



**Report from ASCSU to CSUB
Senate Meeting (3/4/2026 – 3/6/2026)**

I. Guests

**a. Academic Affairs: Junius Gonzales, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and
Academic Affairs: Nathan Evans, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs**

1. Vice Chancellor Gonzales provided updates on advocacy and Academic Affairs priorities, noting the Chancellor’s testimony at a Senate Budget Subcommittee hearing and underscoring the heightened legislative focus on intersegmental competition. Gonzales referenced recent committee conversations and highlighted systemwide attainment reporting, emphasizing that “postsecondary attainment” includes credentials beyond bachelor’s degrees. He also previewed an initiative to fund paid student and faculty undergraduate research experiences and noted an upcoming search for an Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs and Innovations and Faculty Excellence.
2. AVC Evans connected this work to the developing Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) framework, organized around who the CSU serves, how it delivers, and what it offers. He identified priority areas including academic preparation, affordability and financial aid, improved systemwide data and communications, flexible academic pathways, and more responsive adult/working-learner models. Evans discussed exploring additional bachelor’s degree types (e.g., Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Professional Studies, Bachelor of Applied Studies), strengthening support for multi-campus/consortial programs, standardizing budget templates and workforce data sources, and shortening timelines for program development and implementation. Gonzales added that the SEM process is also surfacing policies for possible revision, including limits on cross-enrollment in online courses at other CSU campuses.
3. During discussion, senators raised concerns about duplication reviews and the workload placed on departments; Gonzales agreed timelines for duplication review are too tight and should be revisited. Questions also focused on resources and coordination needed to develop new degree types (including potential unintended impacts on Pell eligibility), and Evans noted community colleges are pursuing teacher credential authority, increasing urgency for CSU options such as a Bachelor of Education. Senators also urged stronger, more explicit CSU engagement around DEI and bilingual program pathways and raised basic-needs access issues for online students outside their home-campus service areas; Gonzales indicated he would elevate the basic-needs concern.

b. Adrian Harrell, Alumni Council President, Jodi Braverman, Executive Director, CSU Alumni Council, and Lori Brockett, Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement and University Events (CSUSM),

1. The guests shared that the Alumni Council met in late February at CSU Long Beach and adopted a new Alumni Council Strategic Plan for 2025–2027. The updated mission and vision emphasize uniting alumni as advocates and partners to advance student and alumni success and positioning the Council as a trusted systemwide partner. They highlighted five values: advocacy, lifelong connection, collaboration, opportunity and access, and stewardship.
2. They summarized three strategic goals aligned with CSU Forward and the Student Success Framework: (1) elevate alumni success stories, strengthen advocacy (including CSU Voices), and reinforce public investment in the CSU; (2) deepen lifelong connections by expanding alumni engagement with students, particularly classroom engagement, experiential learning, mentorship, alignment with career services, and lifelong learning opportunities (extended education, micro-credentials, upskilling), and share faculty-alumni collaboration best practices across campuses; and (3) strengthen internal governance, leadership development, and cross-campus coordination within the Alumni Council, which includes campus alumni directors and alumni volunteers.
3. In discussion, they noted they do not currently have a separate diversity plan but will consider it. They described interest in improved systemwide data linking alumni majors to post-graduation employment and education pathways; they noted current limitations due to self-reported and publicly sourced data, low survey response rates, and uneven campus participation in available tools, but indicated efforts underway to improve this. They explained campuses will be required to participate in CASE alumni engagement metrics/data reporting, which should strengthen systemwide measures of engagement and better capture activities such as alumni participation in classrooms and other student-support efforts. They also acknowledged that some alumni hesitate to engage due to concerns about fundraising solicitation and emphasized a communication strategy focused on engagement and student success, while also noting the value of tracking in-kind contributions such as time and service. They encouraged follow-up collaboration to gather alumni feedback that can inform curricular and career preparation efforts.

c. Margarita Berta-Ávila, CFA President, Liaison Report

1. Margarita Berta-Ávila, CFA President, reported that bargaining continues every two weeks;
2. CFA has put forward 20+ proposals but key items remain unresolved: salary (CFA seeks a \$79,000 floor, 2% COLA and step increases), academic freedom, AI protections, workload/Article 12 issues, and lecturer sustainability; while management has offered a 3% one-time bonus and several concessions (e.g., limits on assigned time for union work, keeping reprimand letters permanently).
3. CFA is holding regular post-bargaining town halls (200–500 attendees) and experimenting with quicker member communications (texts, social media) to keep members informed and mobilized.

4. CFA is looking for methods to effectively communicate with constituents e.g may revert to text messages
5. She challenged the “there is no money” narrative, calling out what CFA describes as a manufactured systemic deficit (campuses such as Bakersfield show rising enrollment yet face cuts).
6. Local organizing plus statewide support has produced wins: planned program eliminations at Dominguez Hills were withdrawn, and Sacramento State’s threatened library cuts were reversed and funded. CFA continues coordinated campus-level and union-wide actions, mutual aid, and coalition work (including support for Teamsters).
7. President Berta-Ávila summarized CFA’s legislative agenda born from recent issues and litigation: SB1101 (notice before sharing personal data with federal entities), SB928 (AI protections for faculty and instructor-of-record requirements), AB2523 (public accessibility of higher-ed governing board contact/info), AB2068 (campus-centered presidential search process), and AB1831 (limit executive compensation).
8. CFA also continued to support the teamsters and unions in their strike
9. Equity conference next week – online and free
10. She closed by urging continued campus organizing, collaboration with senates, and use of research/media to counter misleading budget narratives

d. Dr. Leslie Kennedy, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Technology Services.

1. Provided an overview of the CSU AI Commons (genai.calstate.edu) and related systemwide AI initiatives. She highlighted upcoming and recent events, including hackathons, campus symposia, and Innovation Challenge projects, as well as systemwide professional development offerings for faculty, staff, and students.
2. She noted strong participation in AI training programs, including facilitated and self-paced courses and a student micro-credential.
3. Kennedy also reviewed available AI tools across CSU platforms (e.g., Microsoft/Google environments, Zoom, Adobe for All) and described ongoing research efforts, including a year-long Ithaka S+R study on AI literacy involving CSU libraries and Centers for Teaching and Learning.
4. During discussion, senators raised questions about renewal of the OpenAI contract, AI detection tools, data privacy and storage, environmental and ethical considerations, and emerging AI-related degree programs.
5. Kennedy confirmed that contract renewal discussions are underway, that AI detection tools such as Turnitin’s AI features are available systemwide (with campus discretion), and that system policies emphasize data privacy and responsible use. She invited campuses to share updates on new AI-related programs and resources to ensure inclusion in the AI Commons.

e. CalFresh, Stephanie Bianco, Director of the Center for Healthy Communities and Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition & Food Science, Chico State

1. Provided an overview of the CalFresh program and its impact on student success. She emphasized that CalFresh benefits, averaging over \$200 per month per student, significantly reduce food insecurity, improve retention and academic performance, and lessen students’ need to work excessive hours.

2. Students who receive CalFresh: EBT Dollars equate to 120 fewer work hours per year
3. Chico State serves as the prime contractor for CalFresh outreach across multiple CSU, UC, and community college campuses and operates a statewide resource hub.
4. Bianco outlined significant funding challenges resulting from federal changes that will reduce reimbursement from 80% to 25% beginning October 2026, placing campus outreach offices at risk.
5. She stressed the importance of tracking faculty and staff time spent referring students to CalFresh as allowable “state share” to sustain reimbursement and maintain campus services. Senators were encouraged to support campus outreach efforts and help elevate awareness of the program’s role in student retention and success.
6. For more information on how to collaborate, feel free to reach out to Stephanie Bianco at <https://chicostatecalfresh.org/>

f. Mildred Garcia, Chancellor of the CSU

1. Chancellor Mildred García provided systemwide updates focused primarily on budget advocacy and early implementation of CSU Forward. She reported spending significant time in Sacramento, including testimony before Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees and meetings with legislative and administration leaders. She emphasized that the Governor’s proposal of \$509 million in new ongoing CSU funding represents “the right investment at the right time,” and outlined intended uses: growing enrollment and access; providing compensation increases for faculty and staff and using forthcoming salary studies to address identified inequities; addressing a facilities and infrastructure backlog approaching \$9 billion; and advancing CSU Forward with defined metrics and milestones to support transparency and accountability. She underscored that the CSU remains at the beginning of a difficult budget cycle with intense competition for state revenues and urged broad participation in advocacy.
2. She highlighted CSU Voices as the system’s advocacy platform, describing it as a tool to mobilize stakeholders to support the CSU budget, protect federal funding such as Pell Grants, and advocate for inclusion of CSU students, faculty, and staff in a proposed state affordable housing bond. She thanked faculty leadership for contributions to CSU Forward and the Student Success Framework and then offered examples of CSU Forward implementation since the Board’s September endorsement.
3. To illustrate economic mobility efforts, she noted the launch of an AI micro-internship platform offering paid, project-based AI opportunities and the establishment of an AI-enabled research and innovation award connected to the CSU Student Research Competition. She previewed Board consideration of three proposed baccalaureate degree types: Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Professional Studies, and Bachelor of Applied Studies. These were framed as career-aligned, time-to-degree-reducing options intended to augment, not replace, existing degrees. For affordability and access, she cited expansion of direct admissions work and financial-aid counseling support (including training for Riverside County counselors and success coaches), and described exploration of

Title V changes to allow CSU credits earned at any campus to count as residence credit toward degrees systemwide to improve credit mobility and shorten time to degree. She also emphasized operational efficiencies, including systemwide procurement savings, offering a toner contract example projected to save over \$1.1 million annually.

4. On the “employer of choice” objective, she described a new total compensation philosophy and systemwide faculty and staff salary studies expected to conclude by June. She stated that, with the Governor’s proposed funding, the CSU intends to provide compensation increases and use the studies to correct deficiencies. She also described the launch of an employee engagement/sentiment tool to support data-informed culture and retention work. She provided updates on civil rights initiatives, including prevention and education staffing on most campuses, a new coordinating leadership role at the Chancellor’s Office, a shared investigator pilot, and centralized investigator positions to build internal capacity and reduce reliance on external contractors.
5. On statewide impact, she reiterated the goal of strengthening advocacy through CSU Voices and described coordination between the Office of General Counsel and government relations for legislative and regulatory work. She also noted an initiative to amend select systemwide vendor contracts to include paid internships and scholarships to expand experiential learning and strengthen workforce pipelines.
6. In Q&A, she responded that the system is renegotiating its AI contract and expressed hope the CSU can reduce pricing and continue paying centrally. She received requests and comments urging gubernatorial appointment of the faculty trustee and expressing concern about reduced access for ASCSU executive committee members during Board of Trustees meetings. She addressed concerns about community college baccalaureate degree duplication, noting ongoing engagement between CSU academic affairs leadership and community college counterparts to “level set,” and acknowledging challenges related to enforcement mechanisms and local politics. She and academic affairs leadership indicated efforts to improve documentation of outreach and collaboration expectations in program proposals and to pursue strategies that may temper future conflicts.
7. Faculty raised concerns about shared governance and communication regarding proposed Title V and new degree-type items presented as information items to the Board. The Chancellor and academic affairs leadership stated outreach began in early January and acknowledged communication lapses, with a commitment to improve ongoing briefings. Discussion also addressed how CSU rhetoric around “workforce needs” should reflect adaptability, critical thinking, and transferable skills, with the Chancellor emphasizing these qualities as central outcomes.
8. Additional comments highlighted concerns about standardization (including common course numbering and credit mobility) potentially reducing program distinctiveness and quality, and suggested reframing the community college baccalaureate debate around quality assurance expectations (faculty engagement, support services, and academic infrastructure). The Chancellor acknowledged these concerns and noted that other states have stricter oversight and that CSU leadership is raising quality and support-service issues in ongoing discussions.

9. A request was made to expand basic needs access for state-supported distance education students who are geographically dispersed and cannot use campus-based services; the Chancellor indicated she would ask staff to explore creative approaches and learn from rural-serving models. She also responded to enrollment/resource-allocation concerns by emphasizing the system's funding model tied to student FTE, ongoing campus planning, pursuit of efficiencies through regional collaboration, and one-time marketing support for campuses experiencing enrollment challenges. Finally, she provided an update on NAGPRA work, noting strengthened system coordination with a leader from tribal communities, continued efforts to establish required committees, and collaboration with legislative partners on a potential regional approach to address committee capacity constraints.

g. CSU Trustees Diego Arambula & Carson Fajardo

1. Trustee Arambula described his Fresno roots, a career in public education (as a teacher, principal, and education nonprofit leader), and his current work with the Carnegie Foundation, emphasizing a commitment to public education, structural improvement, and serving students most in need; he also noted family influences rooted in public service and shared personal context about his family and community work.
2. Trustee Fajardo shared his Inland Empire background, deep family ties to the CSU, and his pathway through CSU San Bernardino student leadership, including serving as ASI president and on the Cal State Student Association board, highlighting his focus on student return on investment through experiential learning, internships, and meaningful degree outcomes.
3. Senators raised concerns about the delayed appointment of a new faculty trustee and requested support in urging the Governor's office to fill the seat; Trustee Arambula affirmed the importance of faculty representation and committed to exploring and advocating for a full board while noting broader appointment delays. Questions also addressed strengthening communication between the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees, including earlier faculty input on policy items such as proposed Title V degree changes; Trustee Arambula emphasized the value of shared governance, explained the board's committee structure and expressed openness to receiving faculty perspectives even as board processes differ from system shared-governance channels. Trustees addressed concerns about community college baccalaureate expansion and perceived lack of enforceable remedies for "good faith" and non-duplication expectations, indicating the issue has been communicated to legislators and remains problematic; they also affirmed support for liberal arts education as central to CSU's mission and student success.
4. Additional discussion covered restoring the Senate Chair's ability to speak more fully at Board meetings, how trustees handle disagreement with Chancellor's Office recommendations (including an example where concerns raised during information-item discussion prevented a vote), and how executive performance is evaluated through annual goals tied to incentive/at-risk pay alongside periodic reviews, with questions raised about anonymity and candor in feedback processes. Trustees described effective working relationships as collaborative, solutions-

oriented, and dialogue-based, and expressed strong interest in partnering with faculty, students, and other stakeholders to advance student basic needs supports. Trustee Fajardo reflected on similarities between campus student government leadership and trustee service (acting as a bridge between constituencies) while noting the shift to a more governance-focused role.

h. Katie Karroum, CSSA Vice President of Systemwide Affairs, CSSA Liaison Report

1. The liaison report included updates on AI, legislative advocacy, finance, and mental health.
2. It was announced that the CSSA AI White Paper has been published and is intended to reflect student perspectives on systemwide AI implementation. An update was also provided on the student trustee selection process, with three finalists to be submitted to the Governor's office.
3. Recent plenaries included student concerns regarding the Board of Trustees' executive compensation vote. Initial bill positions were adopted in areas including student employment, CalFresh eligibility, technology-facilitated sexual violence, and Cal Grant access, with additional positions to be considered at the upcoming Sacramento plenary and advocacy day.
4. Finance updates included work toward establishing CSSA endowments and addressing student involvement fee opt-out rates. Mental health was emphasized as a priority, with survey data cited and continued exploration of expanded after-hours support options discussed.
5. During questions, concerns were raised about AI detection tools, classroom policy consistency, CalFresh data-sharing language, and ensuring that mental health initiatives strengthen rather than replace campus-based services.

i. Reflections on the Plenary:

1. Reflections highlighted appreciation for the level of engagement and the visible participation of women in questioning administrators, noting how the culture of the Senate has evolved to feel more inclusive and welcoming over time. The role of caucuses in supporting that progress was acknowledged, along with encouragement for allies to remain mindful of how they occupy space within those meetings. It was also suggested that timing and scheduling of caucus meetings be reconsidered to ensure energy and participation remain strong.
2. Several senators reflected on the importance of direct engagement with system leaders and trustees, expressing gratitude for in-person dialogue while also emphasizing the need for more concise questioning to allow broader participation. Concerns were raised about the handling of AI-related decisions, including contract renewals and faculty consultation, with clarification that relevant system committees have not been directly involved in negotiations.
3. A broader reflection emphasized the unique value of serving in the ASCSU, particularly in gaining insight into legislative and system-level dynamics that are not widely understood by faculty on campuses. The need for clearer communication from the Chancellor's Office to build trust and support informed faculty engagement was underscored.

4. Finally, appreciation was expressed for the care and logistical support provided by Tracey McGuire during the plenary, recognizing the role such efforts play in fostering a collegial and supportive environment.

II. Resolutions

1. Approved resolutions
 - i. AS-3774-25/Exec Academic Senate of the California State University 2026-2027 Meetings
 - ii. AS-3775-25/Exec Amending the Academic Senate of the California State University Bylaws to Address Campus Closure and Integration
 - iii. AS-3776-25/AA Consultation in the Process of Reviewing CSU (Systemwide) Chancellor's Office Policies
 - iv. AS-3777-25/APEP Update to Academic Senate of the California State University Bylaws: Responsibilities of the Academic Preparation and Education Programs Committee
 - v. AS-3778-25/APEP Process for Appointment of Area 6 Ethnic Studies Discipline-Based Faculty Reviewers
 - vi. AS-3779-25/FA Restoration Of Sane And Efficient Plenary Session Hours To Boost Ascsu Senate Health And Wellness

2. First Readings
 - i. AS-3781-25/APEP Approval Process For Transfer Model Curricula (TMCs)
 - ii. AS-3782-25/AA Update To Ascsu Bylaws: Responsibilities Of The Academic Affairs Committee
 - iii. AS-3783-25/APEP Opposition to AB-2236 (Berman) [Postsecondary Education: Articulation Agreements (2026)]
 - iv. AS-3784-25/FA/AA Support For California State University's International Programs By Funding Faculty Positions
 - v. AS-3785-25/APEP In Support Of The Bachelor Of Education Degree In The California State University (CSU)
 - vi. AS-3786-25/FA Ascsu Support For Math Council's Resolution On The Use Of Mathjobs.org In The Hiring Of Academic Faculty In The Areas Of Mathematics And Statistics
 - vii. AS-3787-25/AA Discussion Paper CSU 2040:
 - viii. AS-3789-25/JEDI Support For Replacing "Academic Probation" With "Academic Notice" Across The CSU

III. Upcoming ASCSU Meetings

1. Next ASCSU Interim Standing Committee Meetings on April 3, 2026
2. Next ASCSU Plenary Meeting on April 28 – May 1, 2026

IV. Prepared by CSUB Representatives to the ASCSU

- a. Charles Lam, Professor of Mathematics and ASCSU Legislative Specialist
- b. Nyakundi Michieka, Associate Professor of Economics and Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee of the ASCSU