

# Minutes

## of the Academic Senate Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Building 98, P2 – 007 Lecture Hall

**PRESENT SENATORS:** Melissa Aaron, Pamela Adams, Corwin Aragon, Gregory Barding, Aaron Cayer, Chitra Dabas, David Edens, Amiyah S. Ellsworth, Saeideh Fallah Fini, Ghada Gad, Berit Givens, Mario Guerrero, Peter Hanink, Paivi Hoikkala, Mohammad Husain, Alex John, Rita Kumar, Teresa Lloro, Kelly Min, Sean Monemi, Jessica Perez, George Proctor, Jonathan Puthoff, Erin Questad, Dennis Quinn, Jeffrey Ray, Jeffrey Roy, Bharti Sharma, Julie Shen, Zahra Sotoudeh, Sabrina Toney, Nicholas Van Buer, Nicholas Von Glahn, Faye Wachs, Preeti Wadhwa, Gerd Welke, and Alireza Yazdani.

**GUESTS:** Aaron DeRosa, Cheryl Koos, Cami Johnson, Brandon Tuck, Lindsey Lam, Larisa Prieser-Houy, Craig LaMunyon, Alison Baski, Ethan Orr, Bonnie Thorne, Jon Constantine, Jenelle Pitt-Parker, Laura Massa, Margie Jones, Lisa Rotunni, and Keith Forward.

**PROXY:** Senator Bharti Sharma for Senator Kang Hoon Sung [Time 3:21 PM]

### Seating of Senators

- George Proctor, College of Environmental Design
- Nicholas Von Glahn, College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

### 1. Academic Senate Minutes – December 3, 2025 [Time 3:01 PM]

There was a motion by Vice Chair Greg Barding and second by Senator Adams to approve the meeting minutes from December 3, 2025. All in favor, no abstentions. The motion passed.

### 2. Information Items

#### a. **Chair's Report** [Time: 3:02 PM]

Chair Hanink opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and reminding Senators to sign in. He noted that while reviewing Senate records, he realized that the current meeting coincides with the first Academic Senate meeting of the Spring 2025 semester, which included a memorial for Dr. Alex Small—an observation that prompted reflection on the continuity and significance of Senate work.

#### **1. Clarification on Sharing Information in Senate Settings**

Chair Hanink addressed an issue from the December 12, 2025, meeting and offered a broader reminder about responsible information sharing:

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- Senators and committee members regularly encounter a wide range of information while discussing policy, program, and course changes.
- Some of this information may be accurate, some may not; regardless, members must distinguish personal/private information from information relevant to the matter at hand.
- He emphasized that private personal information should not be shared in public Senate settings or documents, such as minutes or committee reports.

### **Apology**

Chair Hanink issued an apology to Dean Pitt Parker for the inappropriate sharing of private personal information about her during a public meeting. He stressed that the information was not relevant to Senate deliberations and should not have been disclosed.

### **Guidance Moving Forward**

- If Senators are unsure whether information is appropriate to share publicly, they should *pause* and seek guidance.
- Questions may be directed to the Chair, Vice Chair Barding, or other appropriate Senate leaders.
- The goal is to maintain professionalism, respect privacy, and keep Senate discussions focused on relevant issues.

He expressed appreciation for Senators' hard work and acknowledged the complexity of navigating competing information.

## **2. Reminder of Robert's Rules of Debate**

Chair Hanink reiterated key rules:

- Senators may speak twice on a topic, provided no one else wishes to speak who has not yet had a turn.
- If a speakers list is created due to high interest in an item, comments should be limited to three minutes.

## **3. Senate Vacancies and Nomination Process**

- Senate vacancies exist across several colleges, and a call for nominations has been issued.
- Rule: No department may have two Senators until every department in that college has at least one.
- Timeline:
  - Call for nominations sent February 3
  - Nominations due February 20
  - A five-day acceptance period will follow
- If insufficient nominations occur at the department level, recruitment will expand to the college-at-large.

## **4. Additional Service Opportunities**

Chair Hanink encouraged Senators to share available university service opportunities with their constituents, especially faculty interested in expanding

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their university-level engagement.

#### **5. Senate Materials and Office Hours**

- Senate meeting units and documentation are available on the designated website.
- Chair Hanink holds weekly office hours on Wednesdays from 12:00–2:00 p.m.

#### **b. President's Report [Time: 3:09 PM]**

Interim President Levine opened her remarks by welcoming attendees and expressing appreciation for the opportunity to continue serving the university in 2026. She began with a moment of reflection, acknowledging the recent passing of Senator Brian Newman, whom she had known since his hiring during her tenure as Dean of CLASS. She recognized his meaningful contributions to the theatre department, the college, and the broader university community, including his service during the pandemic and on the Senate Executive Committee.

#### **1. Bright Tomorrow Fund Allocations**

President Levine provided an update on allocations from the Bright Tomorrow Fund, established with the university's \$40 million unrestricted grant from MacKenzie Scott in 2021. Because the funds are unrestricted, allocations are made at the President's discretion, guided by several core principles:

#### **Funding Principles**

Initiatives supported through the Bright Tomorrow Fund must:

1. Advance holistic student success, meeting students where they are and prioritizing those with the greatest need.
2. Reinforce Cal Poly Pomona's "learning by doing" mission, expanding access to experiential opportunities that prepare students for future careers.
3. Prioritize bold, experimental, student-centered initiatives with meaningful community impact.
4. Support initiatives lacking alternative funding sources.
5. Seed and catalyze projects with potential for exponential impact.
6. Ensure alignment with the university's strategic plan, principles of community, and standards of accountability.

#### **New Three-Year Allocation**

Working with the Cabinet, President Levine approved \$20 million in allocations over the next three years. Investments will focus on three priority areas:

1. **Future Paths** – Enhancing student success beyond graduation through experiential learning, career readiness, and civic engagement.
2. **Emerging Technologies** – Strengthening the polytechnic advantage by equipping all students with foundational and applied competencies in fields

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such as AI, GIS, and cybersecurity.

3. **Campus Modernization** – Upgrading campus infrastructure to create inclusive, future-ready learning environments.

She noted that Bright Tomorrow funding has already enabled impactful investments in people, programs, and facilities aligned with Cal Poly Pomona's values.

### **Highlighted Initiative: Bronco CareerWorks**

President Levine spotlighted Bronco CareerWorks, an innovative partnership between CPP and Ultimate Staffing. Key features include:

- The first staffing\_in\_residence model in the CSU system.
- Embedded professional recruiters on campus.
- Enhanced industry expertise and employer connections.
- Expanded support within the Career Center.

This initiative strengthens CPP's career ecosystem and serves as a differentiator for students and families evaluating the value of a CPP education. Additional details will be provided later in the meeting by Provost Gomez.

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## **2. CSU Budget Update (FY 2026–27)**

President Levine provided an update on the Governor's January budget proposal:

- The CSU faced a challenging **2025–26** budget year, including a **3% cut** and deferred compact funding.
- The Governor's new proposal represents significant progress, including:
  - **Restoration of the prior \$143.8 million base reduction**, and
  - **\$365.7 million in new ongoing funding**, which includes:
    - **\$100.9 million** for partial funding of the four-year compact, and
    - **\$264.8 million** for the fifth year of the compact.

She expressed appreciation to Governor Newsom for recognizing the CSU's role in expanding access, advancing equity, and supporting California's workforce. However, she noted that this is only the beginning of the budget process, and outcomes may change. Continued resource stewardship and collective advocacy will be essential.

Shared governance and faculty engagement will remain central to aligning resources with academic priorities.

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## **3. Teamsters Local 2010 Strike**

President Levine informed the Senate that **Teamsters Local 2010** has announced a **four-day strike from February 17–20** across all CSU campuses.

- Union negotiations occur at the Chancellor's Office level.
- The CSU continues bargaining in good faith and seeks a mutually acceptable

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agreement.

- Cal Poly Pomona **will remain open and operational** during the work stoppage.
  - No classes or student services will be canceled.
  - The university will provide updates as they become available.
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#### 4. CSU Fong-Fetterly Awards

She reported that the CSU recently introduced the **Fong-Fetterly Award**, the first Board-level recognition for exceptional staff contributions across the system. Awards include:

- **Three individual awards** of \$25,000 each
- **One team award** of \$25,000 shared by up to five members

Cal Poly Pomona's nomination period has closed, and the campus selection committee is reviewing submissions. Final campus nominations will be forwarded to the Chancellor's Office shortly, with CSU award announcements expected in March.

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#### 5. CSU Leadership Updates and Presidential Search

- Dr. Loren J. Blanchard has been appointed President of Cal State Long Beach. Dr. Blanchard previously served as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs in the CSU.
- Cal Poly Pomona's presidential search remains on schedule, with a permanent president expected to be appointed at the March meeting of the Board of Trustees.

President Levine also announced that two members of the CPP Presidential Search Committee—**Trustees Arambula and Guajardo**—will visit campus next week. Senate Executive Committee members will have an opportunity to meet with them. She encouraged faculty to help highlight CPP's excellence and commitment to student success.

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#### 6. Questions from Senators

**Senator Guerrero** asked for clarification regarding Bright Tomorrow Fund project selections and whether Bronco CareerWorks was the first initiative funded.

President Levine explained:

- The Digital Humanities initiative was the first project funded through the Bright Tomorrow allocation.
- CareerWorks is one of several initiatives receiving support.
- The administration elected to allocate half of the \$40 million gift now and reserve the remaining half for the next permanent president.
- Funds will continue to accrue interest, ensuring more than half remains available for the future.
- Of the initial \$20 million allocation, more than half supports the program.

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No further questions were raised.

c. **Provost's [Report](#)** [Time: 3:22 PM]

Provost Gómez began her report with updates on enrollment, academic planning, faculty hiring, grants, research activity, career readiness initiatives, and campus-wide collaborations. She also responded to several questions from Senators.

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## 1. Enrollment Update

Provost Gómez shared positive enrollment news for the 2025–26 academic year:

- The university is projected to slightly exceed its enrollment target by approximately 1%, reflecting strong campuswide effort.
- Average Unit Load (AUL) has surpassed projections:
  - Overall AUL: 13.03 units
  - Undergraduate AUL: 13.5 units, among the highest in recent years  
She acknowledged colleges and department chairs for ensuring adequate section availability.
- Re-enrollment strategies continue to show measurable improvement. Compared to Spring 2025:
  - The number and percentage of students classified as *stop-out eligible* or *at risk of discontinuation* have decreased.
- CPP enrolled a record spring transfer class of more than 1,240 students, the largest in university history.

These collective gains position CPP to meet its enrollment goal and secure the \$1.8 million permanent CSU reallocation tied to enrollment performance.

With the Governor's updated budget proposal, the CSU is expected to grow by 1%. While the impact on CPP is still unclear, the campus is well-positioned to accommodate modest growth.

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## 2. Bronco Bound 2026

Preparations for Bronco Bound, the university's second largest annual event after commencement, are underway:

- Registration is open, and CPP anticipates ~4,600 admitted students and over 11,000 total visitors, a 3,000 visitor increase over last year.
- A new "Say Yes to CPP" zone will welcome students who have already accepted admission.
- The zone will include networking with alumni, student activities, and—new this year—an opportunity for visitors to vote on names for the campus alpacas.

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### **3. Tenure-Track Faculty Hiring**

Provost Gómez announced significant tenure track hiring for the upcoming academic year:

- 29 tenure track searches will be conducted.
  - 24 searches have already been allocated to colleges using metrics including:
    - Recent FTES growth
    - Major to faculty ratios
    - Tenure density
    - Graduation and retention rates
    - Net tenure gains/losses over four hiring cycles
- With presidential approval, 5 additional tenure track lines will support an Emerging Technologies & GIS hiring initiative, aligned with institutional priorities. All colleges may submit proposals for these lines, with criteria forthcoming.

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### **4. Faculty Grants, Development, and Opportunities**

Provost Gómez highlighted several opportunities:

#### **Provost Teacher-Scholar Awards**

- Reinstated for this cycle
- Up to 3 WTUs or equivalent funds may be awarded
- Total allocated funding: \$400,000
- Reviewed at the college level using criteria including:
  - Demonstrated scholarly activity
  - Integration of scholarship into teaching
  - Meaningful student engagement

#### **AI Course Integration Grants**

- Funding for this program is doubling from last year
- A new component will support development of AI literacy tools that promote ethical and critical use of AI

#### **Student Success Fee Grants**

Two opportunities are available:

- Innovative Approaches to Instruction
  - Equipment Modernization
- Funding available: \$700,000. Applicants may submit up to two proposals.

#### **Faculty Workshops (C.A.F.E.)**

- Canvas in & Practice Series workshops continue on Tuesdays via Zoom
- Next session: February 17

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## **RSCA Mini-Grants & CERV Interdisciplinary Grants**

- RSCA mini-grants: 18–20 awards expected
  - SIRG Grants: Up to \$25,000 for interdisciplinary research; proposals due April 12
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## **5. Faculty & Staff Awards**

- Provost's Awards for Excellence (Teaching, Scholarship, Service) are open for nominations; faculty may self-nominate or nominate colleagues.
  - Outstanding Advisor Award nominations are due March 13.
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## **6. Research and Innovation Update**

- Federal efforts to reduce indirect cost (IDC) rates to 15% appear to have ended, and agency budgets have held steady.
  - CPP is on track for another record year in grant activity:
    - First six months: Research expenditures exceeded the same period last year by \$2 million
    - IDC revenue is \$500,000 above last year's midpoint
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## **7. Career Readiness and Student Success Initiatives**

### **Career Success Markers (Expanded)**

- The Career Success Markers initiative piloted in Collins College is expanding campus-wide.
- A summer Faculty Learning Community will focus on integrating career success markers into courses.

### **Career Champions Program**

- Funding is expanding the number of faculty and staff serving as "career champions" who support students in navigating career-related resources.

### **Bronco CareerWorks**

Provost Gómez offered additional details about Bright Tomorrow funded CareerWorks:

- CPP has hired a Talent Acquisition Manager and support staff from Ultimate Staffing, who are now physically embedded in the Career Center.
  - Approximately 50 students have already scheduled appointments in the first two weeks.
  - Students will have access to:
    - Paid internships
    - Part time and short term work
    - Project-based assignments
    - Full time employment aligned with degree pathways
  - All opportunities, including short term roles, are paid and include benefits.
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## **8. Graduate Programs Summit**

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The Office of Graduate Studies will host a Graduate Program Summit on February 20, featuring:

- Planning and sustainability strategies
- Innovation practices
- Introduction of a new curricular cost workbook that models enrollment and program variables

She encouraged faculty to attend and reach out to AVP Laura Massa for information.

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## **9. Cross-College Collaborations**

### **Art of Engineering Creative Challenge**

A collaboration between Engineering, the Library, and Environmental Design:

- Showcases aesthetic and creative dimensions of STEM
- Open to students, faculty, and staff
- Cash prizes awarded for first, second, and third place
- Provost Gómez thanked Dean Peppers for her leadership.

### **Credential Students Added to Commencement 2026**

For the first time, credential candidates will participate in the 2026 Commencement ceremony.

This milestone reflects:

- Advocacy from CEIS
  - Support from IT and Enrollment Services
  - Recognition of education credentialing as a professional pathway
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## **10. Common Read Keynote**

The 2026 Common Read selection is *I Never Thought of It That Way* by Monica Guzmán. The author will deliver a keynote address on March 10, focusing on:

- Curiosity
- Deep listening
- Asking thoughtful questions
- Bridging differences in polarized contexts

Provost Gómez invited the campus community to attend.

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## **11. Progress Reports**

Spring 2026 progress reports have been released. She encouraged faculty to help identify students who would benefit from early intervention and support.

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## **12. Questions from Senators**

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Question: Timeline for Professional Leave Awards?

Response (from AVP Cheryl Koos):

- There was an administrative delay.
- Notices will be released within the next few weeks, and no later than the end of the month.
- Apologies were offered for the delay.

**Question: Will the 5 emerging tech/GIS hires function as a cluster hire?**

Provost's Response:

- The initiative will be open to all colleges and departments.
- Criteria are being developed and will be shared soon.
- The goal is to build a university wide community of GIS scholars.

**Question: With increased enrollment and faculty hiring, what about staffing levels post VSIP?**

Provost's Response:

- No new recurring state funding is currently available for staff hiring.
- Tenure track lines this year are funded through faculty attrition.
- The university hopes to re-invest in staff hiring when resources permit.

**Question: Will SFR and FTES goals be revisited? And can budget/SFR information be shared in future forums?**

Provost's Response:

- SFR goals were adjusted downward in real time this year when the budget outlook improved (from 9% to ~6%).
- The budget picture for 2026–27 remains uncertain until the May Revision.
- All budget and SFR information can be shared across colleges.

**Question: Could delays in sabbatical notifications trigger an extension of internal award deadlines?**

Provost's Response:

- She will discuss the issue with her team and consider adjustments.

d. **Vice Chair's [Report](#)** [Time: 3:43 PM]

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Vice Chair Barding read the Report Status Summary for February 4, 2026. There were no questions.

**NEW REFERRALS: (12)**

AA-007-256, University Curriculum Guide – Senate Approval  
AP-018-256, New Computational Linguistics Minor (Jointly proposed by EML and CS)  
AP-019-256, Program Review for BS and MS Chemistry  
AP-021-256, Agriculture, M.S. – Plant Science Option Discontinuation  
AP-022-256, Agriculture, M.S. – Agriculture Science Option Discontinuation  
AP-023-256, Agriculture, M.S. – Animal Science Option Discontinuation  
AP-024-256, New Artificial Intelligence  
FA-002-256, Syllabus Policy Statements Update (Policy 1200)  
FA-003-256, Update Policy 1207: Misconduct in Research  
GE-032-256, KIN 3650 – Aging in Motion: Mind, Body, and Society (New GE Area 5D)  
GE-033-256, KIN 3020 – Science Driven Fitness (New GE 5D)  
GE-034-256, Satisfaction of the GE Area 1B (Critical Thinking) Requirement by Completion of the FYE Engineering Course EGR 1000/ 1000L

**SENATE REPORT FORWARDED TO PRESIDENT: (5)**

AS-3144-256-AP, Program Review for BA in Spanish  
AS-3145-256-AP, Program Review for MA, Education  
AS-3146-256-AP, New Spanish Media Minor  
AS-3147-256-AP, Academic Credit Certificate Programs Update  
AS-3148-256-AP, Academic Calendar with 5-Year Projection

**PRESIDENT RESPONSES TO SENATE REPORTS: (1)**

AS-3143-256-AA, Correction to Policy 1021: Division of an Academic Department

**WITHDRAWN REFERRAL (0)**

e. [ASCSU Report](#) [Time: 3:44 PM]

Senator Faye Wachs provided an update from the most recent meeting of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU). She noted that while the meeting agenda was extensive, her report highlights only the most relevant items and Senators may review the full written report for additional detail.

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**1. ASCSU Discussion: Credit by Examination**

Senator Wachs called attention to an active ASCSU discussion regarding credit by examination.

- ASCSU is considering potential policy positions on this issue.
- Senators with strong views—whether supportive or concerned—are encouraged to share their feedback.

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- Input may be sent to Senator Wachs or Senator Lloro, who will communicate campus perspectives to ASCSU.

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## 2. ASCSU Resolutions and Housekeeping Work

She noted that most of the current ASCSU resolutions involve housekeeping measures, including updates to internal processes and procedural clarifications. No major policy changes were introduced this cycle.

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## 3. NAGPRA Requirements and Faculty Impact

Senator Wachs provided an overview of campus concerns related to NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act):

- Although CPP and ASCSU strongly support NAGPRA compliance, implementation has broader impacts beyond anthropology and archaeology.
- Disciplines such as geological sciences, engineering (soils and materials), and other field based programs may require consultation when conducting in-person field experiences on certain lands.
- These consultations can be:
  - Costly,
  - Time consuming, and
  - Potentially burdensome for junior faculty and departments with limited resources.

ASCSU has been asked to explore a systemwide solution to reduce:

- Duplication of effort across campuses, and
- Financial strain on individual departments.

Faculty with concerns, suggestions, or experiences related to NAGPRA procedures are invited to share them with Senator Wachs or Senator Teresa Lloro so these perspectives can be elevated to ASCSU. Updates will continue to be communicated to the Senate.

f. **Budget Report** [Time: 3:45 PM]

[\*\*Academic Affairs Budget Update for the Academic Senate Budget Committee\*\*](#)  
[\*\*Division of Academic Affairs – 2025-26 Fiscal Year\*\*](#)

Senator Sharma provided an update on the recent activities of the Academic Senate Budget Committee, which met twice during the current budget period. The committee reviewed the Governor's January budget proposal, discussed its implications for Academic Affairs, and held an in-depth session with campus leadership regarding the academic budget.

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## 1. Committee Meetings Overview

- **First Meeting:**

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Focused on initial updates regarding the Governor's January budget proposal and preparation for the subsequent meeting.

- **January 28 Meeting:**  
The committee met with **Provost Gómez** and **Executive Director Lisa Rotunni** to examine the Academic Affairs budget in detail.

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## 2. Academic Affairs Budget Highlights

### Base Budget

- The university's overall budget is approximately **\$430 million**.
- After excluding benefits, utilities, and centrally managed funds, **Academic Affairs receives two thirds** of the remaining general base budget.
- For the current cycle, Academic Affairs received a **\$5.58 million increase**, bringing its **base budget to \$150.8 million**.

### One-Time Funds

Academic Affairs also received **\$8.9 million in one-time allocations** from multiple sources—including compensation adjustments and tenure-track hiring support.

- A significant portion, **\$5.21 million**, came from university reserves.
  - Senator Sharma reminded the Senate that the university previously drew **\$7 million** from reserves to stabilize the institutional budget, with \$5.21 million directed to Academic Affairs.

### Dependence on One-Time Funds

Senator Sharma expressed concern about Academic Affairs' reliance on one-time funding:

- Approximately **24% of tenure track faculty compensation** and
- **44.5% of the graduate fee revenue budget** are funded through one-time sources, raising sustainability concerns.

### Forward Funding & Functional Budget

Additional "forward funding" from designated and undesignated sources totals **\$9.1 million**. Combined with base funding and one-time allocations, Academic Affairs operates with a functional budget of approximately **\$168.9 million**, distributed across:

- Permanent faculty/staff salaries
- Temporary faculty salaries
- Operational needs

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## 3. Additional Budgetary Context

- Significant trade-offs were required to achieve a balanced budget, including:
  - Reductions to professional development funds
  - Adjustments to SFR and FTES targets
  - Use of reserves
- Only **92%** of the Academic Affairs budget comes from base and one-time funds. The remaining **8%** includes:
  - **1%** from lottery
  - **2%** from the College-Based Fee

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- **5%** from cost-recovery accounts

Designated carryover funds return to the units that generated them; undesignated carryover allows some discretionary flexibility.

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#### **4. Looking Ahead: System Budget Outlook**

Senator Sharma noted that—based on early indicators—the CSU may receive **approximately \$365 million** in new resources for the upcoming year.

Potential impacts include:

- **A 1% enrollment growth target** for campuses
- **A 6% tuition increase**
- Reinstatement of the **Petersburg (PT) funding formula**

Academic Affairs has begun discussions on:

- Hiring needs
  - Administrative faculty roles and salary structures
  - Cost-sharing for widely used software and shared resources
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#### **5. Committee Recommendations and Observations**

##### **1. Strengthen Communication**

Given ongoing budget constraints and enrollment pressures, the committee emphasized the importance of timely communication between Academic Affairs, colleges, and department chairs.

- Decisions such as enrollment increases or class cancellations should involve consultation with faculty who best understand their programs' needs.

##### **2. Professional Development Funding**

The current **\$500 annual professional development allocation** is insufficient.

The committee encourages:

- Increased funding
- Ensuring equitable access for **permanent full-time lecturers**, not only tenure-track faculty

##### **3. Faculty Hiring**

The committee welcomed news about upcoming tenure-track hiring and encouraged ongoing transparency in how lines are allocated.

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#### **6. Supporting Materials**

Two supporting documents accompany Senator Sharma's report:

1. **A detailed budget presentation** provided by Executive Director Lisa
2. **A summary of fund distribution** across Academic Affairs units

Senators were invited to review these materials and contact the committee with any questions.

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#### **7. Closing Remarks**

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Senator Sharma acknowledged that this has been a challenging fiscal year and offered appreciation to:

- **Provost Gómez** for her leadership
- **Executive Director Lisa Rotunni** for consistent clarity and transparency
- **Faculty colleagues** for their adaptability and partnership during a difficult budget climate

She concluded by welcoming any questions from Senators.

g. CFA Report [Time: 3:54 PM] – Presented by Chapter President Bonnie Thorne

CFA Chapter President Bonnie Thorne provided the California Faculty Association report, expressing appreciation to Jonathan Puthoff for delivering past updates when her teaching schedule conflicted with Senate meetings. She noted that this is her first year able to attend and present the report directly.

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## 1. Support for the Teamsters Strike

President Thorne announced that CFA is supporting the Teamsters Local 2010 strike, scheduled for:

February 17–20

Across all CSU campuses, including Cal Poly Pomona.

- The Teamsters are striking over **contracted raises that have not been paid**.
- CFA members will **join Teamsters on the picket line**.
- Additional details will be sent to faculty as soon as logistics are finalized.

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## 2. Collective Bargaining Update

President Thorne reported that bargaining between the CFA statewide negotiating team and the CSU Chancellor's Office is ongoing, with proposals still being exchanged.

CSU's Current Counterproposals

She noted that many of CSU Management's proposals have included reductions or retractions ("takeaways"), including:

- Rejecting CFA's proposal to expand parental leave from 10 weeks to one full semester.
- Proposing that campus presidents be authorized to cancel sabbaticals for a full academic year  
"if financial conditions warrant cost-saving measures,"  
without clear criteria or definition of what would trigger such cancellations.

President Thorne characterized bargaining progress as challenging at this stage.

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### 3. Bargaining Update Opportunities for Faculty

Faculty members are encouraged to stay informed and engaged through:

#### Statewide Post-Bargaining Meetings

- Held via Zoom a few days after each bargaining session
- Provide updates and Q&A opportunities for CFA members

#### Campus Forums

- Local bargaining forums will be held throughout the semester
- Led by CPP's representative on the statewide bargaining team
- Intended to share updates and gather member feedback

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### 4. Upcoming CFA All-Member Meeting

President Thorne announced the next **CFA All-Member Meeting**:

- **March 24**
- **11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
- Open to all CFA members

Further details will be distributed closer to the event.

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No questions were raised following CFA Chapter President Thorne's report.

h. ASI Report [Time: 3:57 PM]

ASI President Ellsworth welcomed the Senate back and wished everyone a happy new year. She noted that this is her last semester in the role and expressed excitement for the months ahead.

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### 1. Committee Meeting Adjustment in Support of National Strike

President Ellsworth shared that ASI leadership—including the Cabinet and Committee Chairs—collectively decided to cancel last Friday's ASI committee meetings in solidarity with the national strike.

- She expressed pride in her team's solidarity and their concern for student well-being.
- Multiple students contacted her seeking guidance and support, prompting discussion of creating an organizing workshop to help students understand:
  - Organizing strategies
  - Advocacy skills
  - Engagement beyond protest activities

Any faculty members interested in supporting such a workshop are invited to

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connect with her.

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## **2. Basic Needs and Food Security Initiatives**

ASI continues to work on expanding basic needs and food equity efforts, including:

- Ongoing discussions with campus partners to increase food donations.
- Exploring ways to expand access to fresh produce through the Poly Pantry.
- Continuation of the ASI Student Basic Needs Committee review of advocacy strategies.

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## **3. Green Initiative Fund (TGIF)**

President Ellsworth reported that:

- TGIF applications are now open.
- Students or student groups may apply for up to \$15,000 for:
  - Sustainability projects
  - Research initiatives
  - Campus environmental improvements

She encouraged faculty to share this opportunity broadly.

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## **4. Student Travel & Leadership Funding**

ASI is actively supporting student leadership and professional development:

- Registered student organizations may apply for up to \$10,000 for conferences, competitions, and travel-related activities.
- Only 3% of available funding remains, indicating record levels of student engagement.
- ASI is sending students to conferences nationwide, including events in Baltimore and other major cities.
- Total allocations are on track to reach \$200,000, exceeding last year's amount; ASI anticipates reaching \$300,000 this year.

She encouraged faculty to help disseminate this funding opportunity to student groups.

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## **5. ASI Leadership Conference – February 10**

ASI will host its annual leadership conference:

- February 10
- 12:00 p.m.
- Features include:
  - Three guest speakers

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- Q&A sessions
- Engagement opportunities with Global Student Engagement

Faculty and staff are invited to attend and encourage student participation.

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## **6. Campus Collaboration: Naming the New Alpacas**

In collaboration with the College of Agriculture and the Farm Store, ASI is coordinating student involvement in naming the three new alpacas.

- College councils are submitting recommended name lists.
- The student body will vote to select the final names.
- ASI is planning a Spring alpaca-themed event, including:
  - Food and games
  - A “Taste of the Farm” experience
  - A public name reveal celebration

President Ellsworth encouraged broad participation and lightheartedly invited support for any alpaca name that includes “Ellsworth.”

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## **7. ASI Elections**

ASI elections are now underway.

- Applications are due tonight.
  - Three candidate slates are running this year—an increase from last year’s two.
  - President Ellsworth asked faculty and staff to encourage students to:
    - Submit applications
    - Engage in student leadership
    - Participate in the election process
- 

## **8. Closing Remarks**

President Ellsworth expressed enthusiasm for the final months of her term and gratitude for continued collaboration with faculty and campus partners.

### **i. [Staff Report](#) [Time: 4:20 PM]**

Staff Senator Sabrina Toney provided an update on staff resources, employee engagement opportunities, and campus communication tools. She began by reflecting on her role as a non-academic representative and noted the importance of building community across staff and faculty, especially in the current climate. She emphasized that community-building requires courage but is deeply supported by the university’s wide range of events and involvement opportunities.

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## 1. Human Resources Updates

### HR Town Hall – March 23

- Human Resources will host its next **HR Town Hall on March 23**.
- Weekly HR emails include a “**Knowledge Roundup**” feature—employees who review the highlighted materials and submit correct answers may win **\$5 in Bronco Bucks**. The first three correct entries each week receive the reward.

### Training and Transition Support

- All mandatory trainings automatically appear on employees’ calendars; they are also listed in Sabrina’s report for easier visibility.
  - She acknowledged HR’s efforts to ensure a smooth transition during ongoing system changes and encouraged employees to stay engaged with these resources.
- 

## 2. Benefits and Compliance Updates

### Health Plan Premiums

- New premium rates took effect in **December paychecks**.
- Employees should verify that deductions are accurate. Anyone unsure about expected rates should contact HR for assistance.

### Senate Bill 98 – Immigration Activity Notifications

- The university has established required policies for campus notification in the event of **immigration enforcement activity**.
- Senator Toney directed employees to the linked resources in her report for detailed guidance.

### Senate Bill 294 – Emergency Contact for Arrest/Detention

- Staff and faculty may now designate an **emergency contact** who will be notified if they are arrested or detained while at work.
  - While rare, the option is significant and recommended for all employees.
- 

## 3. Communications & Branding

### Updated Zoom Backgrounds

- New Zoom backgrounds reflecting updated university branding are available and should be used in meetings with campus or external partners.

### CPP This Week – Submitting Events

- Senator Toney highlighted instructions on **page 9** of her report for submitting content to the “**CPP This Week**” newsletter.
- As this is a high visibility communication channel, she encouraged departments to use it for event promotion and outreach.

### Points of Pride Website

- The updated **Points of Pride** site curates photos and content that employees can use for official communications and campus storytelling.
- 

## 4. Employee Engagement Opportunities

## **Bronco Battle 2026**

- Registration to host a table or demonstration is due **February 20**.
- The event itself will take place on **March 21**.

## **Common Read – Book Recommendations**

- Nominations for next year's **Common Read** selection are now open.
- Senator Toney noted that this complements the upcoming author keynote previously mentioned by the Provost.

## **Kinesiology Fitness Assessment Study**

- The Kinesiology graduate program is recruiting approximately **18 volunteers** for a case study offering:
  - A free fitness assessment
  - A personalized exercise plan

Employees interested in participating may contact the program directly.

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## **5. Event Participation and Open-Door Policy**

In response to questions, Senator Toney clarified:

- **Most campus events are open to all CPP affiliated individuals**, including faculty, staff, and students, unless the event concerns restricted or confidential work.
- There is **no “closed-door” policy** for general engagement events.
- She reiterated that although attending alone may feel intimidating, event organizers genuinely appreciate participation and welcome community involvement.

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## **6. Closing Remarks**

Senator Toney encouraged employees to explore events and opportunities as a way to build community and stay connected. She noted that all links and full details are available in her written report. No further questions were raised.

### **3. Academic Senate Committee Reports – Time Certain 3:45 p.m.**

[Time: 3:42 PM] - Chair Hanink requested to move the time certain for report to 4:30 PM. Senator Givens motioned, and Senator Quinn seconded to move the committee reports time certain to 4:30 PM.

- a. **AP-015-245** Liberal Studies, B.A. – General Studies Option Name Change – SECOND READING Senator Husain motioned, and Senator Guerrero second to adopt AP-015-245. All in favor to adopt. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.
- b. **AP-016-245** Liberal Studies, B.A. – Pre-Credential Option Name Change – SECOND READING Senator Husain motioned, and Senator Quinn seconded to adopt AP-016-245. (4:28 PM) There were no questions, all in favor, no abstentions, and the motion passed.
- c. **AP-001-256** Program Review BA and MA English – SECOND READING – senator Husain moved to adopt and senator Quinn seconded. Ready to vote

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and no questions from the floor. All in favor, no abstention, and the motion passed.

- d. **AP-003-256** Program Review BS Physics – SECOND READING – senator Husain moved to adopt, and senator Quinn seconded. No comments from floor, all in favor, no abstention, and the motion passed.

4. New Business

**Brian Newman Resolution** [Time: 4:30PM]

Chair Hanink read the resolution on behalf of late Senator Brian Newman.

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA  
ACADEMIC SENATE  
RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, Brian Newman, MFA, served on the Academic Senate as a Senator representing the College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences from 2024 until his death in 2026; and
- WHEREAS, He served on the Academic Senate Academic Programs Committee from 2024 to 2025; and
- WHEREAS, He was elected to represent the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences on the Academic Senate Executive Committee, and did so from 2025 to 2026; and
- WHEREAS, He was a member of the team representing Cal Poly Pomona at the American Association of Colleges and Universities Curriculum-to-Career Innovations Institute; and
- WHEREAS, He brought his decades of event and facilities management experience to his integral roles as a moderator of the Cal Poly Pomona Safer Return Task Force webinars during the COVID-19 pandemic and as a member of the CPP Shop Safety committee; and
- WHEREAS, He was a member of the University Faculty Learning Community on Academic Leadership and served on numerous university and college search committees as well as college and department committees; and
- WHEREAS, He was a tireless mentor whose dedication to his students was highlighted during the Theatre and New Dance Program Review and an innovative educator whose pedagogical contributions were recognized by the Wall of Cool award; and
- WHEREAS, He brought a spirit of collaboration and problem solving to everything he did; and
- WHEREAS, He has made the senate and university better as a result of his beliefs that we learn by doing that community is something that we build every day; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, expresses its sincere appreciation of Brian Newman for his leadership and honors his service of the faculty, staff, and students; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and friends;

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and be it further  
RESOLVED, That this resolution be permanently recorded in the Minutes and Archives of the Academic Senate in recognition of his service to Cal Poly Pomona and the Academic Senate.

Unanimously Adopted by the Academic Senate  
of California State Polytechnic University,  
Pomona on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

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Peter Hanink, Chair  
Academic Senate

Chair Hanink moved to adopt the resolution on behalf of Senator Brian Newman. All in favor. The resolution was adopted.

**Nominations and Vote for the Executive Committee CLASS Vacancy [Time: 4:33 PM]**

Senator Guerrero nominated Senator Nick Von Glahn, second senator Wachs. Senator Von Glahn accepted the nomination. All in favor by senators. The vote passed. Senator Von Glahn (CLASS) was seated on the Executive Committee.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

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6. Discussion

- a. Mark H. Patterson, Ombudsman ..... Time Certain: 4:00 PM  
Promote Ombuds Office and Services

David Patterson, Director of Conflict Resolution Services and the University Ombuds, provided an overview of the office's purpose, progress, and services. He opened with a brief, light-hearted acknowledgment of the often confusing nature of the term "ombuds," emphasizing that the office is designed to make difficult situations "less awkward" by offering confidential, neutral support to anyone on campus.

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**1. Background and Establishment of the Ombuds Office**

- The office was re-established following a **2022 Academic Senate resolution**.
- A campus working group, national search, listening sessions, and expert consultations shaped its design.
- CPP is currently the **only CSU campus with a full-time, campus-wide ombuds program**, demonstrating the university's commitment to informal resolution and a culture of conflict competence.

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**2. Purpose and Guiding Principles**

Patterson described the office as a space where campus members can safely explore concerns, identify options, and move forward **on their own terms**.

Key principles include:

- **Confidentiality** (with required exceptions for imminent harm and mandated discrimination reporting under CSU policy)
- **Neutrality and independence**
- **Informality and voluntary participation**
- **No record keeping of identifiable information**

The office does **not**:

- Conduct investigations
- Determine right or wrong
- Keep case files
- Direct or mandate actions

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- Replace HR, Faculty Affairs, Title IX/OEC, or union processes

Instead, it serves as a **thought partner** and **bridge-builder**, helping individuals navigate concerns, de-escalate conflict, and connect to appropriate resources.

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### 3. Why Conflict Resolution Support Matters Now

Patterson highlighted that:

- Budget constraints, rapid institutional changes, and external mandates can create friction or ambiguity.
- Role clarity, psychological safety, and access to neutral support help prevent escalation, reduce turnover, and improve morale.
- Normalizing the healthy use of conflict resolution resources is a sign of **professional growth**, not failure.

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### 4. Services and Examples of Support

The ombuds office provides:

- **Confidential consultations**
- Exploration of **options and next steps**
- Assistance identifying relevant policies or campus resources
- **De-escalation** support for unit tensions or interpersonal ruptures
- Coaching in communication and navigating difficult conversations
- Guidance for chairs or faculty working through procedural changes
- Support for staff managing conflicting expectations

Services are tailored to individual needs and voluntary.

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### 5. Reporting Themes and Institutional Insight

- Patterson provides **non-identifiable thematic data** to campus leadership to help identify patterns or emerging issues.
- A potential future **faculty fellowship** may help expand data capacity and inform system level insights.

## **6. Creating a Culture of Conflict Competence**

Patterson encouraged Senators to help normalize the use of conflict resolution resources by:

- Referring colleagues or students when appropriate
- Including ombuds information in syllabi or departmental materials
- Reaching out proactively for guidance
- Requesting educational workshops tailored to unit needs
- Sharing emerging concerns that may require institutional attention

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## **7. Contact Information**

The Ombuds Office is located in **Building 1, Room 214**, but meetings can occur anywhere—virtually or in person.

Appointments can be made through the **Ombuds website**.

Patterson closed by encouraging anyone experiencing uncertainty, tension, or difficult conversations to reach out.

Adjourned at 4:35 PM