



Academic Senate Meeting – Fall 2026

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Dezember Leadership and Development Center, Room 409-411 (Aera Combo Room)

Zoom Information:

[Zoom Meeting ID: 811 3080 8590](#)

Passcode: 674081

Senate Members: 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 (virtual), SSE Senator Z. Zenko, SSE Senator S. Roberts (virtual), 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 Representative – D. Horn, Senator C. Zúñiga-Prado – Staff Representative, Senator N. Kaur – ASI President, Senator D. Cours – Dean Representative (virtual), VP AA & Provost D. Thein and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

Guests: President Harper, K. Grappendorf, GE Director, and T. Salisbury, CFA Representative (absent).

Additional Attendees: Virtual (see attached list); in-person attendees: K. Warner and E. Adams.

- I. Call to Order
 - a. [Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement](#)
 - b. [Robert's Rules of Order](#)
 - c. [Interruption Statement](#)
 - d. Chair Danforth called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. The Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement was read, and links to Robert's Rules of Order and the Senate Interruption Statement were noted.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. August 27, 2026 (handout)
 - i. Senator Lam moved to approve the minutes of August 27, 2026; Senator Deal seconded. The minutes were approved.

III. Announcements and Information

a. President's Report – V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 AM**) (handout)

- i. President Harper reported on a \$2 million California Jobs First Grant supporting coordination and development of aerospace and mechanical-engineering programs in the Antelope Valley through the Mojave Institute and its partners. He also discussed meetings with local, state, and federal officials concerning AI and workforce development, and encouraged participation in the open forums for the Athletics Director finalists.
- ii. Q&A and Discussions: Addressed whether the grant would support new faculty. President Harper explained that the funds will support multiple organizations and partners, while the University continues to seek opportunities to add faculty in the Antelope Valley. Senator Lauer asked about faculty support for the new Antelope Valley programs.

b. Report on Process for GEMs – K. Grappendorf, GE Director (**Time Certain: 10:20 AM**) (handout)

- i. K. Grappendorf, GE Director and chair of GECCo, reviewed the process for General Education modifications (GEMs).
 1. Departments should submit a brief memo signed by the department chair or director to the GE Director and document the modification in CIM. Supporting documentation, including the memo and GECCo approval, should be attached to the program revision. Faculty and chairs should update GE requirements, footnotes, and the Academic Roadmap as applicable, then initiate the workflow for review and approval. The GECCo deadline has been extended to December 1, 2026; the final GECCo meeting is scheduled for November 13, with November 20 being held as a possible alternate date.
 2. GEMs must identify a specific course or course sequence and demonstrate how the required outcomes are met; accreditation status alone is not sufficient. The process will also support accurate degree-audit and catalog information. The programs currently identified as needing this work include Computer Information Systems, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Engineering.
- ii. Q&A and Discussions:
 1. The Senate discussed the need for a broader review of the GE structure, including first-year seminar, course recertification, prerequisites and co-requisites, course enrollments, faculty engagement, and the relationship among first-year seminar, junior-year diversity reflection, and capstone requirements. Members suggested a comprehensive self-study or task force connected to the new strategic plan. The existing GE structure was described as coherent, while concerns were raised about co-requisites in 1000-level

courses, course sizes, basic skills, and DFW rates. The Senate office can provide historical GE resolutions upon request.

2. Chair Danforth asked whether the GE review should proceed issue-by-issue or comprehensively. Discussion supported a data-informed, comprehensive review.
 3. Senator Zenko supported a comprehensive review or self-study and noted the need to examine prerequisites, co-requisites, enrollments, teaching assignments, and related data.
 4. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas suggested connecting a new GE self-study with the strategic plan, and GE Director Grappendorf noted that the last program review was completed in 2021
 5. AVP Adams noted that the current GE structure is generally sound but that co-requisites and course sizes warrant review, particularly because they can make it difficult for first-year students to build full schedules.
- c. Elections and Appointments – T. Tsantsoulas (handout)
- i. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas reported that all the college election committees have chairs and that voting rosters are still pending. In addition, urgent calls have been identified for college-elected positions, including replacements for faculty on sabbatical, at-large, elected positions, and one appointed position.
- d. Upcoming Events/ Information:
- i. October 19 - Fall 2026 Budget Open Forum
 1. 11 AM to 12 noon; Student Union MPR and virtual

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

- a. Senator Kirstein motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Senator Zenko. Agenda approved.

V. Reports

- a. Provost's Report – D. Thien (**Time Certain: 10:30 AM**)
 - i. Provost Thien thanked Dr. Zenko and Dr. Boschini for their partnership in implementing new policies with RTP implications. A file-preparation workshop was held, and faculty RTP files are due September 25, 2026; a workshop for reviewers will be held later in the month.
 - ii. The Provost also provided an overview of the WSCUC reaffirmation process being led by AVP Adams: the institutional report is due February 11, 2027; the off-site review is April 22, 2027; and the accreditation visit is October 6-8, 2027. Four working groups are active, a steering committee is being assembled, and Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas is serving as the faculty lead.
 - iii. The first *Blue and Gold* publication is scheduled for September 14.
 - iv. No questions or additional discussion.
- b. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka

- i. Written report deferred to next meeting.
 - ii. Senator Lam provided updates on state legislation, including bills concerning Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, nursing programs, community-college bachelor's degrees, curriculum authority, CSU trustee contact information, and time-place-and-manner policies. Several bills were described as likely to be vetoed or not advanced; the status of others remains in progress. Senator He reported that the Department of Nursing is developing a concurrent-enrollment program with Bakersfield College, anticipated to begin in fall 2027.
 - iii. Senator Michieka reported that ASCSU continues to seek appointments of a faculty trustee to the CSU Board of Trustees and is considering how to proceed after previously recommended candidates were not appointed by the Governor. Other updates included efforts to simplify the CSU application process and proposed resolutions concerning use of artificial intelligence for administrative tasks and disaggregation of student data.
 - iv. Discussion clarified that ASCSU recommends faculty-trustee candidates, but appointments are made by the Governor. Members also discussed advocacy for two faculty trustees and an appointment process that would not depend on gubernatorial action.
- c. ASI Report – Senator Kaur
 - i. Senator Kaur reported that ASI supported Rowdy Run and Get Involved Day, is planning civic-engagement activities for the midterm elections and will hold its regular board meeting on September 11 at 3 PM. ASI is also participating in the Athletics Director search process.
 - ii. No questions or additional discussion.
- d. Staff Report – Senator C. Zúñiga-Prado (handout)
 - i. Senator Zúñiga-Prado reported that she is working with the Executive Committee to establish a sustainable way for staff to communicate with the Staff Representative on Senate. She also announced Kern County College Night on September 14 and encouraged faculty and staff to volunteer.
 - ii. No questions or additional discussion.
- e. Committee Reports:
 - i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas (handout)
 - 1. 2026-2027 Senate Log (handout)
 - 2. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas reported on Executive Committee discussions and activities from the last two meetings. Refer to the written report for more details.
 - ii. Standing Committees:
 - 1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) – Senator Deal, Chair (handout)
 - a. Senator Deal reported that AAC reviewed the proposed Master of Science in Applied Analytics and discussed CSUB 1029. The latter will

require a lengthy process, particularly because of its relationship to GE. Refer to the written report for more details.

2. Academic Support & Student Services Committee (AS&SS) – Senator Kirstein, Chair (handout)
 - a. Senator Kirstein reported that AS&SS is revisiting the use of informational banner space in Canvas after the President returned the Senate's prior resolution unsigned. The committee is consulting with relevant technology and student-support areas regarding effective student communication and possible use of the dashboard rather than individual course shells. Refer to the written report for more details.
 - b. Q&A and Discussion:
 - i. The Provost noted that Canvas generates the highest rate of responses based on a system-wide survey and that student feedback is important, while she also recognizes faculty concerns about control of course spaces. Discussion continued regarding the distinction between course shells and the dashboard, possible guardrails, and the need for additional technical input. Members were asked to send further feedback to AS&SS.
3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Wu, Chair (handout)
 - a. Senator Wu reported that BPC discussed the task force addressing scheduling software and time-block issues, the proposed Master of Science in Applied Analytics, and remaining challenges in developing academic calendars. Senator Grombly was announced as BPC vice chair. Refer to the written report for more details.
 - b. No questions or additional discussion.
4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Zenko, Chair (handout)
 - a. Senator Zenko reported that FAC will consider feedback on moving the online SOCI timeline forward and may develop a separate referral regarding exceptions for small-enrollment sections. FAC also discussed the teaching modalities resolution, potentially separating distributed learning and teaching modalities into two resolutions; streamlining discussion of university officers and the cabinet; and dividing first-year seminar issues between FAC personnel matters and AAC curriculum matters. Dirk Horn was announced as FAC vice chair. The CFA representative for the semester is David Gove.
 - b. No questions or additional discussion.
- f. CFA Report – T. Salisbury, CFA Bakersfield
 - i. CFA President or designee not present; no report provided.

VI. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:45 AM)**

- a. Consent Agenda: No items.
- b. Old Business: No items.
- c. New Business:
 - i. RES 262702 – Transitioning to Online SOClS – FAC (handout)
 - 1. Senator Zenko presented RES 262702 for first reading on behalf of FAC. The resolution clarifies that fully online SOClS are intended to begin in the 2028-2029 academic year, consistent with the two-year implementation period in the previously approved resolution. No action was taken at first reading.
 - 2. Q&A and Discussion:
 - a. Discussion supported considering an earlier implementation timeline, potentially beginning in 2027-2028, in light of the cost of continuing paper SOClS.
 - b. Members also discussed the minimum enrollment threshold, including concerns about students in small sections, Antelope Valley sections, honors sections, and part-time faculty. EC and FAC will consider the feedback and the possibility of a separate referral on small-enrollment exceptions and related implementation guidance.

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

- a. Senator Cours invited the campus community to attend the faculty recital on Sunday, September 13, at 3 PM in the Dore Theatre. More information is available on the Music Department website.
- b. The Senate returned to the AS&SS discussion regarding the use of Canvas informational space. Members discussed whether announcements should appear in the dashboard rather than course shells, the importance of protecting faculty instructional space, student communication preferences, and the need to balance response rates with appropriate use of Canvas. CIO Diniz confirmed that the previous use of the course shell banners was an error and ITS only intends to use the dashboard banner space for important announcements.

VIII. Adjournment

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

Academic Senate 2026-2027

September 10, 2026

Meeting ID: 81130808590

Start Time: 9/10/2026 9:53:24 AM

End Time: 9/10/2026 11:29:32 AM

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