 2025-2026. Congratulations were given to the awardees. See attachment for the official letter.
 1. Faculty Leadership and Service Award Recipient: Danielle Solano, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry.
 2. Faculty Scholarship and Creative Activity Award Recipient: Elaine Correa, Professor of Human Development, Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies.
 3. Millie Ablin Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient: Kristina LaGue, Professor of Teacher Education.
 1. Promising New Faculty Award Recipient: Matthew Herman, Assistant Professor of Geological Sciences.

2. Outstanding Lecturer Award Recipient: Lindsay Nelson-Burkert, Lecturer of Criminal Justice.
- c. Elections and Appointments – D. Solano (handout)
 - i. The call is still open for various at-large positions on university wide committees. Please refer to the attached handout for updates. Interest statements have not been received yet for positions on the following committees:
 1. CSUB Advising Council
 2. Academic Integrity Policy Violations Committee
 3. Mobile Applications Steering Committee
- d. Informational Only:
 - i. Submitted Reports: Refer to the attached handouts.
 1. FTLC Report – R. Weller (handout)
 2. GECCo Report – E. Montoya (handout)
 - ii. URC Report – No recommendations; no report.
 - iii. Forthcoming in Fall 2025:
 1. UPRC Report
 2. FAR Report

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

- a. Senator Zenko motioned to approve the agenda, including the two consent agenda items. Senator Deal seconded the motion; agenda approved.
- b. RES 242535 Commendation of Dr. James L. Rodríguez was presented. Congratulations were given. Interim Provost Rodríguez thanked the Senate and spoke in acknowledgement of the efforts made towards strengthening the campus community, particularly during challenging times.

V. Reports

- a. Interim Provost's Report – J. Rodríguez
 - i. Report:
 1. Interim Provost Rodríguez recognized the various celebrations and achievements coming up and hopes that all are able to come together to celebrate as community.
 2. WASC Report: An interim report was submitted earlier this semester, which was in response to three areas that were identified by WASC. CSUB met with the team assigned by WASC and they will make their recommendations to the Board of WASC.
 3. Dr. Alicia Rodriguez was officially appointed as Dean for the College of Arts and Humanities. Interim Provost Rodriguez thanked the search committee for their hard work.

4. Interim Provost Rodríguez expressed appreciation for the service and consultation of the Immediate Past Senate Chair, Senator Dr. Aaron Hegde and current Academic Senate Chair, Dr. Melissa Danforth as well as the 2024-2025 Academic Senate Executive Committee and President Harper.

ii. Q&A/ Discussion:

1. Senator Dong expressed appreciation to Interim Provost Rodríguez for his leadership, particularly during this challenging season. The cohort of Deans also have expressed the same appreciation. Senator Dong also expressed appreciation for the sense of community and recognition on the campus, which has fostered the development of a unique and special culture.
- b. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka (deferred)
- c. ASI Report – Senator Pruitt (deferred)
- d. Staff Report – Senator Cornelison
- i. No official staff report.
 - ii. Senator Cornelison provided feedback and commentary regarding the catalog and that the professional advisors have noticed quite a few issues when looking at the different department catalogs and encouraged closer review and inspection.
- e. Committee Reports: (deferred)
- i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Solano (handout)
 1. See attached report. No discussion.
 - ii. Standing Committees:
 1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) – Senator Deal
 2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS) – Senator Tsantsoulas
 3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Wu
 4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Zenko
 5. The Standing Committee chairs thanked their members for their dedication and efforts this academic year. Refer to the attached handout of the 2024-2025 Senate log for the status of the resolutions and referrals.

VI. CFA Report – Senator Salisbury

- a. Senator Salisbury noted that while not CFA related, the Ethnic Studies courses are booked and there is no availability.
- b. Regarding CFA, Senator Salisbury has been elected as the first Statewide Officer Associate Vice-President of the Chapter Presidents of the Southern Region. Senator Salisbury reiterated that CFA needs to be included when decisions are made that involve faculty, which has been brought to light recently with the Anthropology report. Senator Salisbury recognized Senator Zenko's efforts on the CFA advocating for faculty rights and President Harper's graciousness during the faculty strike.

VII. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:25 AM)**

- a. Consent Agenda:
 - i. RES 242534 – Commencement for Spring 2025- EC (handout)

- ii. RES 242535 – Commendation of Interim Provost James L. Rodríguez (handout)
- b. Old Business:
 - i. RES 242533 – Faculty Hiring Prioritization and Funding for Student Services – BPC (handout)
 - ii. Discussion:
 - 1. President Harper shared that he was comfortable with this resolution. The questions he had were addressed during his meeting with the Executive Committee.
 - 2. Senator Hegde spoke in support of the resolution and if he knew the President would support it, he would propose an amendment to include a value for tenure density. Senator Hegde is in support of the resolution with the caveat that in the future, consideration is given to looking at the tenure density number, not just the student-faculty-ratio (SFR).
 - a. Senator Wu shared that BPC did look at tenure density and considered it when developing the resolution, however, they struggled with the language and what numbers to use, especially in years where the lecturer pool is downsizing.
 - b. Senator Grombly spoke in support of the resolution and recommends that the EC work to try to find an alternative measure besides tenure density, as tenure density will artificially increase next year because of reduction in lecturers due to the current budget model.
 - iii. Chair Danforth called for a vote on RES 242533. The majority of Senators voted in favor with one abstention. Motion carried; RES 242533 passed.
- c. New Business: No items.

VIII. Open Forum **(Time Certain: 10:50 AM)**

- a. President Harper recognized outgoing Senator and ASI President Erin Pruitt for her outstanding leadership, which was seconded by Chair Danforth.
- b. Senator Hegde reflected on the privilege of serving on the Academic Senate over multiple university administrations. He acknowledged the Senate's effectiveness and its role in promoting shared governance, sometimes having to guide administration in that direction. Senator Hegde welcomed the presence of new senators, encouraged future leadership from within their ranks, and recognized the importance of diverse leadership. Senator Hegde noted that while challenging times lie ahead, he feels it is the right moment to step away from Senate service and is thankful for the time he has had.
- c. Senator Danforth addressed the following Open Forum items:
 - i. Status of the Special Review Committee for Anthropology: The Executive Committee has received the report from the Special Review Committee for Anthropology. The EC agreed to forward the report to anyone that would like to see it and it has been

shared with AAC and BPC. There will be business for the Senate to address in the fall for the development of a resolution in response to that report.

- ii. Staff Representative on Senate: Regarding the item raised at the last Senate meeting, the Staff Senator election process, the Senate was able to gain some clarity on what process was conducted in the past. The Senate Office is working with the Staff Forum to provide support for running elections, as the procedures were not documented and formalized properly. The incoming Staff Senator will serve for one year while they work through formalizing the process.
- d. Senator Tsantsoulas raised the pressing issue that the Move Out date for Students in the dorms is set for May 16, and finals end on May 19.
 - i. Discussion ensued: A similar situation occurred last year and the Move Out date was able to be pushed back. Coordination regarding the Academic Calendar and Student Housing will be necessary to prevent this issue from reoccurring in the future. Agreement was reached that the VP for Student Housing should serve on the Academic Calendar Committee for the prevention of these issues. Interim CFO K. Watson said that they have addressed the current situation for students, however, they would consult with Student Housing to ensure a solution is found so this does not happen again.

IX. Adjournment **(Time Certain: 11:00 AM)**

- a. Senate Chair Danforth adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.