



**Academic Senate Meeting – Spring 2026**

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

**Zoom Link:** <https://csub.zoom.us/j/84669370314?pwd=gmLoywwMxQR4k7G0hUhv25vs0N8xr8.1>

**Senate Members:** Chair M. Danforth, Vice-Chair D. Solano, CSU Senator C. Lam, CSU Senator N. Michieka, AH Senator T. Tsantsoulas, AH Senator M. Naser (virtual), BPA Senator D. Wu, BPA Senator S. Sarma, NSME Senator L. Kirstein, NSME Senator A. Stokes, SSE Senator Z. Zenko, SSE Senator S. Roberts (alt. for Spring 2026 K. Henderson), AV Senator K. Holloway (virtual), At-Large Senator H. He (virtual), At-Large Senator A. Grombly (virtual), At-Large Senator A. Hays, At-Large Senator A. Lauer, At-Large Senator T. Salisbury (virtual), At-Large Senator R. Dugan, Lecturer Electorate Senator D. Horn, Senator H. Gonzalez – Staff Representative, Senator E. Reed – ASI Executive Vice-President, VP AA & Provost D. Thien, Senator J. Dong – Dean Representative, and Senate Analyst K. Van Grinsven (excused).

**Guests:** President Harper and Debbie Wilson.

**Virtual Guests:** See attached.

- 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 11:30 am.
  
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. February 12, 2026 (handout)
  - b. February 26, 2026 (handout)
  - c. Senator Kirstein motioned to approve both sets of minutes; seconded by Senator Grombly. Minutes approved with one abstention.
  
- III. Announcements and Information
  - a. President's Report – V. Harper (**Time Certain: 10:10 AM**) (handout)
    - i. President Harper addressed the campus climate following recent ESPN article related to prior allegations involving athletics. He acknowledged the emotional

- impact and described the renewed public attention as retraumatizing for the campus community. He stated that, although the recent article contained little new information, its publication has negatively affected morale. The President noted that a trial is expected over the summer, which will likely renew media attention. He emphasized his role in supporting the campus and addressing community concerns.
- ii. The President stated that campus morale is a major concern, and he has asked cabinet members to identify strategies to improve morale across divisions. He announced plans for listening sessions to gather input and address concerns.
  - iii. President Harper requested Senate assistance in forming a search committee for a new Athletic Director.
  - iv. The President reported that the recent Board of Trustees meeting went well, and announced an upcoming visit by Trustee Leslie Gilbert-Lurie. He also shared that the university signed an MOU with a local startup called Bios.
  - v. President Harper reminded the Senate of the upcoming budget forum on March 16 and the President's Open Forum on April 8. He noted that the university has made progress in addressing its prior deficit and may be in a position to make investments next year.
  - vi. Q&A/Discussion: Senator Gonzalez raised concerns about the reputational damage caused by the ongoing athletics-related publicity and its impact on faculty and staff interactions in the community. The President acknowledged these concerns and stated that the administration continues to work on crisis and brand management. He clarified that the coach most recently placed on administrative leave was not related to the prior matter and noted that the university must protect employee privacy in personnel matters.
- b. Impacted Status of Nursing – D. Wilson (**Time Certain: 10:20 AM**) (handout)
- i. See attached memorandum. D. Wilson, Chair of the Department of Nursing, presented proposed modifications to the nursing program's impacted status criteria. She noted that Nursing remains the only impacted program on campus. The program currently has approximately 500 pre-health students competing for only 86 seats. The Chancellor's Office permits the department to set higher admission criteria due to excess demand.
  - ii. Healthcare experience had previously been added as an admission factor to help ensure students better understand the profession before entering the program. The department reported that attrition has decreased since this factor was introduced and is proposing advanced placement credit for LVN applicants in selected introductory nursing coursework. LVN students would complete a placement exam and an existing preparation course to ensure readiness to join the spring cohort. The change is intended to better serve qualified LVN applicants and meet community demand.
  - iii. Senator Dong asked if pre-health students obtain healthcare experience. Chair Wilson responded that they could obtain volunteer experience through the COPE

Health Scholars program. Healthcare experience may also include work as CNAs, medical assistants, respiratory therapists, and other healthcare roles. Senator Hays asked whether students are guided toward healthcare experience opportunities through advising. Chair Wilson confirmed that the pre-health advisors do that.

- c. Exceptional Service Award Recommendations **(Time Certain: 10:30 AM)**
  - i. Vice-Chair Solano announced the faculty members to be awarded under Article 20.37 Exceptional Service. Refer to the handout under “Elections and Appointments” identifying the faculty members to be awarded.
- d. Elections and Appointments – D. Solano (handout)
  - i. See attached handout. At-large senator election results were announced, with Senator Grombly and Senator He re-elected, and J. Deal returning as senator. Vice Chair Solano also provided updates on college-elected positions and academic administrator review committees, noting that vacant college positions eventually revert to at-large positions if not filled.
  - ii. Senator Gonzalez reported on the staff senator election process. He explained that the staff senator is elected by Staff Forum. Members were informed that there will be a call for Staff Forum board members. After the board is constituted, an election committee will determine the process for electing the next staff senator. Senator Gonzalez noted that he would not seek reelection. Staff members were encouraged to participate in order to preserve staff representation in the Academic Senate.
- e. Upcoming Events:
  - i. March 16 – Spring Budget Open Forum
    - 1. 2-3 pm; Student Union MPR and virtual
    - 2. [Budget Open Forum Feedback Form](#)
  - ii. April 8 – President’s Open Forum
    - 1. 9 am; Student Union MPR

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

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

#### V. Reports

- a. ASI Report – Senator Reed
  - i. Senator Reed congratulated the student research competition winners, three of which are ASI members and will attend an event in San Jose next month.
  - ii. ASI recently visited the Fab Lab with Dean Dong and look forward to greater student use of the space.
  - iii. Senator Reed noted that the Lobby Corps delegation will travel to Sacramento to meet with legislators and advocate for the CSU.
  - iv. ASI is hosting AI guidance workshops, including an upcoming session for SSE students.

- v. Senator Reed reported that the IRA application deadline is Tuesday, April 7.
  - vi. Discussion and Q&A: Senator Dong added that the Fab Lab is open not only to NSME students but to all students and community members.
- b. Provost's Report – D. Thien (**Time Certain: 10:35 AM**) (handout)
- i. The Provost discussed her recent letter to faculty concerning the possibility of layoffs. She clarified that the university issued notice to CFA under Article 38 of the collective bargaining agreement because such notice is contractually required when layoffs may be necessary. This notice does not mean layoffs have been decided or that any individual has received a layoff notice. Schedule development for 2026–2027 remains in progress and will continue to evolve over several months. The President has authorized additional support for planning, allowing the university to add classes where needed, particularly for high-demand GE and bottleneck courses. The Provost emphasized student-centered planning and reducing uncertainty around faculty workload. The Provost also noted that she is committed to clear communication and shared governance. She announced plans for an open forum involving the Senate, her office, and the budget office to discuss the instructional budget model.
  - ii. Provost Thien reported on her attendance at an AI symposium for provosts. AI should be understood as an “arrival technology,” meaning it is already present and must be addressed institutionally. AI literacy should be treated as a campus-wide responsibility involving students, faculty, and staff. Provost Thien also observed that a range of AI-related work is already happening on campus and suggested that greater visibility of those efforts would be beneficial.
  - iii. The Provost announced that a call for faculty leads related to WSCUC work would be coming soon, likely requiring four to five faculty leads.
  - iv. Provost Thien reported that the CSUB Emergency Work Group is in its initial stages and that a fuller update would follow after its first meeting.
  - v. Discussion and Q&A:
    - 1. Senator Tsantsoulas asked whether prior-year data are being used to project course needs. Dean Dong confirmed that colleges are using prior enrollment data, waitlist history, and current demand projections to estimate section needs and reduce later disruption to faculty assignments. Senator Zenko emphasized the value of explaining these scheduling processes in detail to faculty, especially department chairs.
    - 2. Senator Michieka asked why a layoff-related communication was necessary given stable enrollment and a favorable budget outlook. The Provost clarified that scheduling remains fluid and can be affected by shifts in enrollment patterns, curriculum changes, GE changes, sabbaticals, and other personnel changes.
    - 3. Senator Horn suggested sending out a survey to department chairs to ask what questions they have about the instructional budget model to guide the instructional budget open forum.

- c. ASCSU Report – Senators Lam and Michieka (handout)
  - i. See attached handout.
- d. Staff Report – Senator Gonzalez (handout)
  - i. See attached handout.
  - ii. Senator Gonzalez reported on the following:
    - 1. A staff campaign kickoff event was taking place in the Albertson Room, with lunch provided.
    - 2. A solidarity rally involving multiple labor groups was scheduled for Monday.
    - 3. A bargaining survey had been distributed to CSUEU members, and staff were encouraged to complete it.
- e. Committee Reports:
  - i. Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Solano (handout)
    - 1. See attached handout.
  - ii. Standing Committees: See attached handouts.
    - 1. Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) – Senator Tsantsoulas (handout)
      - a. Memorandum: Recommendations regarding the New Degree Proposal – BS in Environmental Science\_RES 252636
    - 2. Academic Support and Student Services Committee (AS&SS) – Senator Kirstein (handout)
      - a. Memorandum: Faculty Disclosure of High-Risk Automated Decision-Making Systems in Instruction-RES 252628
    - 3. Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) – Senator Lauer (handout)
    - 4. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Senator Zenko (handout)
- f. CFA Report – T. Salisbury, CFA Bakersfield (deferred)

VI. Resolutions **(Time Certain: 10:40 AM)**

- a. Consent Agenda: No items.
- b. Old Business:
  - i. RES 252630 – New Minor in Medical Spanish – AAC and BPC (handout)
    - 1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AAC and BPC. Minor revisions were made including a revision to the rationale where “social work” was removed and replaced with “human biological sciences.” A typo was also identified and noted for correction. No further amendments were proposed.
    - 2. Senators voted on the resolution; resolution passed.
  - ii. RES 252631 – New Minor in Early Childhood Development – AAC and BPC (handout)
    - 1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for second reading on behalf of AAC and BPC. No changes were made since first reading. No amendments were proposed.
    - 2. Senators voted on the resolution; resolution passed.

- iii. RES 252627 – Policy on Use of Informational Banner Space in Canvas – AAC, AS&SS **(HOLD)**
  - iv. RES 252622 – Academic Advising Structure Is an Academic Endeavor – AAC, AS&SS **(HOLD)**
- c. New Business:
- i. RES 252618- REVISED - Special Review Committee Recommendations for Anthropology (handout)
    - 1. Chair Danforth presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of EC. A revised version of the previously approved RES 252618 was presented after its return to Executive Committee. The revision added language clarifying that “the Academic Senate recommends” equitable distribution of instructional budget model funding for GE courses.
    - 2. Senator Tsantsoulas motioned to waive first reading; seconded by Senator Zenko. Motion carried.
    - 3. The Senate proceeded to second reading. No amendments were proposed. Senators voted on the resolution; revised resolution passed.
  - ii. RES 252635 – New Sociology Minor in Migration, Population and Globalization – AAC and BPC (handout)
    - 1. Senator Grombly presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and BPC. It was noted that the proposal had a strong rationale, would use existing courses, and would not require additional outside resources.
    - 2. No discussion or feedback was recorded.
  - iii. RES 252636 – New Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science – AAC and BPC (handout)
    - 1. Senator Grombly presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and BPC. The program would be based in the Department of Geological Sciences but draw electives from across STEM fields. It is intended to address environmental issues relevant to Kern County. Senator Tsantsoulas added that AAC noted the need for strong advising due to the program’s flexibility, and that AAC was satisfied with the plans to coordinate faculty and staff advising.
    - 2. Discussion/Feedback: Vice Chair Solano raised concerns that the proposal does not include sufficient biology or chemistry for a program titled “Environmental Science.” She also noted that the proposal was not supported by the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry because it does not require college-level chemistry; students have the option of taking Preparation for College Chemistry, which is a high school-level chemistry course which does not contain a lab. Vice Chair Solano suggested renaming the program or broadening interdisciplinary input. Senator Dong noted that the proposal was approved by the NSME curriculum committee. A. Rathburn, Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences, responded that extensive consultation

had occurred, that interdisciplinary flexibility was a major strength of the program, and that the curriculum was designed to balance breadth with student choice and employability.

- iv. RES 252632 - Required Unit RTP Criteria Elements and Guidance on Unit RTP Criteria Revision – Handbook Changes – FAC (handout)
  - 1. Senator Zenko presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of FAC. The resolution is intended to guide revision of unit RTP criteria. The proposal would require unit criteria to be sufficiently clear to support decisions involving temporary faculty retention, probationary review, tenure, promotion, early promotion, and post-tenure review.
  - 2. No substantive discussion or feedback was recorded.
- RES 252633 - Clarifying Faculty Workload, RSCA Expectations, and Service Responsibilities – FAC (handout)
  - 3. Senator Zenko presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of FAC with the resolution reaffirming that teaching, RSCA, and service are all professional responsibilities of tenure-track and tenured faculty. The proposal suggested that when faculty are under-engaged in service, deans may assign additional duties consistent with policy and the collective bargaining agreement.
  - 4. Discussion/Feedback: Senator Lauer supported the idea that such assignments should come from deans rather than department and Senator Tsantsoulas stated that she supported the measured nature of the proposal. Vice Chair Solano suggested clarifying if the fifth resolved in the proposal would apply to faculty at the rank of associate professor, or full professors only.
- v. RES 252634- Establishing a Preferred Non-Contractual Academic Honorific Title “Senior Lecturer” – Handbook Change – FAC (handout)
  - 1. Senator Zenko presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of FAC proposing “Senior Lecturer” as a preferred non-contractual academic honorific for lecturers with three-year entitlement and six or more years of service. The title would not alter appointment type or contractual status.
  - 2. Discussion/Feedback: Several senators spoke in favor of the resolution with discussion reflecting strong support for recognizing long-serving lecturers. Lecturers often make substantial instructional, service, advising, and research contributions. Senator Horn noted that similar recognition has precedent at other CSU campuses. Some discussion focused on whether the title should be automatic or involve a nomination or recognition process. Concerns were raised about ensuring equitable recognition across units.
- vi. RES 252628 - Inventory of Automated Decision-Making Software for the Classroom – AS&SS (handout) (deferred; AS&SS chair had to leave at 11:30 am)
- vii. RES 252629 - Academic, Curricular, and Student Support Software Governance – AS&SS (handout) (deferred; AS&SS chair had to leave at 11:30 am)

- viii. RES 252637- Academic Standing Policy Update: Summer Disqualification Removal – AAC, AS&SS (handout)
1. Senator Tsantsoulas presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of AAC and AS&SS, proposing that academic disqualification actions occur only at the end of fall and spring terms, rather than also after summer. Rationale included that summer should function as an opportunity for students to improve their standing without risk of immediate disqualification. Eliminating summer disqualification would encourage students on notice or probation to take summer courses. Senator Grombly added that the change would also ease administrative processing and help preserve instructional days in the fall calendar.
  2. Discussion/Feedback: Senator Dugan suggested clarification of the term academic notice, and Senator Zenko noted that the committee should consider whether the word “shall” or “may” should be used.

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

- a. At the beginning of Open Forum, Chair Danforth departed and Vice-Chair Solano assumed leadership of the meeting.
- b. Senator Lauer announced the fifth Sustainability Symposium, scheduled for April 24, with additional activities planned throughout the week.
- c. Senator Lauer also raised concerns about continued fumigation of squirrel dens on campus and the possible impact on kit foxes and other wildlife, especially during pup season. The President responded that he would consult with K. Watson.
- d. The Provost announced a Kegley Institute of Ethics campus conversation on academic freedom scheduled for that evening and noted several faculty and student panel participants.
- e. Senator Dong announced a Taco Tuesday event with the Deans at the Black Student Success Center and also reported that approximately 200 high school students recently visited campus for Math Field Day.
- f. Senator Dugan announced an upcoming sociology colloquium presentation by Dr. Janet Armentor on individuals who work with abandoned dogs in Kern County.
- g. Vice Chair Solano returned to the discussion of layoff notices under “Provost Report”.
- h. Senator Sarma asked for additional clarification regarding the layoff notice issue. Senator Dugan explained that the notice requirement is triggered whenever a department may be unable to meet even one lecturer’s entitlement.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Senator Zenko made a motion to extend the meeting by ten minutes; seconded by Senator Dong. The motion passed.
- b. Vice-Chair Solano adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.

## Academic Senate 2025-26

ID 84669370314

Start time: 3/12/2026 9:43:43 AM

End time: 3/12/2026 11:34:10 AM

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