ACADEMIC SENATE
CSU BAKERSFIELD

Senate Approved: October 22, 2026

Academic Senate Meeting – Fall 2026

Thursday, October 8, 2026
10 AM – 11:30 AM

Minutes

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

Zoom Information:

Zoom Meeting ID: 811 3080 8590
Passcode: 674081

Senate Members: Chair M. Danforth (excused), 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, 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, VP AA & Provost D. Thein and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven.

Guests: President Harper and D. Cantrell, VP for SASEM.
Virtual Guests: See attached list.

I. Call to Order
   a. Tejon Tribal Land Acknowledgement
   b. Robert's Rules of Order
   c. Interruption Statemen
   d. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas called the meeting to order and noted that Chair Danforth was excused.

II. Approval of Minutes
   a. September 24, 2026 (handout)
   b. Senator Kirstein motioned to approve the minutes from September 24, 2026; Senator Lam 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 the following:
         1. CSUB received a $27 million Department of Energy grant for carbon capture, which he described as a significant institutional achievement that will strengthen the University's reputation and regional economic-development profile.

IV. The University will add a Spanish-speaking public affairs officer and form an advisory council to assist with identifying an appropriate candidate. This move was noted as timely given that the University's Hispanic/Latinx student population has surpassed 70 percent.

V. President Harper also reminded Senators that nominations for the Wang Family Excellence Award are due October 9.

i. No additional discussion or questions ensued.

b. Post-Census Day Enrollment Report – D. Cantrell **(Time Certain: 10:20 AM)**

i. Vice President Cantrell presented preliminary post-Census Day enrollment data drawn primarily from the IRPA dashboard. Refer to the attached slide deck for detailed information.

ii. Discussion and Q&A:

1. Discussion included the enrollment cliff and long-term demographic trends, dual enrollment and the large number of students entering with units that may not apply to their degree pathways, community-college and trade-school trends, fully online enrollment, birth-rate data, graduate-student FTES calculations, and the relationship between enrollment and student housing and facilities planning. Senators also discussed A-G readiness, the need to strengthen collaboration with local high schools, achievement gaps and basic skills, possible placement testing, remediation, and the need for more student-centered classroom environments.
2. Senator Lam noted that approximately 40 percent of Kern County high school graduates are A-G ready compared with a statewide average of approximately 53 percent. He also discussed students entering with 60 units but lacking required mathematics coursework, particularly in STEM majors, and recommended stronger coordination with high-school counselors to ensure students take courses that support their intended degree pathways.
3. Senator Lauer asked about trends involving community colleges, trade schools, and students who are A-G ready but do not enroll in college. Vice President Cantrell stated that IRPA could provide additional data and noted the importance of examining these trends for long-term planning. Senators asked about the percentage of students enrolled fully online and suggested reviewing birth-rate and demographic trends in Kern County. Vice President Cantrell referred questions about fully online enrollment and projections to IRPA.
4. Senator Palaiologou asked whether the presentation slides would be available. Vice President Cantrell confirmed that he would distribute a PDF copy.
5. Senator Grombly raised concerns about skill gaps, the possible return of placement testing, and the need to improve basic skills before students enroll. Senators discussed the relationship between inadequate preparation, DFW rates, and graduation outcomes. The discussion also addressed the possible role of remediation or other structured support for students who meet eligibility requirements but are not yet prepared for college-level work.

6. Senator Sarma asked about classroom design and the potential for more student-centered, collaborative, and project-based learning environments.
    a. Vice President Cantrell stated that student belonging and engagement are important but deferred questions regarding pedagogy and classroom structures to Academic Affairs faculty and other instructional experts.

c. Elections and Appointments – T. Tsantsoulas (handout)
    i. Vice Chair Tsantsoulas provided updates on Elections and Appointments. The slides from the report are included in the agenda packet. Vice Chair Tsantsoulas noted that open calls remain for one at-large tenured faculty member for the Academic Administrator Review Committee for the AVP for GRaSP, one at-large non-Senate faculty member—preferably from Antelope Valley—for University Council, and two additional at-large faculty members for the Exceptional Service Award Committee.

d. Upcoming Events/ Information:
    i. October 19 - Fall 2026 Budget Open Forum
        1. 11 AM to 12 noon; Student Union MPR and virtual
        2. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas announced that the October 19 Fall 2026 Budget Open Forum location has been moved from the Student Union MPR to the SRC Solario. The forum will be held from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon and will also be available virtually.

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

a. Senator Grombly motioned to approve the agenda; Senator Kirstein seconded. The agenda was approved.

VII. Reports

a. Provost's Report – D. Cantrell on behalf of D. Thien **(Time Certain: 10:40 AM)**
    i. Student Success Framework: Vice President Cantrell reported on the Student Success Framework on behalf of Provost Thien. The Chancellor's Office directed the composition of the campus Student Success Committee, which includes faculty, staff, administrators, President Harper, and Senate Chair Danforth. The campus is preparing for the fall 2027 entering class and has been asked to identify four focused initiatives that can produce measurable progress. The campus will meet with the Chancellor's Office in approximately two weeks, and additional updates will be provided as the work continues.

b. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka
    i. Senator Lam reported that the ASCSU report was deferred because the Senators are still awaiting the ASCSU minutes.

c. ASI Report – Senator Kaur

VIII. Senator Kaur reported that the upcoming student concert was moved outdoors after consultation with the fire marshal because indoor capacity was limited. The new location, which is where the carnival is typically held will allow more students to attend, although in an effort to prioritize CSUB students' attendance, there will still not be room for guests.

a. Staff Report – Senator C. Zúñiga-Prado

i. Senator Zúñiga-Prado reported that the Academic Senate Staff Senator organizational account has been created and that the Vice President for People and Culture approved connecting the staff listserv to the account. The Staff Senator will use the account to solicit items for future staff reports and feedback regarding future Staff Senator elections, with the goal of reaching staff across the University.

b. Committee Reports:
    i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas (handout)
        1. Vice-Chair Tsantsoulas referred Senators to the written Executive Committee report.
    ii. Standing Committees:
        1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) – Senator Deal, Chair (handout)
            a. Senator Deal referred Senators to the written AAC report and noted that the committee hopes to consider the teaching modalities item at its next meeting.
        2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS) – Senator Kirstein, Chair (handout)
            a. Senator Kirstein referred Senators to the written AS&SS report and thanked Senator Moreno for leading the committee meeting during an emergency absence.
        3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Wu, Chair (handout)
            a. Senator Wu reported that BPC was satisfied with responses from the developers of the Applied Analytics proposal and anticipated moving forward with the resolution in the future.
        4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Zenko, Chair (handout)
            a. Senator Zenko referred Senators to the written Faculty Affairs Committee report.
c. CFA Report – Senator Horn, CFA Bakersfield (handout)
    i. Senator Horn provided an update on CFA Bakersfield activities and referred Senators to the written report for additional information.

IX. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:50 AM)**

a. Consent Agenda: No items.
b. Old Business:
    i. RES 262704 – Updates to Bylaws – EC (handout)
        1. Vice Chair Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for second reading including the revisions made which include the correction of a Latin term, clarification of the Director of Enrollment Systems for the Academic Affairs Committee membership. No additional discussion.
        2. Senator Horn motioned to approve the resolution; Senator Grombly seconded. The resolution was approved.
c. New Business:
    i. RES 262705 – Distributed Learning Committee – FAC (handout)
        1. Senator Zenko introduced the resolution for first reading on behalf of FAC.

2. Discussion: Discussion focused on clarifying the terms flex, hybrid, asynchronous, and other instructional modalities; determining whether the Distributed Learning Committee's role should extend to all courses with an online component; and identifying appropriate training and accessibility guidance for courses using Canvas or other online components.

ii. RES 262706 – President's Cabinet and Academic Leadership (handout)
1. Senator Zenko introduced the resolution for first reading on behalf of FAC. Senator Zenko identified proposed updates which include updating current positions, distinguishing the President's Cabinet from the University's Academic Leadership and adding procedures for maintaining the list.
2. Discussion: Senators asked questions about the duties of listed administrators and whether the Director of Athletics is currently a member of the President's Cabinet. FAC will seek clarification from the President's Office.

X. Open Forum **(Time Certain: 11:15 AM)**
a. Senator Moreno announced that the *Runner* will collaborate with CalMatters on a Voting Matters event on Thursday, October 15, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Red Brick Road outside the Media Arts Building. The event will provide nonpartisan, Gen Z-friendly voting information, including information about the Insurance Commissioner and health-related issues.
b. Senator Cours announced that NSME will host an open house for prospective high-school and transfer students on October 13; SSE will host a major and minor fair on October 20 from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Red Brick Road; A&H will host a Beyond the Classroom trip to the Getty on October 24; and the One Book Project will take place October 29.
c. Senator Zúñiga-Prado reminded Senators about the career expo and noted that October 9 is the last day of open enrollment for employee health benefits.
d. Following the scheduled open-forum items, Senators continued the discussion with Vice President Cantrell regarding the enrollment report.

XI. Adjournment
a. Vice Chair Tsantsoulas adjourned the meeting at 11:29 AM.

Academic Senate 2026-2027

8-Oct-26 Start Time: 10/8/2026 9:50:08 AM

ID 81130808590 End Time: 10/8/2026 11:29:25 AM

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